L.N. 12 of 1986

QUALITY CONTROL (EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND LOCAL GOODS) ACT, 1971

(ACT NO. XIII OF 1971)

Toilet Paper Rolls Order, 1986
(Order No. M 16 of 1986)

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Quality Control (Exports, Imports and Local Goods) Act, 1971, the Malta Board of Standards has made the following order:—

Citation and commencement.

1.1 This order may be cited as the Toilet Paper Rolls Order, 1986 and may be referred to as Order No. M 16 of 1986.

1.2 This order shall become operative on a date after the lapse of 20 days from the day on which it is laid on the table of the House of Representatives, which date shall be notified by the Board in the Gazette.

Scope.

2.1 This order applies to two ply toilet paper rolls of the following grades, sold as single or multiple packs:

a. Extra strong grade

b. Extra soft grade

Interpretation.

3.1 In this order:

3.1.1 "sheet" means a portion of two-ply toilet paper between consecutive rows of perforations on a roll.

3.1.2 "machine direction" means the direction of a paper corresponding to the direction of flow of the stock on the paper machine.

3.1.3 "cross direction" means the direction of a paper at right angle to the machine direction.

Type of paper.

4.1 The paper shall be two ply unglazed soft tissue paper and shall be free from deleterious defects such as fibre bundles and wood splinters and other defects that may impair its servicibility.

4.2 The paper shall be white or coloured. If any dye is used to colour the paper, it should conform to the latest Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of the U.S.A.

Dimensions.

5.1 The average length of paper per roll in any six rolls taken at random from separate packs shall not be less than 26 m and the shortage in any one roll shall not exceed 1.3 m.

5.1.1 Paragraph 5.1 is not applicable to toilet paper labelled "Not for retail sale" in bold letters of a minimum point size of 36.

5.2 The minimum width of a toilet paper roll shall be 100 mm.

5.3 The length of a sheet on a roll shall be not less than 110 mm and not more than 130 mm.

5.4 The inside diameter of the core of a toilet paper roll shall be not less than 32 mm and not more than 40 mm.

5.5 The outside diameter of a toilet paper roll shall not exceed 125 mm.

Grammage.

6.1 When tested by the method laid down in paragraph 14.2 the average grammage of the double ply paper shall be not less than 42 g/m for the extra strong grade, and not less than 34 g/m^2 for the extra soft grade.

Tensile strength.

7.1 When tested by the method laid down in paragraph 14.3 the tensile strength of the double ply paper shall be:

7.1.1 In the machine direction, not less than 3.3 N/15 mm of width for the extra strong grade, and not less than 2.1 N/15 mm of width for the extra soft grade.

7.1.2 In the cross direction, not less than 1.6 N/15 mm of width for the extra strong grade and not less than 0.6 N/15 mm of width for the extra soft grade.

7.1.3 In the average of both the machine direction and the cross direction, not less than 2.9 N/15 mm of width for the extra strong grade, and not less than 1.5 N/15 mm of width for the extra soft grade.

Absorbtion.

8.1 When tested by the method laid down in paragraph 14.4 the absorbtion time shall be between 2 and 60 seconds.

Softness.

9.1 When tested by the method laid down in paragraph 14.5 the softness of the paper shall not exceed 400 m N for the extra strong grade, and 150 m N for the extra soft grade.

Perforations.

10.1 The perforations should be functional and allow a clean tear on the sheet.

Construction of rolls.

11.1 (a) The paper shall be evenly and firmly wound on a cylindrical core. The number of malformed sheets at the core end shall not exceed five.

(b) The sides of each roll shall be cleanly cut.

(c) The paper at the outer end of the roll shall not be glued to the underlying paper.

Wrapping.

12.1 Toilet paper rolls shall be wrapped individually or in groups. The wrapper shall be acceptable and shall cover the roll or rolls completely.

Labelling.

13.1 Every packet of toilet paper roll or rolls shall have a label showing in clear and distinct print the following information:

13.1.1 the fact that the packet contains toilet paper roll(s) unless this is obviously due to the transparency of the wrapper.

13.1.2 The grade of the paper.

13.1.3 The nominal length of the paper per roll in metres.

13.1.4 The colour of the paper if the wrapper is opaque.

13.1.5 The words "Not for retail sale" in bold letters of a minimum point size of 36 if the toilet paper rolls do not conform to paragraph 5.1.

13.1.6 The brand name or trade mark or;

13.1.7 The name and address of the manufacturer;

13.1.8 Where the brand name is not entered in a list kept by the Director of Industry, nor is the Trade Mark registered with the Comptroller of Industrial Property, the inclusion in the label of the name and address of the manufacturer shall be compulsory.

13.1.9 Toilet paper rolls which do not fully conform to this order may be sold as seconds provided that they still conform to paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 5.1 and that the word "Seconds" is shown in bold letters of a minimum point size of 36.

Methods of test.

14.1 The tests shall be carried out on specimens conditioned for at least two hours in an atmosphere maintained at a relative humidity of 50± 2% and a temperature of 23± 1°C.

14.2 From each of five toilet paper rolls taken at random cut two random test specimens each of area at least 500 cm^2.

14.2.1 Determine the length and width of each specimen to the nearest 0.5 mm and its mass to the nearest 5 mg. Calculate to three significant figures the grammage of each test specimen and the average value for the 10 test specimens.

14.3 From each of five toilet paper rolls taken at random, cut two random specimens in the machine direction and two random specimens in the cross direction of the paper, each specimen being of two ply construction and at least 100 mm long and 50± 0.1 mm wide.

14.3.1 Use the apparatus and procedure given in ISO 1924 but (a) use an initial distance of 65 mm between clamps; (b) use a rate of loading such that the specimen breaks within 10± 5S.

14.3.2 Calculate and report to three significant figures the average breaking strength in newtons per 15 mm of width for each direction of the paper and also the average of the strengths in the two directions.

14.4 From each of five toilet paper rolls taken at random, cut two sheets as test specimens. Separate double-ply sheets into single-ply test specimens.

14.4.1 Place a test specimen on the rim of a beaker having a diameter of about 50 mm. Fill a micrometer syringe or a suitable pipette that can deliver accurately 0.01 ml with distilled water at 23 ± 1°C. Hold the syringe at an angle of about 30° to the horizontal with the tip nearly in contact with the paper, and allow 0.01 ml of water to flow onto the specimen. Keep the tip of the syringe in the drop of water until delivery is completed. Measure with a stop watch the time of absorbtion, in seconds, from the instant the water touches the specimen until the drop of water is completely absorbed, as indicated by no further reflection of light from it when viewed at an angle.

Carry out five tests on each side of the paper. Calculate and report to three significant figures the average water absorbtion rate in seconds.

14.5 Apparatus — An instrument that measures the combination of resistance due to surface friction and flexural rigidity of sheet material when forced by a blade through a slot that has parallel edges and a width of 6.35 mm.

14.5.1 Test specimens — From five rolls taken at random cut 20 random test specimens (i.e. 10 pairs) each of size 100 mm × 100 mm with adjacent edges parallel to the machine and cross direction respectively.

14.5.2 Procedure — Calibrate the instrument according to the manufacturer's instructions. Place a pair of specimens next to each other and centrally over the slot with their cross directions parallel to the slot. Start the blade mechanism and record the maximum reading. Turn the two specimens through 90° so that their machine directions are parallel to the slot. Again record the maximum reading. Repeat the procedure on the remaining nine pairs of specimens ensuring that an equal number of tests are performed on each side of the paper. Calculate and report to three significant figures the average of all the readings in millinewtons as the softness of the paper.

In preparing this order, reference was made to:

I.S.O. 1924 : 1976

S.A.B.S. 648 : 1970

S.A.B.S. 648 : 1980

Ippubblikat mit-Taqsima tat-Tagħrif – Kastilja – *Published by the Department of Information – Kastilja*
Mitbugħ fl-Istamperija tal-Gvern – Printed at the Government Printing Press
Prezz 2c – *Price 2c*