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Paper, board and pulps — Estimation of uncertainty for test methods

Papiers, cartons et pâtes — Estimation de l'incertitude pour les méthodes d'essai



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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.

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In exceptional circumstances, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard ("state of the art", for example), it may decide by a simple majority vote of its participating members to publish a Technical Report. A Technical Report is entirely informative in nature and does not have to be reviewed until the data it provides are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

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Introduction

One step in the development of any new standard test method is to estimate the uncertainty of the method. This is normally performed in a precision experiment, in which samples are sent to a number of laboratories and the results are compared. Such a precision experiment is often referred to as "interlaboratory comparative testing".

The procedures for conducting a precision statement are outlined in ISO 5725 (all parts), which is general and does not cover the special conditions that apply in the testing of pulp, paper and board.

There are, however, a number of different standards and publications available for the estimation of precision in pulp, paper and board testing. The focuses of these standards differ, depending on the purpose of the test.

There are three main purposes identified for testing:

- Research, where the main question is whether there is a difference between two samples, for instance, papers produced using different pulp mixtures.
- Testing in order to verify compliance with a specification. This can be both at the production site and in an independent laboratory
- Evaluation of a new test method, where the aim is to verify that the precision of the test method is acceptable.