

# EN 15187 - Assessment of the effect of light exposure

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As usual, all European standards must be revised after a period of at least five years. Thus, together with other methods of which we will give you some updates in the following newsletters, now it is the turn of the test that is defined by some as “xenotest”, or light fastness of furniture surfaces. Without going too far into the operating methodology, for which we directly refer to the reading of the full text of the EN 15187 standard, here we would only like to inform our readers of an upcoming important change, related to the duration of the test.

For many years the exposure of the samples inside the instrument (xenotester) was defined in terms of time, precisely 20 hours. This essentially to provide on the test report a clear and simple indication of the dose of light to which the sample was subject in time units.

In reality these 20 hours represent the time needed to make the blue wool n.6 change its color and this change must be equal to the contrast index 4 of the gray scale.

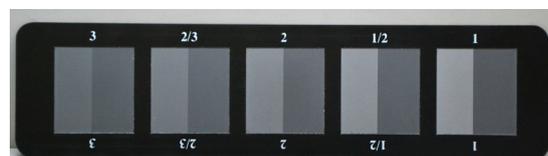
The standard in force since 2007 requires that the color change of the blue wool 6 can be measured in two ways. The first system is through a visual comparison, the second alternatively, through an instrumental reading of the color. Unfortunately, the fact of leaving the option to use both the visual and the instrumental methods has led to some differences in interpretation on the exposure time, and consequently on the final result of the test.

The European technical commission of CEN TC207/WG7 which is in charge of revising the document, has decided that in the future the duration of exposure will no longer be linked to the colour change of the blue wool, but must be based on the dose of light to which the sample must be exposed. This irradiation will be measured by a radiometer being expressed in mega Joules per square meter (MJ/m<sup>2</sup>).

For the reasons presented above, Catas intends to immediately adopt this new criterion necessary to adapt to the new version of the EN 15187 standard. However, in this intermediate phase it is possible to request the test according to one of the two options, with the traditional 20 hours exposure, or on the basis of irradiation.



The Xenotesters available at the surface section of Catas



Grayscale



Blue Wool

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