

## **ISO Solid Surface Material Standard 19712**

**A comprehensive 3 part Solid Surface Material Classification and Specification Standard, after 4 years in the making, has been completed.**

The Solid Surface Council of ICPA initiated through ASTM US TAG to ISO TC 61 the development of a dedicated International Solid Surface Material Standard, using the ANSI/ICPA SS-1 Solid Surface Sheet Stock Standard as the corner stone for this proposal.

Mr. Klaus Fromme of Bradley Corporation (at that time the ICPA Solid Surface Council Chairperson) was asked to be the leader for this project. Mr. Lenny Elbon of ISSFA was appointed as Co-leader for this project and Mr. Pat Toner of ICPA joint the team as Technical Expert and Advisor.

This Solid Surface Material Standard work item was officially approved as a project by ISO TC 61 on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2003 in Maastricht, Netherlands with 9 Countries voting in favor, 7 Countries abstaining and 5 Countries not voting. The core group of this project was made up of members from Canada, France, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States. During the Maastricht meeting the Working Group drafted the Scope and outline for this Standard.

The following year in Chengdu, China the countries of Germany, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia joined the Working Group. Mr. Pat Toner of ICPA and Mr. Lenny Elbon of ISSFA could no longer actively participate in this working group due to other obligations. Dr. Claus Werner of the Westag & Getalit AG and Solid Surface Technical Committee Leader from GKV/ProK and DIN FNK-AA 401.2 joined the working group as technical Expert during the China meeting.

The result of this true international effort was the three part ISO Solid Surface Standard # 19712.

**Part 1 – Decorative Solid Surface Material – Classification and Specification** establishes a classification system for Solid Surfacing materials according to their performance. This part of ISO 19712 also specifies requirements on the properties of various types of Solid Surfacing Materials covered by this Classification. The limit values specified apply to most commonly used types of material, but within each classification it may be possible to obtain variants having much higher performance values. The performance requirements for Solid Surface materials shall meet the requirements of every property for which a value or range is specified.

Two methods of tests are given for the measurements of resistance to wet heat, thermal cycle testing, chemical resistance, resistance to staining and resistance to cigarette burns. Three are given for the measurements of light fastness and resistance to dry heat.

**Part 2 – Decorative Solid Surface Material – Sheet goods – Determination of properties.** This part of ISO 19712 specifies the methods of

test for determination of the properties of Solid Surfacing Material. These methods are primarily intended for the materials specified in ISO 19712-1.

The tests may be carried out on finished products, but is generally carried out on test panels of a size sufficient to meet the requirements of the test and of the same material and finish in an identical manner to the finished product.

This part of the ISO 19712 standard is also describing the proper sample preparation for test material.

**Part 3 – Decorative Solid Surface Material – Solid Surface Shapes – Determination of Properties.** This part of the standard is basically identical to Part 2 of this ISO Standard with the exception of eliminating the test for consistency of color and the load test. The thermo cycle test for shaped products varies from the sheet stock test in the temperature range and the number of test cycles dictated by the application of the product like kitchen sinks and other cast products. Also the impact test for shaped products varies from the test for sheet goods by specifying a specific impact area and a ball weight of 225 grams and diameter of 38.1 mm and drop height of 610 mm versus a ball weight of 324 grams and a diameter of 42.8 mm with a variant drop height of the ball based on material thickness.

This standard publication is intended for use by manufacturers, fabricators, installers, specifier of Solid Surfacing materials and certification agencies. The test methods and minimum performance values presented have been related as closely as possible to ensure applications. The fabrication methods and techniques employed may have a bearing on product performance and service.

The performance requirements include, but are not limited to impact resistance, structure, renewability, colorfastness, cleanability, stain resistance, bacterial and fungal resistance and other significant properties.

Solid Surfacing Materials are characterized by their homogeneous appearance, renewable surfaces and inconspicuous seams. They are generally classified as Solid Surface Sheets designated for horizontal, vertical, wet and dry applications and Solid Surface Shapes include, but are not limited to kitchen sinks bathroom sinks, vanity tops, showers, tubs and spas.

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