

Photographic Activity Test – PAT



Preserving cultural assets is one of the main functions of museums, archives and libraries. In doing so, they must frequently decide which materials are most suitable to safely and reliably store various kinds of information for years, decades or even centuries. In the case of paper materials, the international DIN ISO 9706 standard offers some guidance by specifying the requirements for high permanence or ageing resistance. PTS is an accredited testing laboratory that has been issuing expert opinions on ageing resistance for clients in all parts of the world for many years.

Products intended for use in contact with photographic documents, for example storage boxes, passe-partouts, envelopes, files, photo bags, dividers, photo albums, adhesive tapes or adhesives, must meet particularly stringent requirements for permanence. Manufacturers must prove that they are made exclusively from raw materials that have no harmful effects on the tiny silver particles and gelatin layers of visible photographic images.

Since the 1980ies, the Photographic Activity Test (short PAT) has been the established – and meanwhile also internationally standardised – method for evaluating the archival quality of materials. In the method specified by ISO 18916, samples are brought

in contact with special detector materials at 70 °C and 86 % relative humidity for prolonged periods. The analysis of detector materials before and after incubation provides reliable information as to whether or not the sample material is suitable for archival purposes. The PAT is recognized as standard almost everywhere in the world today, which has made it an important marketing tool for manufacturers.

Starting end of January 2016, PTS will be pleased to test and certify your materials in accordance with ISO 18916. “Approved by PTS” will soon become the European solution for PAT certification – thanks to our well-known reliability, direct communication with clients and laboratory testing facilities meeting the high demands of our quality management system.

We are able to offer you attractive conditions, short response times, transparent, objective and statistically verified results together with the direct contact to our scientists and laboratory staff.

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