

Elastocon AB

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Our calibration lab is
accredited by Swedac



Accredited Contract Testing Services



Elastocon performs contract testing and consultancy assignments in rubber and plastic. Our specialities are ageing tests, estimation of lifetime and testing of low temperature properties on rubber materials.

Kim Bini is the manager of Elastocon's accredited contract testing laboratory. He is a graduated Technology Doctor of Materials Science from Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg.

We are accredited for 15 rubber testing methods, see the box to the right. It is Swedac, the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, that performs the accreditation. Swedac's website says the following about what it means:

"To be accredited, skills, procedures and methods are tested so that all quality requirements are met as a standard. Next, Swedac check regularly that the company continues to meet the requirements for their accreditation.

The purpose of accreditation is to ensure that certification, inspection and testing is done with high quality and safety for life, health and environment. Accreditation means that inspections are performed impartial, accurate and based on internationally recognized standards."

Accredited rubber test methods in Elastocon's testing laboratory

ISO 34-1	Tear strength
ISO 37	Tensile stress-strain properties
ISO 48-2	Hardness IRHD
ISO 48-4	Hardness Shore
ISO 188	Accelerated ageing and heat resistance
ISO 815-1	Compression Set
ISO 815-2	Low Temperature Compression Set
ISO 1432	Low-temperature stiffening (Gehman test)
ISO 1817	Resistance to liquids
ISO 2781	Density
ISO 2921	Low-temperature retraction (TR test)
ISO 3384-1	Stress relaxation in compression
ISO 3384-2	Cycling relaxation in compression
ISO 6914	Ageing characteristics by measurement of stress relaxation in tension
ISO 11346	Estimation of life-time and maximum temperature of use

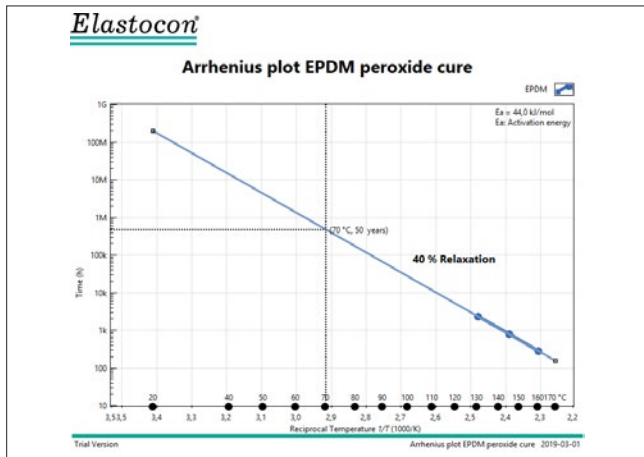


Lifetime estimation

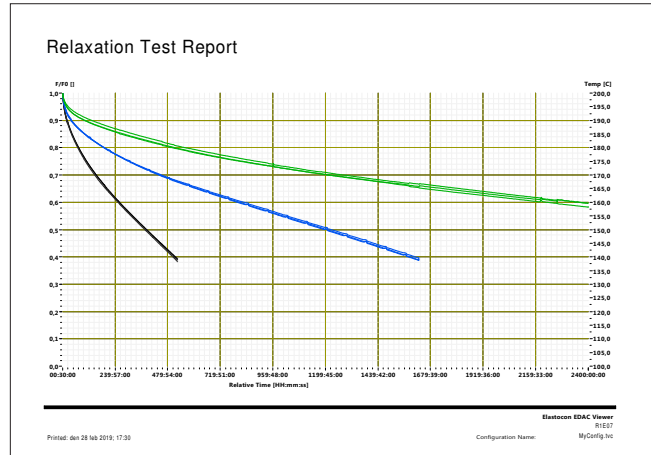
One of our specialties is lifetime estimation, especially of rubber materials.

The testing is performed at three different temperatures and a critical property is tested until the function is finished.

When testing rubber, it's common to use stress relaxation in either compression or tension. The times to reach the "end of life" time for each temperature will be plotted in an Arrhenius graph and the lifetime at lower temperatures can be extrapolated.



Arrhenius plot at 40 % relaxation.



EPDM relaxation curves at three temperatures.

Standardisation

To participate in the standardisation of rubber test methods is important when working with testing. Two of the company personnel are active within the Swedish standards and in ISO TC 45.

Göran Spetz is a member of the Swedish SIS Committee for Rubber and chairman of three working groups in ISO/TC45. Ann-Cathrine Magnå is chairman of TC45/SC4/WG2 sealing rings. Both of them also participate in several other working groups.

The involvement in the standardisation gives a good knowledge of the latest test methods. It's also an opportunity to meet several interesting people like the chemistry Nobel Prize winner, Mr Tanaka from Shimadzu in Japan.



Engineer Kichi Tanaka received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2002. He held a lecture at the ISO TC meeting in Kyoto that year, soon after hearing about his prize, hence the presence of Japanese television. Göran Spetz welcomes him to Sweden.



Accelerated weathering and light stability tests of products and materials



Pertti Steenari with the QUV Accelerated Weathering Tester to the left, and the Q-SUN Xe-1 xenon arc chamber in Elastocon's testing laboratory.



Q-Lab's subtropical outdoor weathering site in Florida, USA.

Elastocon offers accelerated weathering and light stability tests of products and materials on a smaller scale in our own laboratory.

This testing is done in two types of test equipment from Q-Lab:

- QUV Accelerated Weathering Tester with UV light and moisture.

- Q-SUN Xe-1 xenon arc chamber which reproduces the damage caused by full-spectrum sunlight.

For customers within the Nordic countries, who requires testing of products and materials on a larger scale, we can also pass on requests to Q-Lab's testing laboratory in Germany

and outdoor exposure testing at Q-Lab's desert and subtropical climate facilities in Arizona and Florida.

For more information or quotes regarding weathering and light stability tests, please contact Pertti Steenari via e-mail: pertti.steenari@elastocon.se

Material analysis

Elastocon have increased the number of test methods in our test lab with analysis of polymer materials.

TGA 4000 can be used for determination of the composition of vulcanizates and uncured compounds by thermogravimetry according to ISO 9924. The standard specifies a thermogravimetric method for determination of the total organic content, carbon black content and ash.

DSC 4000 is an instrument for differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). It can be used for determination of melt interval and phase transitions.

FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy). FTIR is a technique used to obtain an infrared spectrum of absorption or emission of a solid, liquid or gas. A FTIR spectrometer simultaneously collects high-spectral-resolution data over a wide spectral range. The method is ideal for qualitative analysis of polymeric raw materials and finished products.

TCi is a thermal conductivity meter from C-Therm. It can measure thermal conductivity and effusivity on all types of materials, such as solids, liquids, powders and pastes.

For more information or quotes please contact Elastocon via e-mail: info@elastocon.se



Above: TGA 4000 and DSC 4000 are both thermal analysis instruments from PerkinElmer. Below: TCi is a thermal conductivity meter from C-Therm Technologies.



Material selection – specifications

Elastocon can assist you with a material specification for the material in your products and make ongoing tests of your delivered products. This can be very important for your product quality, especially if you use a supplier far away from you.

Training

Do you need customized training regarding testing and calibration, either with us or at your site?

Please contact us for more information.

Examples of test methods

Test methods for rubber

ISO 34-1	A and C	Tear strength
ISO 36		Adhesion to textile fabrics*
ISO 37		Tensile stress-strain properties
ISO 48-2	N and M	Hardness, IRHD
ISO 48-4	A, D and AM	Hardness, Shore
ISO 188	A	Heat ageing
ISO 815-1	A and B	Compression set at ambient or elevated temperatures
ISO 815-2	A and B	Compression set at low temperatures, LTCS
ISO 1407		Solvent extract*
ISO 1408		Carbon black content*
ISO 1431		Resistance to ozone cracking*
ISO 1432		Low temperature stiffening, Gehman test
ISO 1817		Effect of liquids
ISO 1853		Measurement of resistivity*
ISO 2285	A and B	Tension set at constant elongation*
ISO 2781		Density
ISO 2921		Low temperature retraction, TR-test
ISO 3384-1	A and B	Stress relaxation in compression
ISO 3384-2		Stress relaxation in compression, testing with temperature cycling
ISO 4650		Identification of rubber*
ISO 4662		Determination of rebound resilience*
ISO 4665		Resistance to weathering*
ISO 6914	A	Ageing characteristics by measurement of stress relaxation in tension
ISO 7743		Compression stress-strain properties*
ISO 8013		Creep in compression or shear*
ISO 9924		Analysis of plasticizer, polymer, carbon black and ash residue*
ISO 11346		Estimation of life-time

Test methods for plastic

ISO 175		Effects of immersion in liquid chemicals*
ISO 178		Flexural properties*
ISO 527		Tensile properties*
ISO 868	A and D	Indentation hardness by means of a durometer (Shore hardness)*
ISO 899		Creep behavior – tensile creep*
ISO 1183-1	A	Density of non-cellular plastics*
ISO 4892-2		Exposure to laboratory light sources – Xenon-arc lamps*
ISO 4892-3		Exposure to laboratory light sources – Fluorescent UV lamps*
ISO 11357-2		Determination of glass transition temperature*
ISO 11357-6		Determination of OIT*

Other test methods

ASTM D 2244	Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates*
Various standards	Gloss measurement*
ISO 6452	Fogging characteristics of trim materials in the interior of automobiles*
ASTM D3895	Determination of OIT, Oxidative-induction time*
ASTM D7984	Determination of Thermal Conductivity*

* Not included in accreditation.

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