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Rubber products; requirements for storage, cleaning and maintenance

Supersedes February 1975 edition

For the connection with standards ISO 2230-1973 and ISO 5285-1978 published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), see Explanatory notes.

1 Field of Application

- 1.1 The following requirements apply to products made of rubber in pure form and in combination with other substances, and in particular to elastomers of natural rubber and/or synthetic rubber and to unvulcanized rubber mixtures, to adhesives and to solutions containing rubber.
- 1.2 The requirements according to clauses 3 and $\frac{1}{4}$ primarily apply to long-term storage (in general longer than 6 months).

The specifications of this standard, apart from the general requirements of store rooms according to clauses 3 and 3.1. can be appropriately applied to short-term storage (less than 6 months) - such as, for example, in production and distribution stores with a continuous flow of materials - as long as the appearance and functioning of the products do not thereby undergo adverse changes (see, however, clause 4.2.1 b).

2 General

The physical properties of most rubber products change under adverse storage conditions or with inexpert treatment. The life may thereby be shortened, and the products may become useless, for example due to excessive hardening, softening or permanent deformation or due to flaking, cracks or other surface damage. The changes can be caused by the effects of, for example, oxygen, ozone, heat, light, moisture, solvents or storage under stress. Properly stored and treated rubber products remain al-

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most unchanged in their properties over a long period (some years). This does not apply, however, to unvulcanized rubber mixtures.

3 Store room

The store room should be cool, dry, relatively free from dust and moderately ventilated. Storage in the open air, unprotected from weathering, is not acceptable.

3.1 Temperature

The temperature for the storage of rubber products depends on the goods to be stored and the elastomers used.

Rubber products should not be stored below -10°C or above +15°C; the upper limit may be exceeded to up to +25°C. Even higher temperatures are acceptable for only a short time.

In deviation therof, a storage temperature which should not be lower than +12°C may be necessary for rubber products of certain types of rubber, e.g. chloroprene rubber.

The most advantageous storage temperature for unvulcanized rubber products and mixtures and for adhesives and solutions is between $\pm 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $\pm 25^{\circ}\text{C}$. Higher temperatures shall and lower temperatures should be avoided. Adhesives and solutions may not be stored below 0°C .

Stiffening or a reduction in adhesive power may occur in products which have been exposed to low temperatures during storage and on transportation. These products should be brought to temperatures of +20°C or more for a prolonged period before use or further processing. This is best done in the packaging, because precipitation of moisture on the product itself is thereby avoided.