

BS ISO 9869-1:2014



BSI Standards Publication

**Thermal insulation —
Building elements — *In-*
situ measurement of
thermal resistance and
thermal transmittance**
Part 1: Heat flow meter method

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National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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**Thermal insulation — Building
elements — *In-situ* measurement
of thermal resistance and thermal
transmittance —**

**Part 1:
Heat flow meter method**

*Isolation thermique — Éléments de construction — Mesurage in
situ de la résistance thermique et du coefficient de transmission
thermique —*

Partie 1: Méthode du fluxmètre



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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 163, *Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Test and measurement methods*.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO 9869:1994, which has been technically revised.

[Annexes A, B](#) and [C](#) form an integral part of this part of ISO 9869. [Annexes D, E](#) and [F](#) are for information only.

Introduction

The thermal transmittance of a building element (U -value) is defined in ISO 7345 as the “Heat flow rate in the steady state divided by area and by the temperature difference between the surroundings on each side of a system”.

In principle, the U -value can be obtained by measuring the heat flow rate through an element with a heat flow meter or a calorimeter, together with the temperatures on both sides of the element under steady-state conditions.

However, since steady-state conditions are never encountered on a site in practice, such a simple measurement is not possible. But there are several ways of overcoming this difficulty:

- a) Imposing steady-state conditions by the use of a hot and a cold box. This method is commonly used in the laboratory (ISO 8990) but is cumbersome in the field;
- b) Assuming that the mean values of the heat flow rate and temperatures over a sufficiently long period of time give a good estimate of the steady-state. This method is valid if:
 - 1) the thermal properties of the materials and the heat transfer coefficients are constant over the range of temperature fluctuations occurring during the test;
 - 2) the change of amount of heat stored in the element is negligible when compared to the amount of heat going through the element. This method is widely used but may lead to long periods of measurement and may give erroneous results in certain cases.
- c) Using a dynamic theory to take into account the fluctuations of the heat flow rate and temperatures in the analysis of the recorded data.

NOTE The temperatures of the surroundings, used in the definition of the U -value, are not precisely defined in ISO 7345. Their exact definition depends on the subsequent use of the U -value and may be different in different countries (see [Annex A](#)).

Thermal insulation — Building elements — *In-situ* measurement of thermal resistance and thermal transmittance —

Part 1: Heat flow meter method

1 Scope

This part of ISO 9869 describes the heat flow meter method for the measurement of the thermal transmission properties of plane building components, primarily consisting of opaque layers perpendicular to the heat flow and having no significant lateral heat flow.

The properties which can be measured are:

- a) the thermal resistance, R , and thermal conductance, Λ , from surface to surface;
- b) the total thermal resistance, R_T , and transmittance from environment to environment, U , if the environmental temperatures of both environments are well defined.

The heat flow meter measurement method is also suitable for components consisting of quasi homogeneous layers perpendicular to the heat flow, provided that the dimensions of any inhomogeneity in close proximity to the heat flow meter (HFM) is much smaller than its lateral dimensions and are not thermal bridges which can be detected by infrared thermography (see [6.1.1](#)).

This part of ISO 9869 describes the apparatus to be used, the calibration procedure for the apparatus, the installation and the measurement procedures, the analysis of the data, including the correction of systematic errors and the reporting format.

NOTE 1 It is not intended as a high precision method replacing the laboratory instruments such as hot boxes that are specified in ISO 8990:1994.

NOTE 2 For other components, an average thermal transmittance may be obtained using a calorimeter or by averaging the results of several heat flow meter measurements.

NOTE 3 In building with large heat capacities, the average thermal transmittance of a component can be obtained by measurement over an extended period, or the apparent transmittance of the part can be estimated by a dynamic analysis of its thermal absorption response (see [Annex B](#)).

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 6781:1983, *Thermal insulation — Qualitative detection of thermal irregularities in building envelopes — Infrared method*

ISO 6946:2007, *Building components and building elements — Thermal resistance and thermal transmittance — Calculation method*

ISO 7345:1987, *Thermal insulation — Physical quantities and definitions*

ISO 8301:1991, *Thermal insulation — Determination of steady-state thermal resistance and related properties — Heat flow meter apparatus*

ISO 8302:1991, *Thermal insulation — Determination of steady-state thermal resistance and related properties — Guarded hot plate apparatus*

ISO 8990:1994, *Thermal insulation — Determination of steady-state thermal transmission properties — Calibrated and guarded hot box*

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and units

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 7345:1987 apply.

3.2 Symbols and units

Symbol	Quantity	Unit
R	thermal resistance	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$
R_T	total thermal resistance	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$
R_{si}	internal surface thermal resistance	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$
R_{se}	external surface thermal resistance	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$
Λ	thermal conductance	$\text{W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$
U	thermal transmittance	$\text{W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$
Φ	heat flow rate	W
A	area	m^2
q	density of heat flow rate = Φ/A	W/m^2
T_i	interior environmental (ambient) temperature	$^{\circ}\text{C}$ or K

Symbol	Quantity	Unit
T_e	exterior environmental (ambient) temperature	°C or K
T_{si}	interior surface temperature of the building element	°C or K
T_{se}	exterior surface temperature	°C or K
ρ	density of a material	kg/m ³
d	thickness of a layer	m
c	specific heat capacity	J/(kg·K)
C	thermal capacity of a layer: $C=\rho cd$	J/(m ² ·K)
F_i, F_e	correction factors calculated with Formula (8) to take into account the storage effects	[J/(m ² ·K)]
E	operational error (of an installed HFM) which is the relative error between the measured and the actual heat flow	-

NOTE The environmental (ambient) temperatures shall correspond with those used in the definition adopted for the U-value (see [Annex A](#)).

In the steady-state, the thermal properties of the elements have the following definitions:

R is the thermal resistance of an element, surface to surface and is given by

$$R = \frac{T_{si} - T_{se}}{q} = \frac{1}{\Lambda} \quad (1)$$

where Λ is the thermal conductance of the building element, surface to surface.

U is the thermal transmittance of the element, environment to environment and is given by

$$U = \frac{q}{(T_i - T_e)} = \frac{1}{R_T} \quad (2)$$

where R_T is the total thermal resistance which is given by

$$R_T = R_{si} + R + R_{se} \quad (3)$$

where R_{si} and R_{se} are the internal and external surface thermal resistances, respectively.

R and R_T have units of square metres kelvin per watt (m²·K/W); U and Λ have units of watts per square metre kelvin [W/(m²·K)].

4 Apparatus

4.1 Heat flow meter (HFM)

The HFM is a transducer giving an electrical signal which is a direct function of the heat flow transmitted through it.

Most HFMs are thin, thermally resistive plates with temperature sensors arranged in such a way that the electrical signal given by the sensors is directly related to the heat flow through the plate (see [Figure 1](#)). The essential properties of an HFM are that it should have a low thermal resistance in order to minimize the perturbation caused by the HFM, and a high enough sensitivity to give a sufficiently large signal for the lowest heat flow rates measured. Recent HFMs are very thin, with low thermal resistance, and highly sensitive. If the thermal resistance of the HFM is low enough, the effects of perturbation of the surface heat flow by positioning the HFM is negligible. The heat flow rate is influenced by building elements and the difference between indoor and outdoor temperature. Therefore, HFM with an appropriate sensitivity shall be selected in consideration of these influences (see [Annex E](#)).

NOTE More detailed information on the structure and calibration of HFMs can be found in ISO 8301:1991.

4.2 Temperature sensors

Temperature sensors are transducers giving an electrical signal which is a monotonic function of its temperature.

The effects of the heat flow going through the sensor and on other physical quantities, such as stresses, electromagnetic radiation on the signal have to be taken into account (see [Clause 5](#)).

Suitable surface temperature sensors (for R - or Λ -value measurements) are thin thermocouples and flat resistance thermometers. It is possible, for the conductance measurements, for one or several sensors to be incorporated within one side of the HFM, the side which will be in contact with the surface of the element being measured.

Environmental (ambient) temperature sensors (for U -value measurements) shall be chosen according to the temperature to be measured. For example, if the U -value is defined by the ratio of density of heat flow rate to the air temperature difference, air temperature sensors are to be used. These sensors are shielded against solar and thermal radiation and are ventilated. Other sensors may measure the so-called sol-air temperature, the comfort temperature etc. (see [Annex A](#)).

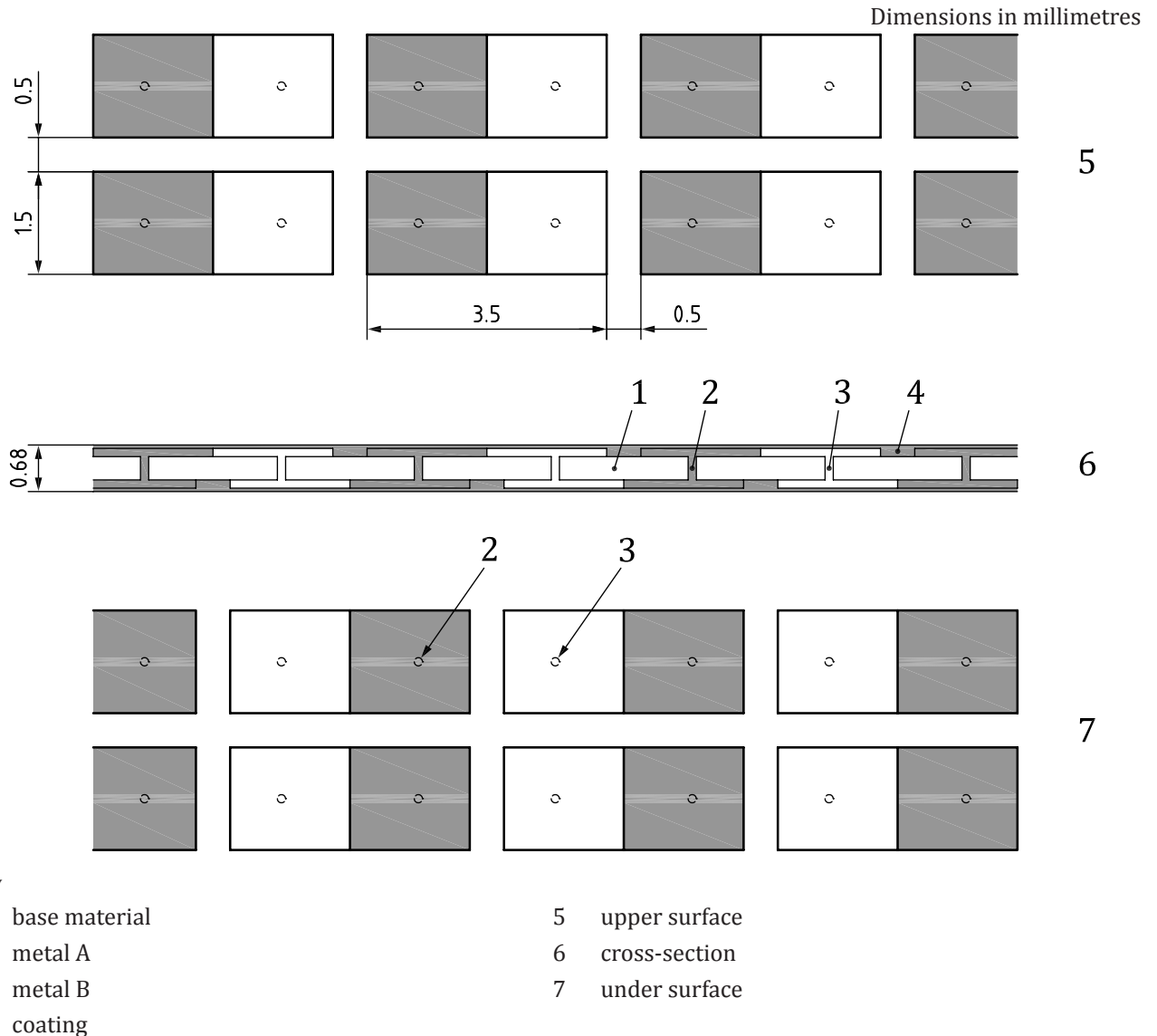


Figure 1 — A typical heat flow meter showing the various parts (the vertical scale is enlarged)

5 Calibration procedure

5.1 Calibration of the HFM

The HFM calibration factors (e.g. the density of heat flow rate for a signal equal to one unit) may change with the temperature, the thermal conductivity of the material on which the HFM is installed, and the heat flow itself. Therefore, the calibration factor of a new type of heat flow meter shall be evaluated on various materials through an absolute test method such as the guarded hot plate apparatus (ISO 8302:1991) or a heat flow meter apparatus (ISO 8301) on various materials, at various temperatures, and heat flow rates. The HFM is placed, with its facings and a guard ring of similar average resistance and same thickness, in the guarded hot plate apparatus, the side adjacent to the element being measured on a material of known thermal conductivity and the other side, which will be in the air, against an insulating layer [thermal conductivity less than 0,04 W/(m·K)]. The HFM calibration with the hot box method (ISO 8990:1994) shall be suited since the calibration condition of the method is closer to the condition of the practical measurement.

The calibration procedure shall be such that the calibration factor is known with an accuracy of $\pm 2\%$ in the conditions of use. The heat flow rates as well as the temperatures and the thermal conductivities of the materials shall cover the range of values usually encountered in practice.

5.1.1 Calibration of a new type of HFM

A set of calibration curves or an equation shall be prepared (calibration factor versus mean temperature, thermal conductivity of the underlying material, and eventually the density of heat flow rate) for any new type of heat flow meter or any modified HFM (e.g. new facing or new incorporated guard ring).

The calibration shall be done at three different densities of heat flow rate (e.g. 3 W/m^2 , 10 W/m^2 and 20 W/m^2) in order to check the linearity of the response of the HFM versus q . If the relationship is not linear, more densities of heat flow rate shall be tested and the precise function shall be taken into account during the measurements.

The calibration shall be done at a minimum of two temperatures (minimum and maximum limits). If there is a significant difference between the two results, a third point shall be measured at the average of the two temperatures to test the linearity of the relationship of the calibration factor to the temperature. If the relationship is not linear, more temperatures shall be used in order to obtain the dependence of the calibration factor on the temperature.

The complete calibration shall be done with the HFM placed on at least two materials (low and high thermal conductivity). If any dependence of the calibration factor to this parameter is found, more materials shall be used in order to get the complete relationship between the thermal conductivity of the material and the calibration factor.

A partial calibration may be done if the HFM is used only for a specific application. In this case, it may be calibrated only on the material on which the HFM will be installed and/or for the temperatures used.

The HFM shall be tested for the following characteristics:

- a) zero offset: if there is a nonzero output for zero heat flow (HFM placed in a thermally homogeneous medium), this can be due to a bad electrical connection, which shall be checked;
- b) effect of stresses on the calibration factor. This effect shall be negligible in the range of perpendicular and parallel stresses involved in the measurements;
- c) effect of electromagnetic radiation (50 Hz to 60 Hz, radio waves). This effect shall be negligible in the range of electromagnetic fields encountered in practice.

5.1.2 Calibration of a known type of HFM

For an HFM whose effects mentioned above are well known, the calibration factor shall be measured for one heat flow, at a temperature close to its temperature in use and on a typical building material.

Every two years, or more frequently if required, the calibration factor shall be verified by a measurement at one temperature on one material. A drift of the calibration factor can be caused by material ageing or delamination. If the variation of the calibration factor is more than 2% , a complete calibration procedure shall be followed.

In all cases, a correction shall be applied to the measurements where a change in the calibration factor of greater than $\pm 2\%$ occurs over the range of operation.

5.2 Temperature sensors

The calibration procedure shall be such that the temperature difference between a pair of sensors is determined with an accuracy better than $\pm 2\%$ and that the temperature can be measured with an accuracy better than $0,5 \text{ K}$. If the temperature difference is obtained by subtracting two temperatures, the sensors shall be calibrated to an accuracy of $\pm 0,1 \text{ K}$.

The surface and air temperature sensors are calibrated for several temperatures in the relevant range (generally $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) in a well-stirred medium (e.g. water or air), in a well-insulated container, in comparison with a reference thermometer having an accuracy better than $0,1\text{ K}$. Sensors manufactured to this accuracy may be used without calibration.

Special procedures shall be used for the sensors measuring the environment (ambient) temperatures, according to the temperature to be measured.

The effects of stresses and of electromagnetic radiation (solar and thermal radiation, 50 Hz to 60 Hz, radio waves) at reasonable levels have to be examined and eliminated if the changes are greater than the accuracy mentioned above.

5.3 Measuring equipment

Where direct readout equipment is provided, adequate provision shall be made for calibration of this equipment. Calibrated voltage sources and resistances can be used in place of the HFM and temperature sensors.

6 Measurements

6.1 Installation of the apparatus

6.1.1 Location of the measured area

The sensors (HFMs and thermometers) shall be mounted according to the purpose of the test. The appropriate location(s) may be investigated by thermography (in accordance with ISO 6781:1983). Sensors shall be mounted in such a way so as to ensure a result which is representative of the whole element.

NOTE It can be appropriate to install several HFMs so as to obtain a representative average.

HFMs shall not be installed in the vicinity of thermal bridges, cracks or similar sources of error. Sensors shall not be under the direct influence of either a heating or a cooling device or under the draught of a fan.

The outer surface of the element should be protected from rain, snow and direct solar radiation. Artificial screening may be used for that purpose.

6.1.2 Installation of the HFM

The dimensions of the HFM are chosen according to the structure of the element under test. For homogeneous elements, any reasonable dimensions can be used, but some corrections may be necessary (see [Clause 8](#)).

The HFM (with its surface temperature sensor if any) shall be mounted directly on the face of the element adjacent to the more stable temperature. The HFM shall be in direct thermal contact with the surface of the element over the whole area of the sensor. A thin layer of thermal contact paste can be used for this purpose.

A guard ring, made of a material which has similar thermal properties as the HFM and of the same thickness, may be mounted around the HFM.

6.1.3 Temperature sensors

If the thermal resistance (or the conductance) is to be measured, surface temperature sensors shall be used. If not incorporated in the HFM, the internal surface temperature sensor shall be mounted on the internal surface either under or in the vicinity of the HFM. The external surface temperature sensor shall be mounted on the external surface opposite the HFM.

Both surface temperature sensors shall be mounted so as to achieve good thermal contact between the surface and both the sensor and 0,1 m of lead wires.

NOTE For accurate results, it is recommended that the HFM and surface temperature sensors have the same colour and emissivity as their respective substrates. This is particularly important for sensors exposed to sunlight.

To measure the U -value or the total resistance, environmental (ambient) temperature sensors shall be used. These sensors shall measure the temperature used in the definition of the U -value. They are chosen and installed accordingly at both sides of the element being measured (see [Annex A](#)).

The duration of the test can be greatly reduced if the temperatures on both sides of the element, but particularly on the side where the HFM is installed are stable before and during the test.

6.2 Data acquisition

The electrical data from the HFM and the temperature sensors shall be recorded continuously or at fixed intervals over a period of complete days. The maximum time period between two records and the minimum test duration depends on

- the nature of the element (heavy, light, inside or outside insulation);
- indoor and outdoor temperatures (average and fluctuations, before and during measurement);
- the method used for analysis.

The minimum test duration is 72 h (3 d) if the temperature is stable around the HFM. Otherwise, this duration may be more than 7 d. However, the actual duration of test shall be determined by applying criteria to values obtained during the course of the test. These values shall be obtained without interrupting the data acquisition process.

It is useful to record the data so that it can be used for computer analysis. It is recommended that recordings are made at fixed time intervals which are the average values of several measurements sampled at shorter intervals.

The recording interval depends on the method used for analysis (see [Clause 7](#)). It is typically 0,5 h to 1 h for the average method and may be less for the dynamic method.

The sampling interval shall be shorter than half the smallest time constant of the sensors.

7 Analysis of the data

Two methods may be used for analysis of the data in accordance with this part of ISO 9869: the so-called average method, which is simple, or the dynamic method, which is more sophisticated but which gives a quality criteria of the measurement and may shorten the test duration for medium to heavy elements submitted to variable indoor and outdoor temperatures.

The average method is described below and the dynamic method is described in [Annex B](#).

7.1 Average method

This method assumes that the conductance or transmittance can be obtained by dividing the mean density of heat flow rate by the mean temperature difference, the average being taken over a long

enough period of time. If the index j enumerates the individual measurements, then an estimate of the resistance is obtained by

$$R = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n (T_{sij} - T_{sej})}{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j} \quad (4)$$

an estimate of the conductance, Λ , is obtained by

$$\Lambda = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j}{\sum_{j=1}^n (T_{sij} - T_{sej})} \quad (5)$$

and an estimate of the transmittance, U , is obtained by

$$U = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j}{\sum_{j=1}^n (T_{ij} - T_{ej})} \quad (6)$$

When the estimate is computed after each measurement, a convergence to an asymptotical value is observed. This asymptotical value is close to the real value if the following conditions are met:

- a) the heat content of the element is the same at the end and the beginning of the measurement (same temperatures and same moisture distribution);
- b) the HFM is not exposed to direct solar radiation. It should be noted that a false result can be obtained when there is solar radiation on the exterior surface. For R - or Λ -value measurements, the emissivity of the surface temperature sensor will generally be different to that of the undisturbed surface, giving a false reading. The external environmental (ambient) temperature in the U -value measurement generally takes no account of the solar flux to the exterior surface of the element;
- c) the thermal conductance of the element is constant during the test.

If these conditions are not fulfilled, misleading results can be obtained.

For light elements, which have a specific heat capacity per unit area of less than 20 kJ/(m² K), it is recommended that the analysis is carried out only on data acquired at night (from 1 h after sunset until sunrise), to avoid the effects of solar radiation. The test may be stopped when the results after three subsequent nights do not differ by more than $\pm 5\%$. Otherwise, it shall be continued.

For heavier elements, which have a specific heat per unit area of more than 20 kJ/(m² K), the analysis shall be carried out over a period which is an integer multiple of 24 h. The test shall be ended only when the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the duration of the test exceeds 72 h;
- the R -value obtained at the end of the test does not deviate by more than $\pm 5\%$ from the value obtained 24 h before;
- the R -value obtained by analysing the data from the first time period during $\text{INT}(2 \times D_T/3)$ d does not deviate by more than $\pm 5\%$ from the values obtained from the data of the last time period of the same duration. D_T is the duration of the test in days; INT is the integer part;
- if the change in heat stored in the wall is more than 5 % of the heat passing through the wall over the test period, one of the methods described in [7.2](#) or in [Annex B](#) shall be used.

7.2 Storage effects

The following procedure, relevant for structures of high R -value and high thermal mass, shall be applied in cases where the criteria of 7.1 (i.e. the criteria which determines when sufficient data have been recorded) are not fulfilled. The use of this correction procedure often permits a shorter measurement time than would otherwise be required to meet these criteria. The basis of the procedure is discussed further in Annex F.

The procedure involves

- the calculation of internal and external thermal mass factors (F_i and F_e , respectively) for the structure concerned;
- an adjustment, involving these factors, to the measured flux at each data point.

7.2.1 Calculation of the thermal mass factors

The factors shall be obtained for a structure consisting of N plane parallel layers, numbered from 1 to N with layer 1 at the interior surface, for heat flux measured at the interior surface, as follows.

For each layer k , estimate its thermal resistance R_k in square metres kelvin per watt ($\text{m}^2\cdot\text{K}/\text{W}$) (thickness divided by thermal conductivity or thermal resistance of airspace) and its thermal capacity C_k in joules per square metre kelvin [$\text{J}/(\text{m}^2\cdot\text{K})$] [product of specific heat capacity in joules per kilogram density in kilograms per cubic metre (kg/m^3) and thickness of component (m)]. Let R be the estimated total thermal resistance of the wall, i.e. the sum of all R_k s.

Then for each layer k calculate the inner (R_{ik}) and outer (R_{ek}):

$$R_{ik} = \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} R_j \quad R_{ek} = \sum_{j=k+1}^N R_j \quad (7)$$

and the factors:

$$F_{ek} = C_k \left[\frac{R_k}{R} \left\{ \frac{1}{6} + \frac{R_{ik} + R_{ek}}{3R} \right\} + \frac{R_{ik}R_{ek}}{R^2} \right]$$

$$F_{ik} = C_k \left[\frac{R_{ek}}{R} + \frac{R_k^2}{3R^2} - \frac{R_{ik}R_{ek}}{R^2} \right] \quad (8)$$

NOTE 1 For the interior layer ($j = k = 1$), $R_{ik} = 0$; for the exterior layer ($j = k = N$), $R_{ek} = 0$.

NOTE 2 When thermal transmittance is being measured, surface resistance should be included so that the measured temperatures are environmental (ambient) temperatures rather than surface temperatures.

- add R_{si} to each value of R_{ik}
- add R_{se} to each value of R_{ek}
- add $R_{si} + R_{se}$ to R

The thermal mass factors for the structure are then given by

$$F_i = \sum_{k=1}^N F_{ik} \quad \text{and} \quad F_e = \sum_{k=1}^N F_{ek} \quad (9)$$

7.2.2 Correction to measured heat flux

No correction is applied to the data during the first 24 h. Thereafter, Σq_j in Formulae (4), (5) or (6) is replaced by

$$\Sigma q_j - \frac{(F_i \delta T_i + F_e \delta T_e)}{\Delta t} \quad (10)$$

where

Δt is the interval between readings, in seconds;

δT_i is the difference between internal averaged temperature over the 24 h prior to the reading j and internal averaged temperature averaged over the first 24 h of the analysis period;

δT_e is the difference between external averaged temperature averaged over the 24 h prior to the reading j and external averaged temperature averaged over the first 24 h of the analysis period.

The corrected R -, Λ - or U -value shall be plotted against time.

NOTE It is desirable to plot this on the same graph as the uncorrected value.

7.2.3 Interpretation of the results

The R -, Λ - or U -value of the structure shall be taken as the value of the corrected curve at the end of the measurement, with an uncertainty band equal to the range of the corrected curve over the final 24 h, provided that each of the following conditions hold:

- a) the analysis period is not less than 96 h;
- b) the analysis period is an integer multiple of 24 h;
- c) the R -value so obtained is equal to the value of R used to derive the correction factors, to within 5 %;
- d) the values of the corrected curve are all the same within 5 %
 - 1) at the end of the test;
 - 2) 24 h before the end of the test;
 - 3) 48 h before the end of the test;
- e) the same results to within 5 % are obtained if the first 12 h of data are discarded.

If condition c) above is not met, the thermal resistance chosen for each layer of the structure shall be reviewed and if alternative values can be justified (so as to make R consistent with the measured value), the data shall be re-analysed and new correction factors calculated using the revised thermal resistances. Any such revision shall be reported.

If conditions d) or e) above are not met, the first few hours of data should be discarded and the remaining data examined and judged against all five of the above conditions. This will be possible only if more than 4 d of data are available.

If the above conditions are not met, the result of the test is subject to a greater uncertainty band (see [Clause 9](#)).

NOTE When the composition of the structure is unknown but an estimate of its thermal mass can still be made, it can be of assistance in interpreting results to use the correction factors for a single layer structure. These are

$$F_i = \frac{C}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad F_e = \frac{C}{6}$$

where C is the product of specific heat capacity [approximately 1 000 J/(kg·K) for most materials], density and thickness of the element. The use of these factors will not give a valid result if the element contains an insulation layer.

7.3 Comparison of calculated and measured values

The calculated value, based on the structure of the element and obtained using ISO 6946, may be compared with the measurements. For that purpose, the structure of the element may be examined using the method described in [Annex C](#).

Significant differences (>20 %) between the calculated value and the R - or U -value measurement may be caused by a combination of any of the following factors:

- the values assumed for the thermal conductivities are not the true values. This may arise from incorrect identification of the materials, particularly the insulating ones, from differences between the actual properties of the material and the assumed values, or from moisture effects;
- the values assumed for the surface resistances are not the true values. This source of error is usually important only for poorly insulated elements;
- the exact thicknesses of the layers, especially those made of insulating materials, were not properly measured;
- the R - or U -value measurements were not properly carried out or were done under poor thermal conditions;
- the examination of the element and the R - or U -value measurements were not applied to the same location in a nonhomogeneous element;
- the heat flow lines during the measurement were not straight and perpendicular to the element;
- there were convective air flows in the element, which influenced the R - or U -value measurements but were not taken into account in the computation of the theoretical value;
- there are phase changes such as freezing, thawing, condensing or evaporating of water or moisture;
- the environmental (ambient) temperatures used for the calculation of the U -value are not those measured (see [Annex A](#)).

All these sources of error shall be taken into account when interpreting the comparison of the results given by calculation and measurement.

8 Corrections for the thermal resistance and the finite dimension of the HFM

If the HFM is very thin and the thermal resistance of the HFM is low enough, the effects of perturbation of the surface heat flow by positioning the HFM is negligible. In this case, the corrections for the thermal resistance and the finite dimension of the HFM are not required.

If necessary, the correction for the thermal resistance and the finite dimension of the HFM can be determined by [Annex D](#).

9 Accuracy

The accuracy of the measurement depends on

- the accuracy of the calibration of the HFM and the temperature sensors. The error is about 5 % if these instruments are well calibrated;

- the accuracy of the data logging system (see [Annex E](#));
- random variations caused by slight differences in the thermal contact between the sensors and the surface. This variation is about 5 % of the mean value if the sensors are carefully installed. This contribution to the total error can be reduced by using several HFMs;
- the operational error of the HFM due to modifications of the isotherms caused by the presence of the HFM (see [Clause 8](#)). If the operational error has been estimated by a suitable method such as finite-element analysis, and a correction is applied to the data, the residual uncertainty is about 2 % to 3 %;
- errors caused by the variations over time of the temperatures and heat flow. Such errors can be very large but, if the criteria described in [7.1](#) and [7.2](#) or [Annex C](#) are fulfilled, they can be reduced to less than ± 10 % of the measured value. This contribution can be reduced by recording the data during an extended period of time, by reducing the variations of the indoor temperature to a minimum, and by using the dynamic interpretation method (see [Annex C](#));
- for *U*-value measurements, temperature variations within the space and differences between air and radiant temperatures.

If the above conditions are met, the total uncertainty can be expected to be between the quadrature sum and arithmetic sum, i.e. between

$$\left(\sqrt{5^2 + 5^2 + 3^2 + 10^2 + 5^2}\right)\% = 14\%$$

and

$$(5 + 5 + 3 + 10 + 5)\% = 28\%$$

If the above conditions are not met, the test remains valid in terms of this part of ISO 9869 provided that a greater uncertainty, calculated according to the circumstances of the test, is quoted.

The probability of obtaining a large error is increased when

- the temperatures (particularly the indoor temperature) show large fluctuations (before or during the test) compared to the temperature difference between both sides of the element;
- the element is heavy and the duration of the test is too short;
- the element is submitted to solar radiation or other strong thermal influences;
- no estimate is made of the operational error of the HFM (which can be up to 30 % in some circumstances);
- the accuracy of the measurement of the *U*-value depends on the definition of the environment temperatures adopted for the *U*-value and their measurement.

10 Test report

The report shall contain

- a) Data on the element measured:
 - location of the building where the element is measured;
 - location of the element in the building, particularly its orientation;
 - purpose of the test (suspected bad workmanship, moisture, ageing of the materials, etc.);
 - type of element (wall, ceiling, floor, etc.);

- probable structure of the element;
 - thickness of the element.
- b) Data on the measurements:
- name of the measuring institution;
 - type and characteristics (make, serial number, calibration factors, history) of the temperature sensors and HFM;
 - method used to fix the sensors;
 - precise location of the sensors (HFM and temperature sensors);
 - temperature measured (i.e. surface, air, radiant or other temperature);
 - date and time of the beginning and end of the measurement;
 - interval between records and number of measurements averaged in each record;
 - graphs of the recorded data (heat flow rate and temperatures versus time) showing also the data discarded before analysis.
- c) Data on the method of analysis:
- method used: average ([Clause 7](#)) or dynamic (see [Annex C](#));
 - graph of the integrated heat flow divided by the integrated temperature difference or the reciprocal, whichever is applicable;
 - if corrections for storage effect are carried out:
 - 1) assumed thermal capacity and thermal resistance of each layer;
 - 2) average temperatures for the first and last day of integration;
 - 3) corrected graphs (corrected R -, A - or U -value versus time);
 - if the dynamic analysis is carried out:
 - 1) number of equations;
 - 2) optimal time constants found;
 - 3) standard deviation on the flow;
 - 4) confidence interval; resistance and conductance or total resistance and transmittance.
 - if any of the criteria mentioned in [7.1](#), [7.2](#) or in [Annex C](#) (depending on the method used) are not fulfilled, this shall be reported and the uncertainty of the results increased accordingly.

Results:

- resistance and conductance or total resistance and transmittance;
- corrections used for the presence of the HFM;
- estimation of the accuracy, error analysis;
- any supplementary measurements undertaken, depending on the purpose of the test (moisture content, thermographic analysis, examination of the structure, etc.).

Annex A (normative)

Heat transfer at surfaces and *U*-value measurement

A.1 General

Heat is transferred to and from a building element both by radiation interchange between the surface of the element and other surfaces, and by convective heat transfer at the surface of the element.

The rate of radiant heat transfer depends on the temperatures and emissivities of the surface in question and on other relevant surfaces, and on the view factors between the surfaces. At the internal surface of the element the other relevant surfaces are the remaining surfaces bounding the room, and any furniture within it; at the external surface of the element they include the ground, the sky, other buildings, trees and hedges.

The rate of convective heat transfer depends on various factors such as the adjacent air temperature, surface roughness and air velocity.

The heat flow to or from the specimen is thus influenced by both the radiant and the air temperatures on either side of it.

A.2 Heat balance equation

Where the radiant temperature seen by the surface can be defined, a heat balance equation may be written

$$q = Eh_r(T'_r - T_s) + h_c(T_a - T_s) \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where

- q is the density of heat flow rate into surface [W/m²];
- T'_r is the mean radiant temperature seen by surface [°C or K];
- T_a is the air temperature adjacent to surface [°C or K];
- T_s is the surface temperature [°C or K];
- E is the space emittance [dimensionless];
- h_r is the radiation transfer coefficient [W/(m²·K)];
- h_c is the convection transfer coefficient [W/(m²·K)].

This equation is valid for heat flow into or out of a surface provided that the sign of q is taken as positive if the heat flow is into the surface (i.e. positive on the warm side of the element, negative on the cold side).

h_r is approximately $4\sigma T_m^3$, when σ is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant: $\sigma = 5,67 \times 10^{-8}$ [W/(m²·K⁴)] and $T_m = 1/2(T'_r + T_s)$ expressed in kelvins. The space emittance incorporates the view factors and emissivities of all surfaces involved.

If the environmental (ambient) temperature T_{env} is defined such that

$$q = \frac{(T_{\text{env}} - T_s)}{R_s} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where R_s is the surface resistance, this is equivalent to Formula (A.1) with

$$T_{\text{env}} = \frac{Eh_r}{Eh_r + h_c} T'_r + \frac{h_c}{Eh_r + h_c} T_a \quad (\text{A.3})$$

and

$$R_s = \frac{1}{Eh_r + h_c} \quad (\text{A.4})$$

A.3 Environmental (Ambient) temperature and U -values

Formula (A.3) therefore defines the environmental (ambient) temperature that correctly indicates the heat flow to the surface. Nevertheless there are the following difficulties:

- a) T_{env} is not observable directly;
- b) T_{env} is not constant throughout an enclosure;
- c) various different temperatures are used on a national basis in the definition of the U -value.

A.3.1 Observation of T_{env}

T_{env} as defined by Formula (A.3) is a notional temperature and cannot be measured directly. It could be calculated using Formula (A.3) if all the quantities were known; but in practice the only one which can be determined with any certainty is h_r .

A good approximation to T_a can be obtained by direct measurement with a suitable shielded thermometer, but the value of the convection coefficient h_c , is less certain. The usual value assumed is $3,0 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2\cdot\text{K})$ for convection at vertical surfaces, but a different value can certainly be expected near heaters or in the vicinity of windows where the surface is not plane. There is also the question of where T_a should be measured.

E is a complicated function of emissivities and view factors, although in many practical cases a value of $0,9$ could be assumed. T'_r is not measurable conveniently. It should be noted that it is not the mean radiant temperature at one point, but the mean radiant temperature seen by the surface in question, so that it is composed of temperatures of all surfaces excluding that of the element being measured.

A.3.2 Variations of T_{env}

Even if T_{env} can be defined at a point, e.g. adjacent to the test position on the element being measured, it is clear that it will not be constant over the whole element. A heated room will usually have a vertical temperature gradient, so that T_a varies with height; and different points on the test element will have different view factors to the various radiating surfaces, so that T'_r will not normally be constant over all the test element either. As indicated above, h_c and $E\cdot h_r$ will often vary with position.

A.3.3 Definition of U -value

Various different temperatures are used for the definition of the U -value:

- a) air temperature;

- b) resultant or comfort temperature, which is the average of the mean radiant temperature and air temperature. It should be noted that this mean radiant temperature is not T'_r , as defined above as it includes all surfaces;
- c) environmental temperature. This is the closest to T_{env} but is subject to the measurement difficulties discussed above, and is usually defined in terms of the mean radiant temperature at the centre of the enclosure, rather than in terms of T'_r .

As a result, a U -value measured *in situ* may not be the appropriate U -value for use in heat loss calculations if different temperatures are involved in the two cases.

A.4 Conditions for U -value measurement

If, during the measurement, T_a approximately T'_r , then T_{env} is insensitive to the values of $E \cdot h_r$, and h_c , and air temperature is a reasonable proxy. However, a problem remains that the surface resistance is $(E \cdot h_r + h_c)^{-1}$. This quantity is liable to vary over the area of the test element. This means that

- a) the U -value, as measured, will vary over the area of the test element, even though the element is uniform, that is, has a constant R -value;
- b) the measured U -value is dependent on the conditions of measurement and is not a function only of the element itself.

A.5 Exterior surfaces

In the absence of solar radiation, a similar theory can be applied at exterior surfaces. Usually, because of wind velocity, h_c , is much greater than $E \cdot h_r$, so that air temperature can be used under overcast conditions.

Under clear-sky conditions, the effective radiant temperature can be much lower than the air temperature. This is particularly relevant for roofs.

Solar radiation onto a surface is not detected by an air temperature sensor, and this can cause very large errors in U -value measurements.

Both problems (of low radiant temperature and solar radiation) can be avoided by shading the exterior surface.

Surface temperature measurement is also hazardous when there is significant solar radiation onto a surface, as the temperature sensor needs to have a similar emissivity to that of the surface, both for solar radiation and for long-wave thermal radiation.

Annex B (normative)

Dynamic analysis method

B.1 General

The dynamic analysis method is a sophisticated method which may be used to obtain the steady-state properties of a building element from HFM measurements when large variations occur in temperatures and heat flow rates. It takes into account the thermal variations by the use of the heat equation.

The building element is represented in the model by its thermal conductance Λ and several time constants τ . The unknown parameters (Λ , τ_1 , τ_2 , τ_3 ...) are obtained by an identification technique using the measured densities of heat flow rates and temperatures.

With this approach, a set of linear equations must be solved which can be done by a microcomputer in a few minutes.

B.2 Algorithm of the dynamic method

The basic algorithms are as follows:

The measurements give N sets of data of the density of heat flow rate (q_i), indoor and outdoor surface temperatures (T_{li} , T_{Ei}) taken at the times t_i (i ranges from 1 to N). The time interval between two measurements is Δt , defined as:

$$\Delta t = t_{i+1} - t_i \quad (\text{B.1})$$

The heat flow rate at time t_i is a function of the temperatures at that time and at all of the preceding times

$$q_i = \Lambda(T_{li} - T_{Ei}) + K_1 \dot{T}_{li} - K_2 \dot{T}_{Ei} + \sum_n P_n \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} T_{lj} (1 - \beta_n) \beta_n (i - j) + \sum_n Q_n \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} T_{Ej} (1 - \beta_n) \beta_n (i - j) \quad (\text{B.2})$$

where the derivative of the indoor surface temperature is

$$\dot{T}_{li} = \frac{(T_{li} - T_{li-1})}{\Delta t} \quad (\text{B.3})$$

The same formula is valid for the derivative of the external temperature \dot{T}_{Ei} .

K_1 , K_2 as well as P_n and Q_n are dynamic characteristics of the wall without any particular significance. They depend on the time constant τ_n .

The variables β_n are exponential functions of the time constant τ_n

$$\beta_n = \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta t}{\tau_n}\right) \quad (\text{B.4})$$

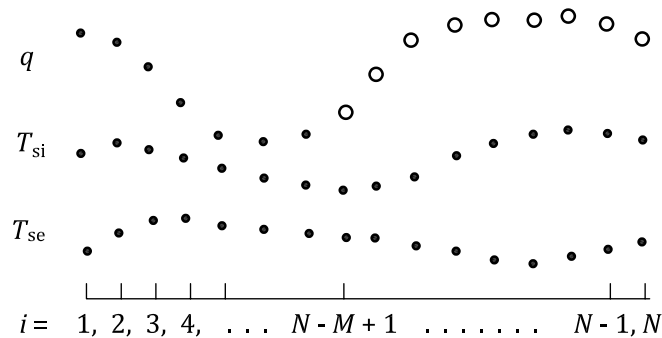
The sum over n in Formula (B.2) is over all the time constants, theoretically an infinite number.

These time constants, τ_n , however, decrease rapidly with n , as β_n increases. Hence only a few time constants (in practice, between 1 and 3 is sufficient) are needed to correctly describe the relationship between q , T_E and T_I .

Assuming that m time constants ($\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_m$) are chosen, Formula (B.2) will contain $2m + 3$ unknown parameters which are

$$\Lambda, K_1, K_2, P_1, Q_1, P_2, Q_2, \dots, P_m, Q_m \quad (\text{B.5})$$

Writing Formula (B.2) $2m + 3$ times for $2m + 3$ sets of data at various times, a system of linear equations can be solved to determine these parameters, particularly Λ . A number of supplementary sets, p , is needed however, for the integration corresponding to the sum over j in Formula (B.2) (Figure B.1). Finally, in order to eliminate stochastic variations, more measured sets are needed, leading to an over-determined system of linear equations which can be solved by a classic least square fit.



NOTE 1 $P = N - M$ date points for integration

NOTE 2 M date points for M equations ($M > 2m + 3$)

Figure B.1 — Utilization of the data for the dynamic interpretation method

This set of more than $2m + 3$ equations can be written in a matrix form

$$\vec{q} = (X) \vec{Z} \quad (\text{B.6})$$

where

\vec{q} is a vector, the M components of which are the last M heat flow density data, q_i . The value of M is then greater than $2m + 3$ and i goes from $N - M + 1$ to N ;

\vec{Z} is a vector, the $2m + 3$ components of which are the unknown parameters listed in Formula (B.5);

(X) is a rectangular matrix with M lines ($i = N - M + 1$ to N) and $2m + 3$ columns (1 to $2m + 3$).

The matrix elements are

$$X_{i1} = T_{li} - T_{E,i}$$

$$X_{i2} = \dot{T}_l = (T_{li} - T_{l,i-1}) / \Delta t$$

$$X_{i3} = \dot{T}_E = (T_{Ei} - T_{E,i-1}) / \Delta t$$

$$X_{i4} = \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} \dot{T}_{lj} (1 - \beta_1) \beta_1^{i-j}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{i5} &= \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} \dot{T}_{Ej} (1-\beta_1) \beta_1 (i-j) \\
 X_{i6} &= \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} \dot{T}_{lj} (1-\beta_2) \beta_2 (i-j) \\
 X_{i7} &= \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} \dot{T}_{Ej} (1-\beta_2) \beta_2 (i-j) \\
 &\cdot \\
 &\cdot \\
 &\cdot \\
 X_{i,2m+2} &= \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} \dot{T}_{lj} (1-\beta_m) \beta_m (i-j) \\
 X_{i,2m+3} &= \sum_{j=i-p}^{i-1} \dot{T}_{Ej} (1-\beta_m) \beta_m (i-j)
 \end{aligned} \tag{B.7}$$

In the sums over j , p is large enough to make the residual sum ($j = i - p$ to minus infinity) negligible. Then, the number of data sets, N , has to be larger than $M + p$. Practically, $P = N - M$, where N is large enough.

The set of equations [see Formula (B.12)] gives an estimate, \vec{Z}^* , of the vector \vec{Z} .

$$\vec{Z}^* = [(X)'(X)]^{-1} (X)'q \tag{B.8}$$

where $(X)'$ is the transposed matrix of (X) .

In fact, the time constants τ_n , are unknown. They are found by looking for the best estimate of \vec{Z} by varying the time constants.

This is done in the following manner:

- a) choose the number of time constants, m , to be used. Usually, this number is not more than 3;
- b) choose a constant ratio r between these time constants (usually between 3 and 10) in such a way that

$$\tau_1 = r\tau_2 = r^2\tau_3 \tag{B.9}$$

- c) choose the number of equations M for the set of Formulae (B.7). This number must be larger than $2m + 3$ but smaller than the number of data sets. Usually, 15 to 40 equations are enough. That means that at least 30 to 100 data points are needed;
- d) choose the minimum and maximum values of the time constants. Since the computer has a limited accuracy, there is no sense in handling time constants smaller than $\Delta t/10$. On the other hand, $p = N - M$ points are needed for integration. This integration will not be terminated if the time constant is larger than $p \Delta t$. It is best to choose the largest time constant lying between

$$\frac{\Delta t}{10} < \tau_1 < \frac{p\Delta t}{2} \tag{B.10}$$

- e) in this interval, compute the estimates, \vec{Z}^* , of the vector \vec{Z} using Formula (B.8) for several time constant values. For each value of \vec{Z}^* , the estimate \vec{q}^* of the heat flow vector will be computed by

$$\bar{q}^* = (X)\bar{Z}^* \quad (\text{B.11})$$

f) the total square deviation between this estimate and the measured values will be computed by

$$S^2 = (\bar{q} - \bar{q}^*)^2 = \sum (q_i - q_i^*)^2 \quad (\text{B.12})$$

g) the best time constant set is the one giving the smallest square deviation. They can be found by repeating steps e) and f) above;

h) the best estimate, \bar{Z}^* , of the vector \bar{Z} is found in this way. Its first component, Z_1 , is the best estimate of the conductance (or the transmittance if air temperature is used).

If the largest time constant found for the best estimate is equal to (or greater than) the maximum value, $(p\Delta t/2)$, the number of equations or the measurement time are not large enough to give a reliable result with this data set and this ratio between time constants. Changing the number of equations or the ratio of increasing (sometimes also by decreasing) the number of data sets may overcome this difficulty.

Quality criteria are needed to indicate confidence in the results when a single measurement is used to estimate the U -value. They have to be such that, if they are fulfilled for a given, unique measurement, there is good confidence (e.g. 90 % probability) that the result will be close enough to the actual value (e.g. within ± 10 %).

In the case of the classical analysis method, the only criterion is that the measurement time is long enough. Of course, if the recorded data show a quasi-steady-state, the measurements have a high probability of giving a good result. However, if the temperatures of heat flow varied substantially just before the beginning of measurements, the final result would be erroneous as the measurement time was not long enough to "forget" the preliminary events.

Such a criterion exists in the case of the dynamic interpretation method. The confidence interval for the estimate of the conductance described above is

$$I = \sqrt{\frac{S^2 Y(1,1)}{M - 2m - 4}} F(P, M - 2m - 5) \quad (\text{B.13})$$

where

S^2 is the total deviation obtained by Formula (B.12);

$Y(1,1)$ is the first element of the matrix inverted in Formula (B.14)

$$(Y) = \left[(X)' (X) \right]^{-1} \quad (\text{B.14})$$

where

M is the number of equations in system (6) and m the number of time constants;

F is the significance limit of the Student t -distribution, where P is the probability and $M - 2m - 5$ is the degree of freedom.

If this confidence interval for $P = 0,9$ is smaller than, for example, 5 % of the conductance, the computed conductance is generally very close to the actual value, which is in this case the value obtained under good conditions (night-time steady-state for light elements, long measurements for heavy ones). For a given measurement time, the smaller the confidence interval, the narrower the distribution of the results of several measurements.

This criterion, however, is not sufficient since the distribution is still large for short periods of measurement and the mean value may be erroneous (generally too low).

The second criteria to fulfil is that the duration of the test is to be larger than the value given in [6.2](#).

Annex C (normative)

Examination of the structure of the element

C.1 General

It may be useful, for example, to explain unexpected results of an R -value measurement or to apply the correction for storage effects, to examine the structure, the workmanship and the moisture content of the element measured. To examine this structure, two methods may be used.

C.2 Sampling method

A sample of a whole section of the element is taken by boring with a hollow drill or by sawing. Other methods such as dust sampling may be suitable for moisture content analysis. Framed structures may also be opened. Thicknesses of the various layers should be measured as accurately as possible and the materials of the various layers identified as far as possible. The densities of these materials may be measured.

If it is considered that there are significant moisture effects, care has to be taken not to change the moisture content of the element by the sampling, either by heating with the drill or saw or by moistening with lubricating water used on diamond drills. The sampled parts should be packed in airtight plastic bags without delay for subsequent moisture content analysis.

C.3 Endoscope method

Another possibility is to drill a hole through the whole element of sufficient diameter to allow inspection of the sides of this hole with an endoscope. Before examination, it is advisable to clean the hole with a small brush and with compressed air or gas.

The thicknesses of the various layers are measured with the endoscope and the materials are identified by their visual appearance. This method is less accurate, particularly for the identification of the materials but causes less damage than the sampling method.

C.4 Interpretation

The thermal resistance of each layer, R_i , is computed using

$$R_i = \frac{d_i}{\lambda_i} \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where

d_i is the thickness of the layer (m);

λ_i is a thermal conductivity for the material of the layer, given by the national standards, in watts per metre kelvin [$W/(m \cdot K)$].

The total thermal resistance is the sum of the resistances of all the layers; the thermal conductance is the reciprocal of the thermal resistance and the U -value is computed using surface resistances taken from national standards or from ISO 6946. The result obtained may be compared to the results of the R - or U -value measurements, taking into account all the possible sources of error mentioned (see [7.3](#)).

C.5 Reporting format

The report shall contain

- a) data on the examined element (building, location in the building, type of element);
- b) method used for the examination;
- c) results of the examination (structure of the elements, thicknesses and materials of the various layers);
- d) any other measurement taken, e.g. thermography, moisture content or moisture detection, density and thermal conductivity, etc.;
- e) interpretation and error analysis.

Annex D (informative)

Perturbations caused by the heat flow meter

D.1 General

The HFM itself has a thermal resistance, and changes by its presence, the heat transfer through the element being measured. The heat flow lines are no longer parallel and the heat flow through the HFM is not the same as the heat flow through the undisturbed element. Reciprocally, the element may have an influence on the flow pattern in the HFM.

This effect can be taken into account by computations, using the equation for heat by conduction.

D.2 One-dimensional perturbation

If the heat flow lines are all straight and perpendicular to the HFM during measurement, the only perturbation is caused by the supplementary resistance of the HFM, which lowers the heat flow rate under given temperature conditions.

D.2.1 *U*-value measurements

In this case, the measured temperature difference from environment to environment is given by

$$\delta T = R_T q' = (R_T + R') q \quad (\text{D.1})$$

where (see [Figure D.1](#))

R_T is the total thermal resistance of the element alone;

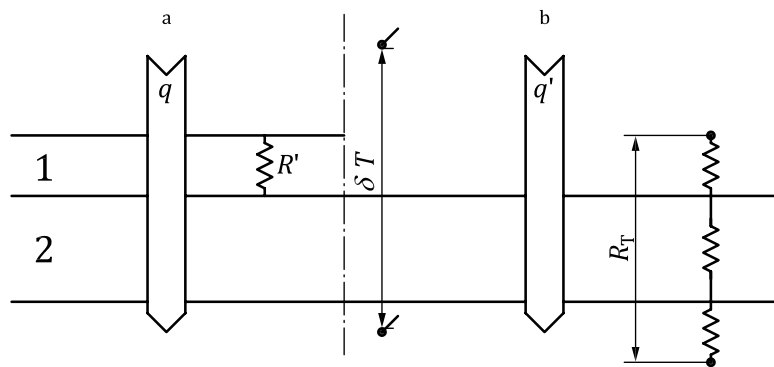
R' is the resistance of the HFM;

q' is the density of heat flow rate through the element without HFM (not measured);

q is the measured density of heat flow rate in the presence of the HFM.

From Formula (D.1) the total thermal resistance or the thermal conductance can be obtained easily:

$$R_T = \frac{\delta T}{q} - R' \quad \text{and} \quad U = \frac{q}{\delta T - R' q} \quad (\text{D.2})$$



Key

- 1 HFM
- 2 element
- a With.
- b Without HFM.

Figure D.1 — Description of the parameters used in Formulae (D.1) and (D.2)

D.2.2 R-value measurements

Here the surface temperatures are measured (see [Figure D.2](#)). Two cases are to be examined:

- a) if one surface temperature measurement is taken under the HFM, the R -value is given by both the following formulae:

$$R = \frac{\delta T}{q'} = \frac{\delta T'}{q} \quad (\text{D.3})$$

and the measured value is the actual one and no correction is needed.

- b) if one surface temperature measurement is taken beside the HFM, q and δT are obtained, which are not directly related to R . To find the relationship, one can write the ratio of the heat flows, assuming that the environmental temperature and the surface resistance, R'' , are the same with and without the HFM:

$$\frac{q'}{q} = \frac{R + R' + R''}{R + R''} \quad (\text{D.4})$$

Combining this relationship with Formula (D.3), we eliminate q' to obtain

$$R^2 + R \left(R'' + R' - \frac{\delta T}{q} \right) - R'' \frac{\delta T}{q} = 0 \quad (\text{D.5})$$

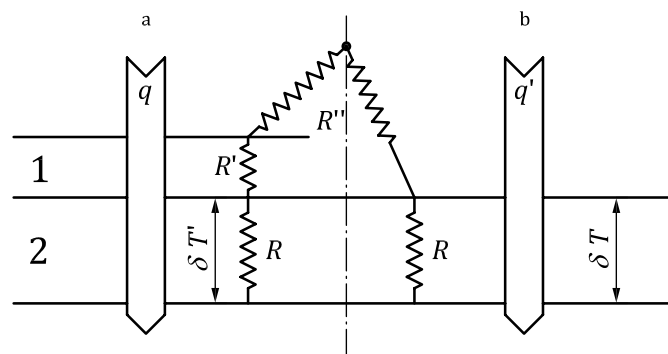
from which R can be obtained easily. A simpler relationship can be derived if we assume that the actual value of R is close to the ratio of the measured quantities $\delta T/q$. In this case, Formula (D.5) is rewritten as

$$R^2 + R \left(R' - \frac{\delta T}{q} \right) + R'' \left(R - \frac{\delta T}{q} \right) = 0 \quad (\text{D.6})$$

If the last term is neglected, we obtain simply

$$R = \frac{\delta T}{q} - R' \quad (\text{D.7})$$

which means that the actual resistance of the element is the measured apparent resistance minus the resistance of the HFM.



Key

- 1 HFM
- 2 element
- a With.
- b Without HFM.

Figure D.2 — Description of the parameters used in Formulae (D.3) to (D.7)

D.3 Two-and three-dimensional heat flow

In practice, the heat flow meter is not homogeneous and has finite dimensions. The heat flow lines are then curved and the measured heat flow and temperature differences are not related to the R - or U -value through Formulae (D.2) or (D.7) but by a more complex steady-state solution of the heat equation.

D.3.1 Effects remaining when the HFM is well guarded

The thermal conductivity of the material on which the HFM is installed may influence the temperature distribution into the HFM or, in other words, may change the calibration coefficient. This occurs when the heat flow is measured with a thermopile which is much more thermally conductive than the core filling material and when the sensing parts of the thermopile are too close to the surface of the HFM.

This effect shall be avoided by proper construction of the HFM and by calibrating the HFM on various materials. The proper calibration factor shall then be used for each underlying material (see 5.3).

D.3.2 Effects remaining when the HFM is homogeneous

These effects are described in Clause 8. The error or correction factor

$$e = \frac{(q - q')}{q'} \quad (\text{D.8})$$

can be calculated using the formula of heat in steady-state:

$$\nabla^2(T) = 0 \quad (\text{D.9})$$

where

T is the temperature;

∇^2 is the Laplacian operator.

The temperature at any location in the HFM and the underlying material can be found if the boundary conditions are defined. These conditions are the indoor and outdoor air temperatures and the surface transfer coefficients. The solution is obtained by the finite element or the finite-difference method.

The density of heat flow rate, q' , is calculated in one dimensional flow conditions. The “measured” density of heat flow rate, q , is obtained by division of the average temperature difference between both surfaces of the active core of the HFM by the thermal resistance of this core.

This thermal resistance is a result of the complex structure of the HFM and cannot be simply calculated by the ratio of the thickness to the thermal conductivity of the core material. The thermal effects of the wires of the thermopile have to be taken into account.

The thermal resistance of the active core can be calculated from the calibrating factor and the number and characteristics of the temperature sensors. The average thermal resistance is

$$R = \frac{\delta T}{q} \quad (\text{D.10})$$

where

q is the density of heat flow rate;

δT is the temperature difference between both faces of the active layer.

This temperature difference can be obtained by

$$\delta T = \frac{\beta U}{n} \quad (\text{D.11})$$

where

U is the voltage given by the HFM;

n is the number of thermal sensors in the HFM;

β is their calibrating factor (kelvins per volt)(K/V).

Hence

$$R = \frac{\beta}{Fn} \quad (D.12)$$

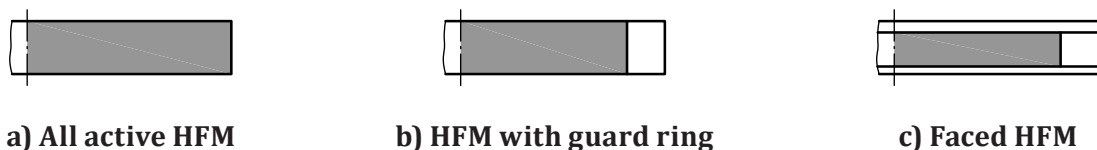
where F is the calibrating factor [q/U in watts per square metre kelvin volt ($W/(m^2 \cdot K \cdot V)$)] of the HFM.

The correction factor e is then calculated given by Formula (D.8). The correction factor depends on the following parameters:

Parameter		Possible variation
R_s	Surface resistance over the HFM	0,5 $m^2 \cdot K/W$ to 0,01 $m^2 \cdot K/W$
D_a	Diameter of the active part	10 mm to 500 mm
D_t	Total diameter of the HFM, including a guard ring	10 mm to 600 mm
D_f	Thickness of the facings	0,1 mm to 5mm
Λ_f	Thermal conductivity of the facings	0,03 $W/(m \cdot K)$ to 400 $W/(m \cdot K)$
Λ_{grd}	Thermal conductivity of the HFM's passive part	0,03 $W/(m \cdot K)$ to 2 $W/m \cdot K$
R_{hfm}	Thermal resistance of the HFM's active part	0,001 $m^2 \cdot K/W$ to 0,01 $m^2 \cdot K/W$
Λ	Thermal conductivity under the HFM	0,03 $W/(m \cdot K)$ to 200 $W/(m \cdot K)$
D	Thickness of this first layer	1 m to 300 m
d_{hfm}	Thickness of the HFM and the guard ring	0,2 mm to 5 mm
Q	Density of heat flow rate	0,1 W/m^2 to 10 W/m^2

The effect of variations of the surface resistance at the edges of the HFM, due to different form factors as well as the shape of the HFM (circular or square) are also to be considered. However, the lack of accuracy when approximating a square HFM by a disc shaped one is very small. A two-dimensional model in cylindrical coordinates is therefore justified for computation of the correction for a square HFM.

The HFM itself may have various structures depending on the design of the active part and the position of this active part into the embedding protective and passive part (see [Figure D.3](#)).



NOTE The active core is shown cross-hatched.

Figure D.3 — Cut through various heat flow meters (half diameter)

A guard ring, made of a material which has the same thermal properties as the HFM and of the same thickness, may be mounted around the HFM. The width of this guard ring should be at least five times the thickness of the HFM. The guard ring may have a thermal conductivity close to the apparent conductivity of the HFM.

It is not possible to provide a table of the correction factors for every type of HFM. However, the following indications can be given:

- a) if the HFM is embedded in the measured element or if it is small, the correction may be either positive or negative. If the HFM is installed on the surface, as is usual, the correction is negative if the HFM (with guard ring if any) is homogeneous and has a lateral dimension which is more than 20 times the thickness;
- b) the correction is larger if
 - the surface resistance over the HFM is small;
 - the underlying material is thermally conductive;
 - the ratio total diameter/thickness is small.
- c) the correction is smaller if the HFM is large or if it is guarded by a large guard ring having the appropriate thermal conductivity;
- d) if the HFM is faced with a copper or aluminium foil (e.g. 0,5 mm thick), the effect of the thermal conductivity of the material of the first layer of the measured element is smaller; but the HFM shall be calibrated with the facings.

Annex E (informative)

Checking the accuracy of the measurement system of heat flow rate

E.1 General

The amount of heat flowing through a building component can be measured using a heat flow meter, however the accuracy can have a large effect on the results.

Heat flow measurements are not meant to be made with the meter, and the data acquisition component. It is vital that each calibration is made properly.

E.2 Check procedure

E.2.1 Checking the accuracy of the measurement system of heat flow rate

Checks are made either before or after the measurement is complete. The accuracy of the measurement system of heat flow rate differs with each device used when the heat flow meter and data acquisition component is used with the system, as the accuracy of measurement differs with each measurement system.

- Checks are made with the procedures outlined in “Step 1” to “Step 4” below;
- If the insulation efficiency of the area to be measured can be estimated, checks can be made before the measurement by using the procedures outlined in “Step 1” to “Step 4”;
- If the measurement system of heat flow rate is to be checked after measurements have been made, a check of the level of heat flow obtained during the measurements and the accuracy of the heat flow system is made using the procedures outlined in “Step 2” to “Step 4”;
- If the accuracy is not adequate in the check results, a report can be output outlining the details, or measurements can be made again by selecting the device to be used.

E.2.2 Step 1: Device selection

The measurement system of heat flow rate consists of the heat flow meter and the data acquisition component (data logger). When selecting a device, the measurement performance (sensitivity, minimum output) of each device shall be confirmed.

E.2.3 Step 2: Calculation of the heat flow rate through the building wall (density of heat flow rate)

The heat flow is calculated using Formula (E.1).

$$q = U(T_i - T_e) \quad (\text{E.1})$$

where

- q is the density of heat flow rate [W/m^2];
- U is the thermal transmittance (U -value) [$\text{W}/(\text{m}^2\text{K})$];
- T_i is the interior environmental temperature ($^\circ\text{C}$);
- T_e is the exterior environmental temperature ($^\circ\text{C}$).

When checking before measurements are made, the U -value is estimated by ISO 6946 from the structure of the area being measured. There are several conditions, such as ensuring that the interior and exterior environmental temperature difference $T_i - T_e$ is within the range of 1 to 20 K. An example of the results of the calculation is shown in [Figure E.1](#).

After measurements are made, the density of heat flow rate q obtained from the measurements is used without correction.

E.2.4 Step 3: Calculating the minimum measurement value of the measurement system of heat flow rate

The minimum measurement output is determined from the measurement accuracy (sensitivity, minimum output) of the heat flow meter and data acquisition component.

Calculations of the minimum measurement value of the measurement system of heat flow rate are performed with Formula (E.2).

$$q_{\text{Hm}} = \frac{e_{\text{m}}}{1/f} \quad (\text{E.2})$$

where

- q_{Hm} is the minimum output of the measurement system of heat flow rate (density of heat flow rate) [W/m^2];
- $1/f$ is the calibration factor of the heat flow meter [$\text{mV}/(\text{W}/\text{m}^2)$];
- e_{m} is the data acquisition component (data logger) minimum output (mV).

E.2.5 Step 4: Checks

Checks are made from the ratio of the density of heat flow rate through the building and the minimum output of the measurement system of heat flow rate.

By using q and q_{Hm} obtained from Steps 2 and 3, Formula (E.3) is used to calculate the ratio E between the density of heat flow rate and measurement minimum output value.

$$E = \frac{q_{\text{Hm}}}{q} \times 100 \quad (\text{E.3})$$

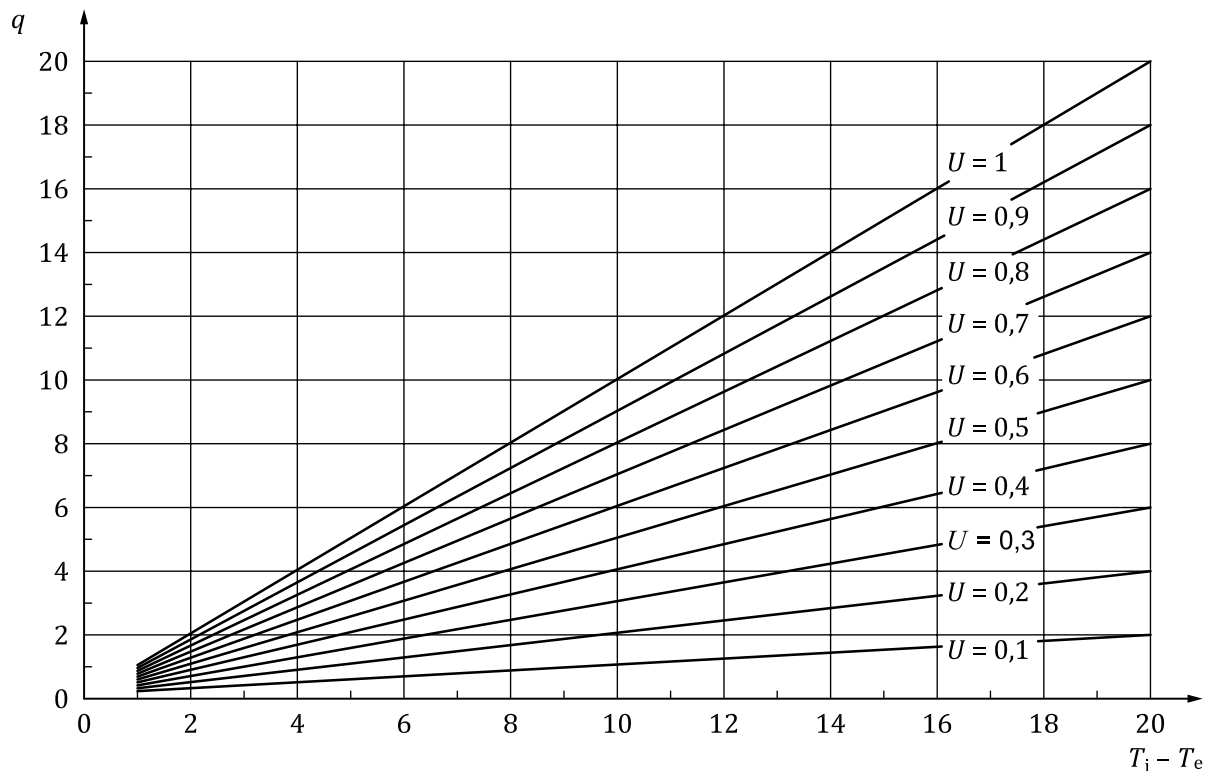
where E is the ratio between the density of heat flow rate and measurement minimum output value [%].

A small value for E means that conditions are appropriate for measurements of the heat flow rate through the wall (density of heat flow rate). A large value of E however, means that measurement performance of the heat flow is inadequate and that the condition will not allow for the accurate measurements of the heat flow rate through the building component.

For example, conditions where the value of E exceeds 100 % are when the specimen thickness is 0,1 mm (measurement value q) and the scale resolution is 1 mm (minimum measurement output q_{Hm}). E in this case = $1/0,1 \times 100 = 1\,000$ (%).

A value of $E \leq 10$ % is preferable when selecting the measurement device and measurement performance. If the value of E is small, the accuracy of U -value is increased.

Selecting heat flow meters with a higher sensitivity, allows better measurement performance at the cost of a larger size resulting in difficulties (attaching the sensor to the wall surface). Correct measurements can only be obtained when the heat flow meter is attached evenly to the wall surface. Large heat flow meters have a higher sensitivity, meaning that even the smallest gap between the wall and meter can affect measurement results. A representative area of the building component shall be selected when attaching the heat flow meter to the wall. Meters that are large in size suffer easily from heat bridge in the component so extra care shall be taken during attachment.



Key

q density for heat flow rate q (W/m²)

$T_i - T_e$ difference between the exterior and the interior environment temperatures

NOTE U : U -value, thermal transmittance [W/(m²·K)]

Figure E.1 — Relation between environmental temperature difference and density of heat flow rate

Annex F (informative)

Heat storage effects

The average method in [7.1](#) assumes that all the heat flux measured at the interior surface passes through the test element. Strictly speaking, this will only be the case provided that the temperature profile throughout the element is the same at the beginning and at the end of the test.

The effect of thermal storage will usually be reduced by using a test period which is an integer multiple of 24 h, since external temperature is often cyclic with a periodicity of 24 h and, unless there is continuous heating, the internal temperature may show a similar cycle. These cycles give rise to transient heat storage effects with the result that $\sum(T_i - T_e)/\sum q$ has the same periodicity. When the internal and external temperature cycles vary about the same mean value each day, the ratio $\sum(T_i - T_e)/\sum q$ converges towards an asymptotic value which is the true *R*-value.

In practice, however, neither will the temperature cycle be regular nor will it vary about the same mean value each day. It is convenient for the purpose of the analysis of the data to separate the effect of temperature changes into two components:

- a) that due to cyclic internal or external temperature, and
- b) that due to changes in the mean daily value of either temperature.

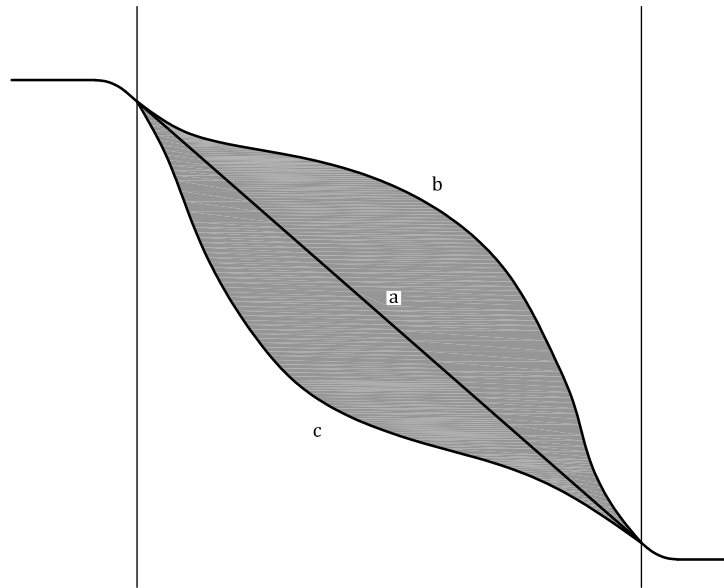
The cyclic component causes an oscillation in $\sum(T_i - T_e)/\sum q$, but these oscillations are damped and the test can be continued until they are relatively small (see [7.1](#)).

A change in mean internal or external temperature implies a change in the heat stored in the wall. A correction to the measured heat flux can be applied using the formulae in [7.2](#), which were derived on the basis of a step change in internal or external temperature.

That analysis assumes that the temperature profile, at the start and at the end of the test period, corresponds to that for steady-state conditions at the internal and external temperature concerned. This is illustrated for a single layer uniform wall in [Figure F.1](#) line a. However, since only the internal and external temperatures, not the temperatures within the structure, are measured, the profile could be either b or c. This means that observations of the change in mean internal or external temperatures is not necessarily sufficient in itself to determine the change in heat storage.

Thus, if, for example, b applied at the start of the test and c at the end, the difference, represented by the shaded area in [Figure F.1](#), is a change in heat storage in the element that is not allowed for in correction factors of [7.2](#). Nevertheless, it is possible to test the data for this particular effect: the first few hours of data can be discarded and the remainder re-analysed (over an integer number of days) to see whether this affects the result. If so, it is likely that the temperature profile at the original start of the test period was not typical.

The correction method also relies on reasonable estimates of the thermal mass of the various layers of the structure. Where the details of the structure are not known these estimates may not be sufficiently accurate for the criteria in [7.2](#) to be met. In that case the correction method cannot be assumed to provide a reliable result.



**Figure F.1 — Possible temperature profiles through a building element
(line “a” represents the steady-state condition)**

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