

Fourth edition
2022-03

Plastics — Determination of melting behaviour (melting temperature or melting range) of semi-crystalline polymers by capillary tube and polarizing-microscope methods

Plastiques — Détermination du comportement à la fusion (température de fusion ou plage de températures de fusion) des polymères semi-cristallins par méthodes du tube capillaire et du microscope polarisant



Reference number
ISO 3146:2022(E)

© ISO 2022



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2022

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

This is a preview of ISO 3146:2022. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Method A — Capillary tube	2
4.1 Principle.....	2
4.2 Apparatus (see Figure 1).....	2
4.3 Test samples.....	2
4.3.1 General.....	2
4.3.2 Characteristics.....	3
4.3.3 Conditioning.....	3
4.4 Procedure.....	4
4.4.1 Calibration.....	4
4.4.2 Determination.....	5
4.5 Test report.....	5
5 Method B — Polarizing microscope	6
5.1 Principle.....	6
5.2 Apparatus.....	6
5.3 Test samples.....	6
5.3.1 Powdered materials.....	6
5.3.2 Moulded or pelleted materials.....	7
5.3.3 Film or sheet materials.....	7
5.3.4 Conditioning.....	7
5.4 Procedure.....	7
5.4.1 Calibration.....	7
5.4.2 Determination.....	7
5.5 Precision.....	8
5.6 Test report.....	8
Bibliography	9

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Physical-chemical properties*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 249, *Plastics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 3146:2000), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 3146:2000/Cor 1:2002.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the specifications of the apparatus and measurement procedure have been revised;
- the table of calibration standards has been revised by adding further entries, synonyms and CAS numbers of organic chemicals, correcting errors and modifying melting temperatures according to added references.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

This is a preview of ISO 3146:2022. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Introduction

The melting behaviour of a crystalline or semi-crystalline polymer is a structure-sensitive property.

In polymers, a sharp melting point, such as is observed for low molecular mass substances, usually does not occur; instead, a melting temperature range is observed on heating, from the first change of shape of the solid particles to the transformation into a highly viscous or viscoelastic liquid, with accompanying disappearance of the crystalline phase. The melting range depends upon a number of parameters, such as molecular mass, molecular mass distribution, per cent crystallinity, and thermodynamic properties.

The melting range can also depend on experimental parameters such as previous thermal history of the specimen, heating or cooling rate, etc. The lower or upper limit of the melting range, or its average value, is sometimes conventionally referred to as the “melting temperature”.

The melting temperatures determined by different methods can differ by several kelvins for above reasons.