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**Environmental testing –
Part 2-10: Tests – Test J and guidance: Mould growth**

**Essais d'environnement –
Partie 2-10: Essais – Essai J et guide: Moisissures**

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
1 Scope.....	5
2 Normative references	5
3 General description	5
3.1 Background	5
3.2 Selection of test procedure.....	6
3.3 Considerations when specifying test procedures	6
4 Health hazards to operators	7
5 Description of the test variants	7
5.1 Test variant 1	7
5.2 Test variant 2	8
6 Reagents and materials.....	8
6.1 Cultures or spores – Supply and conditions.....	8
6.2 Preparation of spore suspension	9
6.3 Control strips.....	10
7 Description of test apparatus	11
7.1 Inoculation by spraying.....	11
7.2 Incubation of small specimens.....	11
7.3 Incubation of large specimens	11
8 Severities	11
9 Initial examinations.....	12
10 Pre-conditioning	12
10.1 Cleaning.....	12
10.2 Damp heat storage	12
11 Conditioning	12
11.1 Application	12
11.2 Inoculation	13
11.3 Incubation	13
12 Final examinations	14
12.1 Visual examination	14
12.2 Effect of growth	14
12.3 Extent of growth	14
13 Information to be given in the relevant specification	15
14 Information to be given in the test report as a minimum.....	15
Annex A (informative) Danger to personnel.....	16
Annex B (normative) Inoculation methods (see also 11.2).....	18
Annex C (informative) Recommended safety precautions.....	21
Annex D (informative) Decontamination procedures.....	23
Annex E (informative) Information on the test fungi.....	25
Annex F (informative) Guidance.....	27
Bibliography.....	34

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –

Part 2-10: Tests – Test J and guidance: Mould growth

FOREWORD

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This Consolidated version is not an official IEC Standard and has been prepared for user convenience. Only the current versions of the standard and its amendment(s) are to be considered the official documents.

This Consolidated version of IEC 60068-2-10 bears the edition number 6.1. It consists of the sixth edition (2005-06) [documents 104/365/FDIS and 104/373/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2018-04) [documents 104/740/CDV and 104/790/RVC]. The technical content is identical to the base edition and its amendment.

This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 60068-2-10 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 104: Environmental conditions, classification and methods of test.

This sixth edition constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- Two test fungi replaced by two others
- Concentration of the spores defined for each test fungus
- Spores suspension in mineral salt solution additionally introduced
- Pre-conditioning of the specimens by damp heat storage prescribed
- Supersonic aerosolization of the spores suspension as the preferred inoculation method introduced
- Duration of incubation reduced from 84 days to 56 days
- Extent of mould growth grade 2 split into grade 2a and grade 2b
- Detailed information on methods of inoculation given in Annex B
- Annex E: flow-chart deleted

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

This standard forms Part 2-10 of IEC 60068 which consists of the following major parts, under the general title *Environmental testing*:

Part 1: General and guidance

Part 2: Tests

Part 3: Supporting documentation and guidance

Part 4: Information for specification writers

Part 5: Guide to drafting of test methods

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –

Part 2-10: Tests – Test J and guidance: Mould growth

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60068 provides a test method for determining the extent to which electrotechnical products support mould growth and how any mould growth may affect the performance and other relevant properties of the product.

Since mould growth conditions include high relative humidity, the test is applicable to electrotechnical products intended for transportation, storage and use under humid conditions over a period of some days at least.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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/IEC 17025:1999, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 846:1997, *Plastics – Evaluation of the action of microorganisms*

MIL-STD-810 F:2000, *Method 508.5 Fungus*

Laboratory Biosafety Manual 2nd Ed., WHO 1993, ISBN 92 4 1544503

3 General description

3.1 Background

Under certain climatic and environmental conditions, micro-organisms may settle on and colonize the surface of electrotechnical equipment. Their presence or their metabolic products may not only damage the equipment itself, but may also affect the equipment's operability and serviceability. The actions of micro-organisms on equipment are influenced by two different processes: direct action in which the deterioration of material serve as a nutritive substance for the growth of the micro-organisms and indirect action in which the metabolic products of the micro-organisms generate deterioration.

The preferred method for controlling the effects of micro-organisms is by the selection of materials that do not promote growth. Also acceptable is the treatment, or hermetic sealing, of potentially vulnerable materials and components. Additionally, equipment may not need to be evaluated if it is stored and/or operated throughout its entire life, in conditions unlikely to encourage the growth of micro-organisms. Only if these cannot be achieved is it usually necessary to demonstrate the resistance of complete or partial equipment by testing.

The test procedures and severities of this document are most commonly used to evaluate the resistance of complete or partial equipment, to the damaging effects due to the presence of micro-organisms and their metabolic products. Testing of entire equipment is usually