
**Paints and varnishes — Determination
of the percentage volume of non-
volatile matter —**

Part 2:

**Method using the determination
of non-volatile-matter content
in accordance with ISO 3251 and
determination of dry film density on
coated test panels by the Archimedes'
principle**

*Peintures et vernis — Détermination du pourcentage en volume de
matière non volatile —*

*Partie 2: Méthode utilisant la teneur en matière non volatile
déterminée conformément à l'ISO 3251 et la masse volumique du
feuil sec déterminée par le principe d'Archimède sur des panneaux
d'essai revêtus*





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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.

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 35, *Paints and varnishes*, Subcommittee SC 9, *General test methods for paints and varnishes*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 3233-2:2014), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the definitions and sources in [Clause 3](#) have been updated;
- a minimum mass of 25 mg of the coating on the plate has been added in [7.2.2](#), because measurements and simulation calculations demonstrate the need for a minimum mass for the coated panel.

A list of all parts in the ISO 3233 series can be found on the ISO website.

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.

Paints and varnishes — Determination of the percentage volume of non-volatile matter —

Part 2:

Method using the determination of non-volatile-matter content in accordance with ISO 3251 and determination of dry film density on coated test panels by the Archimedes' principle

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for determining the non-volatile matter by volume (NV_v) of coating materials by determining the practical dry-film density. This method determines the volume percentage of non-volatile matter in paints, varnishes and related products by measuring the density of a dry coating for any specified temperature range and period of drying or curing. The non-volatile matter content is determined in accordance with ISO 3251.

Using the non-volatile matter by volume results obtained in accordance with this document, it is possible to calculate the practical spreading rate of coating materials.

This method specifies an additional shape of plate to those described in ISO 3233-1 and is suitable for all products which can be applied by dipping.

This document is not applicable to coating materials which exceed the Critical Pigment Volume Concentration (CPVC).

[Annex A](#) gives an overview of the existing methods for the determination of non-volatile matter content and of non-volatile matter volume.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1513, *Paints and varnishes — Examination and preparation of test samples*

ISO 2808, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of film thickness*

ISO 2811 (all parts), *Paints and varnishes — Determination of density*

ISO 3251, *Paints, varnishes and plastics — Determination of non-volatile-matter content*

ISO 15528, *Paints, varnishes and raw materials for paints and varnishes — Sampling*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1
non-volatile matter
NV

residue by mass obtained by evaporation under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: Instead of the term “non-volatile matter”, different terms, such as solid, dry residue, dry matter, solid matter, stoving residue are being used commonly with the respective abbreviations. The term “non-volatile matter” which is also applied in ISO 3251 should be used together with the abbreviation “NV” instead of these terms.

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2014, 2.176]

3.2
non-volatile matter by volume
NV_v

percentage residue by volume obtained by evaporation under specified conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2014, 2.177]

3.3
spreading rate

surface area that can be covered by a given quantity of coating material to give a dried film of requisite thickness

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in m²/l or m²/kg.

Note 2 to entry: See also *practical spreading rate* (3.4).

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2014, 2.238, modified — “Application rate” and “theoretical spreading rate” have been deleted from Note 2 to entry.]

3.4
practical spreading rate

s_p
spreading rate (3.3) which is obtained in practice on the particular substrate being coated

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2014, 2.203, modified — Symbol, s_p , has been added.]

3.5
practical dry-film density

ρ_p
practically determined density of a dried and cured coating

[SOURCE: ISO 3233-1:2013, 3.4]

4 Principle

The non-volatile matter by volume is calculated from the quotient of the density of the coating material and the dry film, with the dry-film density being determined practically.

5 Apparatus

Standard laboratory apparatus together with the following:

5.1 Metal plate, (40 ± 1) mm $\times$ (85 ± 1) mm, with a small hole at least 2 mm to 3 mm from the upper edge. A plate with a tip on one of the shorter edges is easier to immerse in the coating material (see Figure 1).

The material of the plate shall be suitable and adapted to the coating material under test. In addition, the material of the plate shall not change its volume during contact with the coating material under test. The thickness of the plate shall be about 0,7 mm or it shall be agreed between the interested parties.

Smaller plates may be used, subject to agreement between the interested parties, provided that the coated surface area is at least 5 600 mm².

Dimensions in millimetres

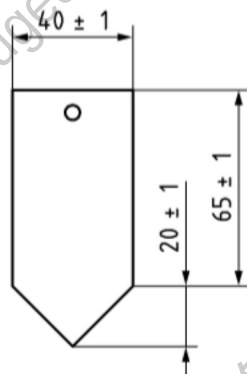


Figure 1 — Suitable plate for immersion

5.2 Hook, made of stainless material or synthetic thread, for attaching the plate to the balance during weighing operations. The diameter of the wire shall not exceed 0,30 mm because of surface tension effects.

5.3 Beaker, of a size convenient for immersing the plate with a clearance of at least 10 mm and which can be accommodated in the balance case.

5.4 Analytical balance, accurate to 0,1 mg. A single-pan balance is most convenient, and a useful modification is to replace the balance pan by a standard counterweight attachment.

5.5 Support, for holding the beaker under the balance stirrup without jamming the pan damper, if a counterweight as recommended in 5.4 is not available.

5.6 Immersion liquid of suitable density, in which the plate is immersed.

NOTE Water is a suitable immersion liquid for most coating materials. Other organic liquids are also suitable provided that they do not attack the coating.

5.7 Desiccator containing a suitable desiccant.

5.8 Air oven, capable of maintaining the specified or agreed test temperature to $\pm 2,0$ °C (for temperatures up to 150 °C) or $\pm 3,5$ °C (for temperatures above 150 °C and up to 200 °C). An air oven with forced ventilation shall be used.

WARNING — To protect against explosions and fire, careful handling of products containing flammable volatile materials is essential.

Drying in a vacuum can be beneficial for certain applications. In such cases, the conditions shall be agreed. Air ovens of the same type shall be used by all parties for referee tests.

6 Sampling

Take a representative sample of the coating material to be tested, in accordance with ISO 15528.

Examine and prepare the samples for testing in accordance with ISO 1513.

7 Procedure

7.1 Number of determinations and preparation

Carry out the determination in duplicate.

Degrease and clean the plate (5.1). Dry the plate and hook at the specified temperature for 10 min, and cool in the desiccator.

7.2 Determination of the practical dry-film density

7.2.1 Determination of the mass of the uncoated plate in air and in the immersion liquid

Weigh the cleaned and dried plate plus hook in air to an accuracy of 1 mg (m_1).

Then place the plate in the beaker with the immersion liquid, e.g. water, and weigh to an accuracy of 1 mg (m_2). Ensure that the plate is always immersed to the same depth, with the liquid about 10 mm above the top of the plate. There shall be no air bubbles at any place on the plate (see Figure 2).

NOTE If water is used as the immersion liquid, it is beneficial to add 1 or 2 drops of a wetting agent to ensure thorough wetting of the plate.

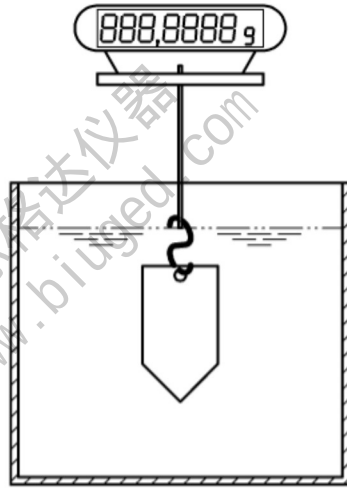


Figure 2 — Weighing the plate

7.2.2 Weighing the coating material and determination of the mass of the plate with coating material

The coating material shall always be ready to use when it is tested.

The dry-film thickness on the plate shall correspond approximately to the dry-film thickness of the coating material used in practice and the minimum mass of the coating on the plate shall be 25 mg.

In the case of thixotropic or high viscous coating materials, they may be diluted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions until the sample is uniformly spread over the plate.

The preferred method of coating the plate is to immerse it in the coating material. Withdraw it at a steady rate and remove any excess coating material by, for example, drawing a glass rod along the lower edge of the plate. No thick edge shall be allowed to form on the lower edge. If any air bubbles form on the coated surfaces, burst them with a needle.

Dry/cure the coated plate product-specifically in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the coating material under test.

Cool the coated plate to room temperature after drying/curing in the desiccator.

After cooling, weigh the coated plate in air to an accuracy of 1 mg (m_3).

Then place the coated plate in the beaker with the immersion liquid, e.g. water, and weigh to an accuracy of 1 mg (m_4). Ensure that the coated plate is always immersed to the same depth, with the liquid about 10 mm above the top of the plate. There shall be no air bubbles at any place on the coated plate.

7.3 Determination of the density

The density of the immersion liquid (ρ_1) and the coating material (ρ_2) shall be determined to an accuracy of 0.001 g/cm³, in accordance with one of the methods specified in the ISO 2811 series.

7.4 Determination of the non-volatile-matter content

Determine the non-volatile-matter content in accordance with ISO 3251.

7.5 Determination of film thickness

Determine the dry film thickness using one of the methods described in ISO 2808.

8 Evaluation

8.1 Calculation of the practical dry-film density

Calculate the practical dry-film density (ρ_p), in grams per cubic centimetre, as follows using the determined mass values and the density of the immersion liquid in [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$\rho_p = \frac{m_3 - m_1}{m_2 + m_3 - m_1 - m_4} \cdot \rho_1 \quad (1)$$

where

m_1 is the mass of the uncoated plate weighed in air, in grams;

m_2 is the mass of the uncoated plate weighed in the immersion liquid, in grams;

m_3 is the mass of the coated plate weighed in air, in grams;

m_4 is the mass of the coated plate weighed in the immersion liquid, in grams;

ρ_1 is the density of the immersion liquid, in grams per cubic centimetre.

8.2 Calculation of the non-volatile matter by volume using the practical dry-film density

The conversion in [Formula \(2\)](#) yields the following for the practical determination of the percentage non-volatile matter by volume, $NV_{V,p}$:

$$NV_{V,p} = NV \cdot \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} \left(\frac{m_2 + m_3 - m_1 - m_4}{m_3 - m_1} \right) = NV \cdot \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_p} \quad (2)$$

where

NV is the mass fraction of the non-volatile matter of the coating material, in per cent;

m_1 is the mass of the uncoated plate weighed in air, in grams;

m_2 is the mass of the uncoated plate weighed in the immersion liquid, in grams;

m_3 is the mass of the coated plate weighed in air, in grams;

m_4 is the mass of the coated plate weighed in the immersion liquid, in grams;

ρ_p is the practical dry-film density, in grams per cubic centimetre;

ρ_1 is the density of the immersion liquid, in grams per cubic centimetre;

ρ_2 is the density of the coating material, in grams per cubic centimetre.

8.3 Determination of the practical spreading rate

The practical spreading rate (s_p) is a value which is calculated solely from the non-volatile matter by mass or by volume.

The practical spreading rate is the quotient of the surface area coated and the mass required for this, in square metres per kilogram or the volume, in square metres per litre.

Calculate the practical spreading rate relative to the mass ($s_{p,m}$), using [Formula \(3\)](#):

$$s_{p,m} = \frac{A}{m_0} = \frac{NV}{t_d \cdot \rho_p} \cdot 10 \quad (3)$$

Calculate the practical spreading rate relative to the volume ($s_{p,v}$), using [Formula \(4\)](#):

$$s_{p,v} = \frac{A}{V_0} = \frac{NV \cdot \rho_2}{t_d \cdot \rho_p} \cdot 10 = \frac{NV_{V,p}}{t_d} \cdot 10 \quad (4)$$

where

A is the coated surface area, in square metres;

m_0 is the mass required for coating, in kilograms;

V_0 is the volume required for coating, in litres;

NV is the mass fraction of the non-volatile matter of the coating material, in per cent;

$NV_{V,p}$ is the volume fraction of the practical non-volatile matter, in per cent;

- t_d is the dry-film thickness of the coating, in micrometres;
- ρ_p is the practical dry-film density, in grams per cubic centimetre;
- ρ_2 is the density of the coating material, in grams per cubic centimetre.

9 Precision

9.1 Repeatability

The repeatability limit, r , is the value below which the absolute difference between two test results (each being the average of two valid determinations) of this test method can be expected under similar conditions. The test results shall be determined on the same test material by the same test technician in the same laboratory within a short period of time in accordance with the standard test method.

Two results of the non-volatile matter by volume calculated on the basis of the theoretical dry-film density are regarded as acceptable and in conformity with the standard for the repeatability limit if they do not differ by more than the following value: $0,48 + (0,008\ 6 \times NV_v)$.

9.2 Reproducibility

The reproducibility limit, R , is the value below which the absolute difference between two test results (each being the average of two valid determinations) of this test method can be expected under matching conditions. The test results shall be determined on the same test material by different test technicians in different laboratories in accordance with the standard test method.

Two results of the non-volatile matter by volume calculated on the basis of the theoretical dry-film density are regarded as acceptable and in conformity with the standard for the reproducibility limit if they do not differ by more than the following value: $1,06 + (0,009\ 6 \times NV_v)$.

10 Test report

The test report shall contain at least the following information:

- a) all details necessary to identify the product tested;
- b) a reference to this document, i.e. (ISO 3233-2:2019);
- c) an indication of the test method used for the dry-film density;
- d) the type of plate used;
- e) the immersion liquid;
- f) the type of air oven used;
- g) the application method for the sample coating on the plate, including drying/curing conditions for the coating;
- h) the dry-film thickness of the coating, in micrometres;
- i) the result of the test, as specified in [Clause 8](#);
- j) any deviation from the specified test method;
- k) any unusual features (anomalies) observed during the test;
- l) the date of testing.

Annex A (informative)

Overview of existing methods for determination of non-volatile matter content and volume of non-volatile matter

Table A.1 provides an overview of existing methods for determination of non-volatile matter content and volume of non-volatile matter.

Table A.1 — Overview of existing methods for determination of non-volatile matter content and volume of non-volatile matter

International Standard	Result	Determined (practical)	Calculated (theoretical)
ISO 3233-1	Practical percentage volume of non-volatile matter NV_v	Mass of the uncoated disc or plate in air m_1 Mass of the uncoated disc or plate immersed in the immersion liquid m_2 Mass of the wet coated disc or plate m_3 Mass of the dry coated disc or plate in air m_4 Mass of the dry coated disc or plate immersed in the immersion liquid m_5 Density of immersion liquid ρ_1 Density of the coating material ρ_2	Practical dry-film density ρ_p of the test portion, mean value of 3 determinations Non-volatile-matter content NV_m^a of the test portion, mean value of 3 determinations Non-volatile matter by volume NV_v , calculated from the mean values above Spreading rate relative to the mass s_m Spreading rate relative to the volume s_v
ISO 3233-2 (this document)	Practical percentage volume of non-volatile matter $NV_{v,p}$	Mass of the uncoated plate in air m_1 Mass of the uncoated plate immersed in the immersion liquid m_2 Mass of the dry coated plate in air m_3 Mass of the dry coated plate immersed in the immersion liquid m_4 Density of immersion liquid ρ_1 Density of the coating material ρ_2 NV of the coating material in accordance with ISO 3251	Practical dry-film density ρ_p of the test portion, mean value of 2 determinations Practical non-volatile matter by volume $NV_{v,p}$, mean value of 2 determinations Practical spreading rate relative to the mass $s_{p,m}$ Practical spreading rate relative to the volume $s_{p,v}$
ISO 3233-3	Theoretical percentage volume of non-volatile matter $NV_{v,t}$	NV of the coating material in accordance with ISO 3251 Density of the coating material ρ_1 Density of the solvents in the coating material ρ_2	Theoretical dry-film density ρ_t of the test portion, single determination Theoretical non-volatile matter by volume $NV_{v,t}$ Theoretical spreading rate relative to the mass $s_{t,m}$ Theoretical spreading rate relative to the volume $s_{t,v}$

Table A.1 (continued)

ISO 3251	Non-volatile-matter content NV	Masses of the empty dish m_1 , dish with the wet coating material m_2 and dish with the residue after drying m_3 Mean value of duplicates	Percentage by mass of non-volatile-matter content NV
^a The subscript "m" has been introduced because ISO 3233-1 and ISO 3251 specify different conditions for the determination of NV.			

Bibliography

- [1] ISO 3233-1:2013, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of the percentage volume of non-volatile matter — Part 1: Method using a coated test panel to determine non-volatile matter and to determine dry film density by the Archimedes principle*
- [2] ISO 3233-3, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of the percentage volume of non-volatile matter — Part 3: Determination by calculation from the non-volatile-matter content determined in accordance with ISO 3251, the density of the coating material and the density of the solvent in the coating material*
- [3] ISO 4618:2014, *Paints and varnishes — Terms and definitions*

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