



Brussels, 24 July 2026

Statement by the EPLF and CEN/TC 134/WG 9 regarding the current situation with sandpaper for abrasion testing according to ISO 24338:2022 and for conformity assessment according to EN 13329:2023

In an initial joint statement by the EPLF and CEN/TC 134/WG 9 dated March 4, 2025, it was reported that new orange S42 sandpaper from Taber Industries (USA) with significantly higher abrasiveness had been introduced to the market. This significantly higher abrasiveness led to significantly lower abrasion results in testing according to ISO 24338 and, in some cases, to non-conformities with the requirements of EN 13329 for laminate flooring.

Consequently, the statement recommended the introduction of a correction factor for tests conducted in accordance with ISO 24338 for this batch and described a procedure for determining it. Furthermore, the statement noted Taber Industries' efforts to improve the situation regarding the excessively high abrasiveness.

In the meantime, many EPLF and WG 9 members have gathered experience with the new orange-coloured sandpaper regarding zinc abrasion values and test results for two batches from Taber Industries (Lot 91153, Lot 92853) and one batch from the alternative supplier Laboratory Service (Lot 110-2603). It was found that the abrasiveness has decreased and that the requirements for the zinc abrasion value according to ISO 24338 are partially met. However, testing on real laminate floor covering surfaces clearly shows that the abrasiveness remains significantly higher than that of the old sandpaper (e.g., Taber Lot 89580, Laboratory Service Lot 110-2502) and that compliance with standard requirements for product-specific abrasion classes is not always possible with the existing surface constructions.

The EPLF has established an ad hoc group to search for alternative suppliers of abrasive paper. Quick solutions are not expected, and it may be necessary to revise the requirements for abrasive paper in accordance with ISO 24338.

Until a solution to the problem of excessive abrasiveness is found, the convenors of the EPLF Technical Working Group and CEN/TC 134/WG 9 recommend the following procedure for abrasion testing according to ISO 24338:

In any case, the test results should be corrected using a correction factor K, which is to be determined as follows:

K = (Determined zinc abrasion value according to ISO 24338, Section 6.4, in mg / 100 mg)

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The zinc abrasion value shall be determined at a height of (7.5 ± 0.5) mm above the test specimen holder (ISO 24338, Figure 3, Key 4); for this purpose, the zinc plate shall be placed on a rigid and flat surface.

For every 500 sandpaper strips, 5 pairs must be used for calibration.

Calibration must be performed on a Taber machine or a Taber head (for dual-head machines) and is valid only for that specific machine or head. The 500 strips may therefore be used only on that specific machine or head.

Calculate the average of the 5 calibration values; this average is to be used as the correction factor K.

Note: Depending on the consumption of the 500 strips, different correction factors may apply to the 3 samples used for testing.

The average correction factor K must be multiplied by the test result for each sample.

The average corrected test result must be used for conformity assessment.

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