



EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

**Fishing nets — Method of test for the determination of mesh size —
Part 1: Opening of mesh**

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in East Africa. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers which are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

In order to meet the above objectives, the EAC Partner States have enacted an East African Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Test Act, 2006 (EAC SQMT Act, 2006) to make provisions for ensuring standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing of products produced or originating in a third country and traded in the Community in order to facilitate industrial development and trade as well as helping to protect the health and safety of society and the environment in the Community.

East African Standards are formulated in accordance with the procedures established by the East African Standards Committee. The East African Standards Committee is established under the provisions of Article 4 of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006. The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the private sectors and consumer organizations. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the procedures of the Community.

Article 15(1) of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006 provides that "Within six months of the declaration of an East African Standard, the Partner States shall adopt, without deviation from the approved text of the standard, the East African Standard as a national standard and withdraw any existing national standard with similar scope and purpose".

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

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Introduction

In the preparation of this East African Standard, the following sources were consulted extensively:

ISO 16663-1:2009, *Fishing nets — Method of test for the determination of mesh size — Part 1: Opening of mesh*

IS 4303-1:1975, *Code of hygienic conditions for fish industry — Part 1: Pre-processing stage*

IS 4303-2:1975, *Code of hygienic conditions for fish industry — Part 2: Canning stage*

Codex Alimentarius website: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/mrls/pestdes/jsp/pest_q-e.jsp

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service website: <http://www.mrlatabase.com>

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/Standards>

USDA Plant Inspectorate Service website: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants

European Union: http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_pesticides/public

Assistance derived from these sources is hereby acknowledged.

**Fishing nets — Method of test for the
determination of mesh size —**

**Part 1:
Opening of mesh**

*Filets de pêche — Méthode d'essai pour la détermination des
dimensions de la maille —*

Partie 1: Ouverture de maille



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Published in Switzerland

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Draft for comments only - Not to be cited as East African Standard

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 16663-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 16663-1:2003), which has been technically revised.

ISO 16663 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Fishing nets — Method of test for the determination of mesh size*:

- *Part 1: Opening of mesh*
- *Part 2: Length of mesh*

Fishing nets — Method of test for the determination of mesh size —

Part 1: Opening of mesh

1 Scope

This part of ISO 16663 specifies a method for the determination of the size of the mesh opening of fishing nets, using an objective mesh gauge. It is applicable to active and passive fishing gear.

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 139, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 1107, *Fishing nets — Netting — Basic terms and definitions*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

active fishing gear

fishing gear requiring movement to catch the fish

NOTE In general, mobile fishing equipment (i.e. equipment which is mobile relative to the sea bed or to the water) is led into the path of the fish to pursue and catch them. All trawls, dredges, seine nets, purse seines and other surrounding nets are examples of active gear.

3.2

trawl

towed net consisting of a cone-shaped body closed at the rear by a bag or cod end and widened at the opening by wings

NOTE A trawl may be towed by one or two boats and, depending on the type, is used on the bottom or as a midwater (pelagic) trawl.

3.3

Danish seine

funnel-shaped net (with wings and cod end) with very long ropes laid out on the sea bed and hauled in to a vessel in the open sea

3.4
purse seine
large single-panel multisection net used to encircle pelagic fish, the bottom of the net being drawn together to enclose the encircled fish

3.5
passive fishing gear
fishing gear requiring movement of the fish in order for the fish to be caught

NOTE This gear is usually stationary equipment, often, but not always, anchored on the sea bed. Gill nets and entangling nets are examples of passive gear.

3.6
gill net
panel of netting, usually of rectangular shape, made of thin twine or monofilament yarn, in the meshes of which the fish are caught

NOTE The net is suspended vertically in the water by floats and sinkers.

3.7
entangling net
loosely hung vertical net that catches fish by entangling rather than enmeshing them

3.8
trammel net
bottom-set net which is made up of of three walls of netting, the two tightly hung outer walls having a larger mesh size than the inner wall which is loosely hung between them

NOTE The fish pass through one of the outer walls and become entangled in the small meshes of the inner wall, after which they push themselves into the second outer wall, thus forming a bag.

4 Principle

An objective mesh gauge is inserted into the mesh opening. The mesh is stretched by a movable jaw until a pre-set measurement force is reached. The size of the mesh opening is then measured automatically.

5 Apparatus

5.1 Objective mesh gauge, complying with the requirements of 5.1.1 to 5.1.6.

5.1.1 The objective mesh gauge used for determining mesh openings shall be automatic and electrically driven (see Figure 1). The gauge shall be able to apply selected longitudinal measuring forces, in the range 5 N to 180 N, to the meshes with a precision of 1 N. Fixed measuring forces of 10 N, 20 N, 50 N and 125 N shall be provided. A built-in system for measuring the applied force is needed. The gauge shall have two jaws, one fixed and one movable, each 2 mm thick with rounded edges with a radius of 1 mm, to ensure that the jaws slip easily over the twine or yarn. A mesh shall be stretched at a constant speed of (300 ± 30) mm/min by the movable jaw. The gauge shall be able to measure meshes from 10 mm to 300 mm and may have different, detachable, jaws for use on small and large meshes. The measurement precision shall be 1 mm.

5.1.2 The structure of the gauge shall be rigid and shall not distort under load. The body shall be light yet robust and shall weigh no more than 2,5 kg. The gauge shall be made of materials resistant to corrosion under marine conditions. It shall be water-resistant, be unaffected by dust to rating IP 56 as specified in IEC 60529, and be stable in operation over the temperature range -10 °C to $+40$ °C. The gauge shall be able to withstand temperatures between -25 °C and $+65$ °C during storage and transportation.

5.1.3 Gauge operation shall be controlled by software that provides a menu of functions. It shall be possible to operate the gauge with one hand and the functions shall be accessible via external buttons. Data shall be shown on an integral display able to present each measurement, the number of measurements made in a series and the mean value. A store shall be provided capable of holding at least 1 000 measurements and it shall be possible to transmit data to a computer.

5.1.4 The software menu shall contain a suitable function to calculate the mean mesh opening, rounded to the nearest 0,1 mm. For so-called “square” meshes, the software shall contain a suitable function to select automatically the longer diagonal of each mesh to calculate the mean mesh opening of the square mesh netting. To allow verification of the selection procedure, the data saved shall include all the measurements made.

5.1.5 The software shall permit automatic self-testing of the electronic and mechanical parts when the gauge is started. If the gauge is ready for use, this shall be shown on the display. If this is not the case, the display shall show an error message and the gauge shall close down and not be usable.

5.1.6 Some netting will creep under load. The gauge shall respond to this condition by re-applying the pre-set measurement force in accordance with an algorithm in the controlling software which causes the gauge to

- a) extend the movable jaw into the mesh at a constant speed of (300 ± 30) mm/min until the pre-set measurement force is reached;
- b) stop the motor and wait 1 s;
- c) if the force drops below 80 % of the measurement force, extend the jaw into the mesh until the measurement force is reached once more.

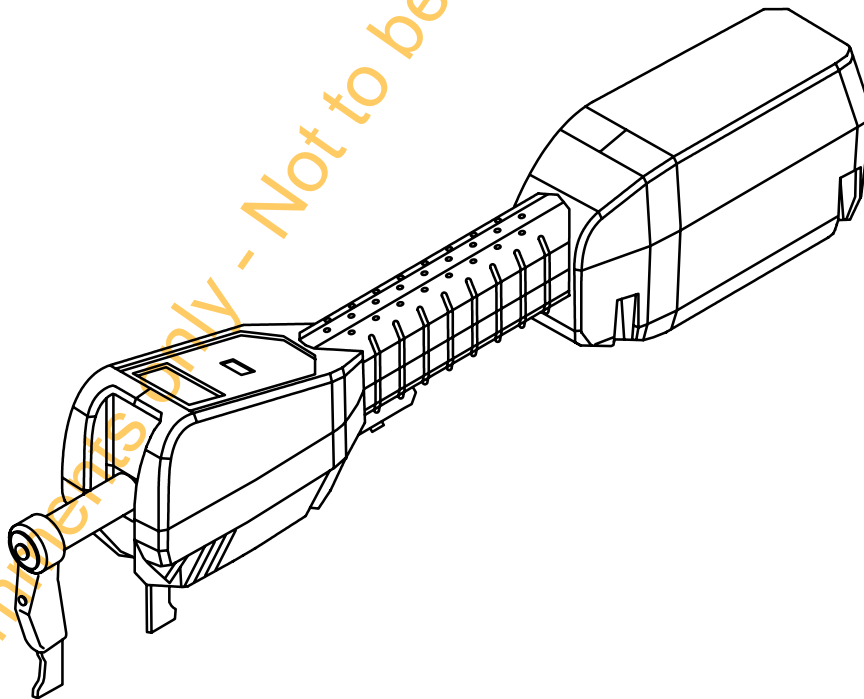


Figure 1 — Example of an objective mesh gauge

5.2 Equipment for producing and maintaining the standard atmosphere for testing.

5.3 Equipment in which samples can be immersed in water preparatory to wet testing.

6 Measurement force

For the netting of active fishing gear, use:

- 20 N for meshes < 35 mm;
- 50 N for meshes ≥ 35 mm but < 55 mm;
- 125 N for meshes ≥ 55 mm.

For the netting of passive fishing gear, use 10 N for all mesh sizes.

7 Calibration

The objective mesh gauge shall be calibrated once a year by an authorized calibration institute.

8 Verification of length and force measurement

8.1 Verification of length measurement

Verification of the length measurement shall be performed at intervals by inserting the jaws of the gauge into slots of different lengths in a calibrated rigid test plate. An example of such a test plate is shown in Figure 2.

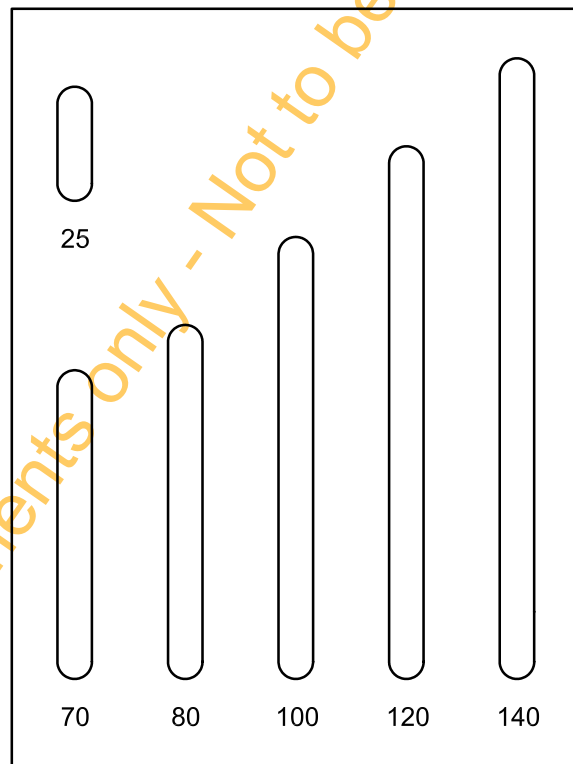
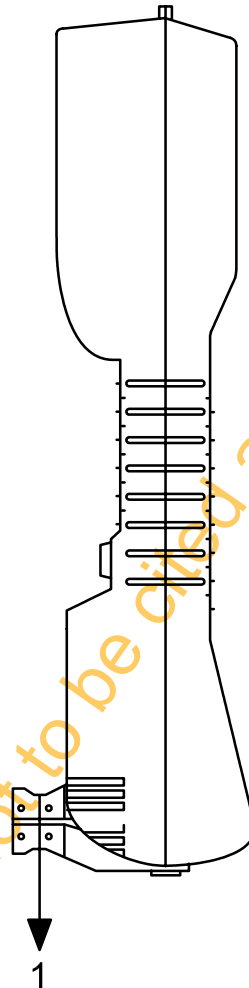


Figure 2 — Test plate

8.2 Verification of force measurement

Verification of the force measurement shall be performed at intervals by hanging calibrated weights on the fixed jaw, with the gauge securely held vertically, as shown in Figure 3. The weights shall have the following values: 10 N, 20 N, 50 N and 125 N. Calibration shall only be carried out under stable conditions.



Key

1 test weight

Figure 3 — Force measurement verification

9 Requirements for testing

9.1 General

Tests may be carried out in both the dry and wet states, but tests in the wet state are considered to be particularly appropriate in indicating the behaviour of the netting in use.

9.2 Atmosphere for testing

All specimens to be tested in the dry state shall be conditioned in the standard atmosphere specified in ISO 139 until they have reached equilibrium. Where it is not possible to carry out the test in the standard atmosphere, the test shall be carried out immediately after removal of the specimen from the standard atmosphere.

9.3 Testing in the wet state

Specimens to be tested in the wet state shall be

- a) either immersed in tap water at (20 ± 2) °C for not less than 12 h;
- b) or immersed in a solution of wetting agent at (20 ± 2) °C for not less than 1 h.

10 Procedure

10.1 Mesh type

The mesh dimension to be measured depends on the mesh type:

- a) *Diamond mesh*: The netting shall be stretched in the direction of the long axis of the mesh, i.e. the N-direction (see Figure 4). If, in knotless netting, the N-direction cannot be determined, then the mesh shall be measured in the direction of the longer axis of the mesh.
- b) *Square mesh*: The netting shall be stretched first in the direction of one diagonal of the mesh, then in the direction of the other diagonal. The larger measurement shall be taken as the mesh opening.

10.2 Preparation of the gauge

10.2.1 Select, and fit to the gauge, the appropriate size of jaw for the meshes to be measured.

10.2.2 Ensure that the jaws are clean.

10.2.3 Start the gauge and allow it to perform the self-check. Select the force to be applied.

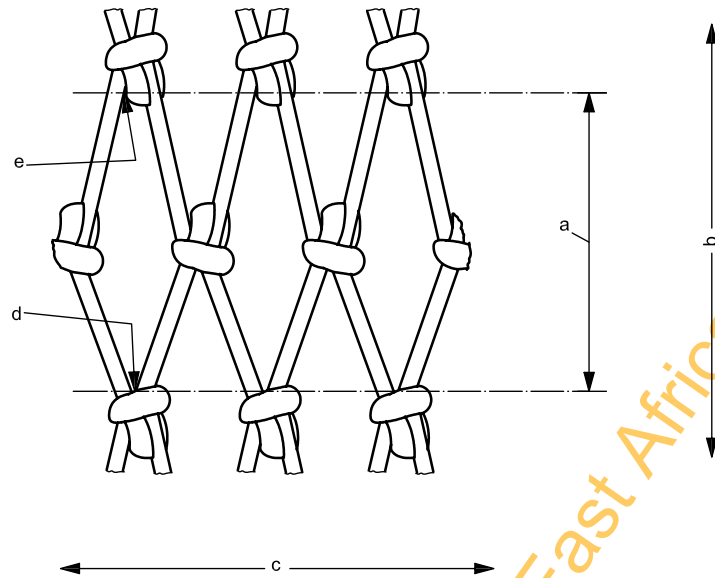
10.2.4 Verify the jaw size setting. The default setting is "normal". If small or large jaws are being used, enter the menu and change the jaw size setting accordingly.

10.3 Insertion and operation of the gauge

Hold the gauge in one hand and insert the jaws into the mesh opening with the fixed jaw located at the knot nearest to the operator, as shown in Figure 4.

Activate the gauge and allow the jaws to open until the movable jaw reaches the opposite knot and stops when the pre-set force is reached. Care shall be taken to ensure that the widest opening is measured, i.e. with the jaws at positions located as far into the respective knot as possible, as shown in Figure 4. Use the gauge without any further physical intervention until it has performed the measurement and obtained a final value of the mesh size. Instruct the gauge to accept or reject the measurement (see 10.4). The movable jaw will then be retracted, ready to make the next measurement.

On set nets, it may be more convenient to locate the movable jaw first in the knot furthest from the operator whilst stretching the twine or yarn gently by hand. This alternative procedure shall, however, be carried out with caution as it may result in excess force being applied to the mesh, and the twine or yarn shall be released before the gauge applies the pre-set force to the mesh.



- a Mesh opening.
- b N-direction.
- c T-direction.
- d Fixed jaw inserted at this position.
- e Movable jaw guided to this position.

Figure 4 — Insertion of the gauge

10.4 Acceptance of measurement

After making each mesh measurement, it is necessary to decide whether to accept or reject the measurement before saving it in the data store. Possible reasons for rejection are:

- a) the jaws did not locate in the widest opening positions;
- b) the operator lost a firm grip on the gauge or physically interfered with the measurement;
- c) the value indicated is unrealistic.

If the measurement is deemed acceptable, save the reading. If a measurement is deemed unacceptable, but is accepted in error, then cancel the whole series of measurements and start again.

10.5 Number of measurements

Measure a minimum of 20 consecutive meshes.

11 Calculation and expression of results

11.1 After measuring a series of meshes, instruct the gauge to calculate the mean mesh opening. This will be rounded to the nearest 0,1 mm and displayed. Then instruct the gauge to end the sequence of measurements. The data saved will include all accepted measurements, each with the date and time of measurement and a unique identifier.

11.2 For square meshes, the software automatically selects the longer diagonal of each mesh to calculate the mean mesh size.

12 Test report

The test report shall include the following:

- a) a statement that the test was performed in accordance with this part of ISO 16663;
- b) the date of the test;
- c) a description of the netting, including the material and the type of yarn (twisted or braided), the type of netting (knotted or knotless), the mesh size and the nominal linear density of the twine or yarn expressed in accordance with ISO 1107;
- d) the average size of the mesh opening, in millimetres;
- e) the measurement force used;
- f) the number of measurements made;
- g) the state of the netting (dry or wet);
- h) the coefficient of variation of the results and the confidence interval;
- i) details of any deviations from the specified test procedure.

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