



BSI Standards Publication

## Optics and photonics — Optical coatings

---

Part 4: Specific test methods: abrasion, adhesion and resistance to water

## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 9211-4:2022. It supersedes BS ISO 9211-4:2012, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CPW/172, Optics and Photonics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

### Contractual and legal considerations

This publication has been prepared in good faith, however no representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by BSI in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this publication. All and any such responsibility and liability is expressly disclaimed to the full extent permitted by the law.

This publication is provided as is, and is to be used at the recipient's own risk.

The recipient is advised to consider seeking professional guidance with respect to its use of this publication.

This publication is not intended to constitute a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2022  
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2022

ISBN 978 0 539 16027 7

ICS 37.020

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 April 2022.

### Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
------	---------------

---

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

**ISO**  
**9211-4**

Fourth edition  
2022-03-22

---

---

**Optics and photonics —  
Optical coatings —**

**Part 4:  
abrasion, adhesion and  
resistance to water**

*Optique et photonique — Traitements optiques —*

*Partie 4: Méthodes d'essai spécifiques: abrasion, adhérence et  
résistance à l'eau*



Reference number  
ISO 9211-4:2022(E)

© ISO 2022



## **COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2022, Published in Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
www.iso.org

# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Preparation prior to testing</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>5 Abrasion tests: cheesecloth/eraser test (conditioning method 01)</b> .....	<b>2</b>
5.1 General.....	2
5.2 Test conditions.....	2
5.2.1 General.....	2
5.2.2 Moderate abrasion test.....	2
5.2.3 Severe abrasion test.....	2
5.3 Degree of severity: abrasion – cheesecloth/eraser test (conditioning method 01).....	2
5.4 Recovery.....	3
5.5 Evaluation.....	3
<b>6 Adhesion test: tape test (conditioning method 02)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
6.1 General.....	3
6.2 Test conditions.....	3
6.3 Degree of severity: adhesion – tape test (conditioning method 02).....	3
6.4 Recovery.....	4
6.5 Evaluation.....	4
<b>7 Adhesion test: crosshatch test (conditioning method 03)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
7.1 General.....	4
7.2 Test conditions.....	4
7.3 Degree of severity.....	4
7.4 Conditioning.....	4
7.5 Recovery.....	5
7.6 Evaluation.....	5
<b>8 Resistance to water: exposure to water (conditioning method 04)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
8.1 General.....	5
8.2 Test conditions.....	5
8.3 Degree of severity: resistance to water – exposure to water (conditioning method 04).....	6
8.4 Recovery.....	6
8.5 Evaluation.....	6
<b>9 Adhesion test: pull-off test (conditioning method 05)</b> .....	<b>7</b>
9.1 General.....	7
9.2 Test conditions.....	7
9.3 Degree of severity: adhesion – pull-off test (conditioning method 05).....	7
9.4 Evaluation.....	8
<b>10 Environmental test code</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Annex A (normative) Materials for abrasion testing of optical coatings</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Cheesecloth pad, pad cover and fixture preparation for moderate abrasion testing of optical coatings</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Annex C (normative) Visual examination of optical coatings</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>15</b>

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 172, *Optics and photonics*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Optical materials and components*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 9211-4:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Addition of a new adhesion test method (pull-off test).

A list of all parts in the ISO 9211 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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

# Optics and photonics — Optical coatings —

## Part 4:

# Specific test methods: abrasion, adhesion and resistance to water

## 1 Scope

ISO 9211 describes surface treatments of components and substrates, excluding ophthalmic optics (spectacles), by the application of optical coatings and gives a standard form for their specification. It defines the general characteristics and the test and measurement methods wherever necessary, but it is not intended to define the process method.

This document describes specific test methods of abrasion, adhesion and resistance to water for coating environmental durability tests that are identified in ISO 9211-3 but not described in other normative references. They are typically performed in sequence with other environmental durability tests, an example is shown in ISO 9211-3:2008, Annex A.

## 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 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of hardness — Part 2: Hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD*

ISO 9211-1, *Optics and photonics — Optical coatings — Part 1: Vocabulary*

ISO 14997:2017, *Optics and photonics — Test methods for surface imperfections of optical elements*

ISO 29862, *Self adhesive tapes — Determination of peel adhesion properties*

EN 13144:2018, *Metallic and other inorganic coatings — Method for quantitative measurement of adhesion by tensile test*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 9211-1 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 <https://www.electropedia.org/>

## 4 Preparation prior to testing

Recommended storage time is at least 12 h after the coating process under ambient atmospheric conditions, or as specified between manufacturer and customer.

Before and after subjecting a coated specimen (component or witness sample) to any inspection or test, the specimen shall be properly cleaned using nonresidue cleaning agents only. This is a mutually agreed