

**CEN/TC 134/WG 9 "Laminate floor coverings"**

Convenor: **Emmler Rico Mr Dr.-Ing.**



**Statement of EPLF and CEN TC 134 WG 9 regarding the current sandpaper situation in abrasion testing**

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## **Statement of the EPLF and CEN/TC 134/WG 9 regarding the current sandpaper situation in abrasion testing according to ISO 24338 and conformity assessment according to EN 13329 - status 02/2025**

At the beginning of November 2024, Dr. Emmmler, as convenor of CEN/TC 134/WG 9 (Working Group Laminate Flooring), was informed by a Turkish laminate flooring manufacturer that the S42 abrasive paper from Taber Industries (USA) used for abrasion resistance testing had not only been changed to orange in colour, but would also lead to significantly lower abrasion results due to its higher abrasiveness. Some sandpaper strips were then sent to the convenor for testing purposes.

At the meeting of the EPLF Technical Committee on 5th November 2024, Dr. Emmmler reported on this information and distributed the sandpaper strips he had received to the members so that they could gather experience through their own tests. At that time, none of the EPLF members had the new orange sandpapers and at the same time, some countries were still able to purchase remaining stocks of the old sandpapers, some of which are still being used today. It was decided that the EPLF members would gather their experiences with the new sandpaper and report back to Dr. Emmmler. At the next meeting of CEN/TC 134/WG 9 on 4th June 2025, these experiences are to be summarised and possible measures (introduction of a correction factor, changed default values for abrasiveness, etc.) are to be decided.

Taber Industries, as the distributor of the S42 abrasive paper, has now approached the convenor of CEN/TC 134/WG 9 and reported a necessary change of supplier. Contrary to the agreement made with the supplier, the S42 abrasive paper currently supplied has a higher abrasiveness. Taber Industries is endeavouring with its supplier to be able to supply sandpapers with lower abrasiveness again in the future. However, Taber Industries generally recommends the use of a correction factor to determine the abrasion results.

The abrasiveness of the abrasive papers is assessed via the abrasion on a defined zinc plate (S-34 from Taber Industries). The normative specification for zinc abrasion rate was reduced to  $(100 \pm 20)$  mg in the latest version of EN 13329:2024 (Table 2, footnote f), as only sandpapers with values below 100 mg were available for several years. The use of correction factors is currently not foreseen in the test standard ISO 24338:2022, section 6.4.

In the meantime, various EPLF members and Taber Industries have determined the zinc abrasion value of the new orange abrasive paper and sent it to Dr. Emmmler. All

**EPLF BOARD**  
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**FERIEL SAOULI**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

**EPLF® - EUROPEAN PRODUCERS OF LAMINATE FLOORING ASSOCIATION E.V.**

**BRUSSELS OFFICE**  
RUE DEFACQZ 52  
1050 BRUSSELS  
BELGIUM

**REGISTERED OFFICE**  
MITTELSTRASSE 50  
33602 BIELEFELD  
GERMANY

T +32 (0)2 788 31 68  
INFO@EPLF.COM  
[WWW.EPLF.COM](http://WWW.EPLF.COM)

VAT DE813375934  
**BANK ACCOUNT** DE22 4808 0020 0190 4383 00  
**REGISTRATION NO.** VR 3897, AG BIELEFELD

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values were in the range between (145 - 160) mg. As a result, significantly lower abrasion results are determined on the laminate floors, which means that the declared abrasion classes are usually no longer achieved. Alternatively tested sandpapers are not available on the European market.

**In order to enable manufacturers and test laboratories to determine the abrasion resistance and a statement of conformity, the convenors of the EPLF Technical Working Group and CEN/TC 134/WG 9 recommend following the recommendation of Taber Industries under the current circumstances and correcting the determined test results by means of correction factor K.**

**The correction factor K shall be determined as follows:**

**$K = (\text{Determined zinc abrasion rate according to ISO 24338 section 6.4 in mg} / 100 \text{ mg})$**

**The zinc abrasion rate shall be determined at a height of  $(7.5 \pm 0.5)$  mm above the test specimen holder (ISO 24338, Fig. 3, Key 4) by placing the zinc plate on a rigid and flat surface.**

**This ensures that correction factors similar to those of real laminate flooring are achieved, as proven by studies.**

**It is recommended to determine the zinc abrasion value of at least three pairs of sandpaper strips and to average the result.**

**The correction factor K shall be multiplied by the test result.**

At the next meeting of CEN/TC 134/WG 9 on 4th June 2025, to which Taber Industries has also been invited, the experiences of all parties will be exchanged and, if necessary, further measures will be decided.

04.03.2025 

Eberhard Herrmann  
Convenor Technical Working Group of the EPLF



Dr. Rico Emmler  
Convenor CEN/TC 134/WG 9

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**BRUSSELS OFFICE**  
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1050 BRUSSELS  
BELGIUM

**REGISTERED OFFICE**  
MITTELSTRASSE 50  
33602 BIELEFELD  
GERMANY

T +32 (0)2 788 31 68  
INFO@EPLF.COM  
[WWW.EPLF.COM](http://WWW.EPLF.COM)

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