International Standard ISO 4877

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION•МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ•ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

Ropes and cordage — Colour code for identification

Cordages et articles de corderie — Code de couleurs pour l'identification

First edition — 1980-09-01

UDC 677.71 : 62-777.6 **Ref. No. ISO 4877-1980 (E)**

Descriptors : textiles, cordages, rope, colour codes, designations.

Price based on 2 pages

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO member bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been set up 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 4877 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, and was circulated to the member bodies in May 1979.

It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Ireland	South Africa, Rep. of
Brazil	Israel	Spain
Canada	Italy	Sweden
China	Japan	Switzerland
Cyprus	Korea, Rep. of	Thailand
Czechoslovakia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Turkey
Egypt, Arab Rep . of	Mexico	United Kingdom
Ghana	Netherlands	USSR
Hungary	Norway	Yugoslavia
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The member bodies of the following countries expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Belgium
Finland
Germany, F.R.
USA

Printed in Switzerland

Ropes and cordage — Colour code for identification

0 Introduction

It is becoming increasingly important that the present range of textile fibre ropes and cordage (especially those made from man-made fibres) should be readily identifiable to the user to allow him to be fully aware of a particular rope's strength and other characteristics, and that this should be agreed in an International Standard.

Some International Standard rope specifications already provide for a coloured identification mark above a given minimum diameter; but for other diameters and for other types of standardized ropes, no marking is at present required. These standards will be amended in order to conform with the present International Standard upon publication.

The following criteria have been used to provide a methodical means of identification by the selection of colours specifically for this use :

a) in order that the marking is easily identifiable, it is preferable to use colours that contrast with the remainder of the rope (the marker yarns being placed within the rope) but rope or cordage may be entirely the same colour as the identification colour in some cases;

b) to avoid any confusion it is necessary to reserve the colours selected for the identification marking of standard ropes and cordage exclusively for that purpose;

c) marking should be simple and it is preferable to select only a limited number of colours for identification marking and to avoid combinations of one colour for identifying ropes made from different materials;

d) details such as the fastness of the marker colours cannot be specified in view of the variety of possible end uses. Properties such as fastness to water, to light and to sea water should be the subject of agreement between manufacturer and user.

Knowledge of the chosen colours provides information that is valuable to both manufacturers and users in their selection of colours for either the remainder of the rope or identification marking of manufacturer or user.

Each colour used corresponds to a constituent material and thus the same colour could be similarly reserved for the identification marking of articles of that material to be standardized in other publications. For example, a label marked in the appropriate colour could be used.

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies a code of colours designed for the identification marking of ropes and cordage appearing in International Standards by using yarns of an easily identifiable colour placed within the article, so as to remain recognisable despite soiling, soaking and discolouration during use, or by the colouring of the complete article in the same colour.

2 References

ISO 1140, *Three-strand polyamide multifilament ropes.*

ISO 1141, *Three-strand polyester multifilament ropes.*

ISO 1181, *Three or four-strand manila and sisal ropes.*

ISO 1346, *Three-strand (hawser-laid) and eight-strand (plaited) polypropylene monofilament or film ropes — Required characteristics.*

ISO 1969, *Three-strand polyethylene monofilament ropes.*

ISO 1970, *Eight-strand plaited manila and sisal ropes.*

3 Identification code

The colours reserved for each constituent material and the identification marking for ropes and cordage given in International Standard specifications are provided in the table.

Table — Colour code for the identification of ropes and cordage made from natural or man-made fibres

Material	Identifying colour for the material	Identification marking	Appropriate International Standard
Manila			
Superior special	Black	— one black yarn in each of three strands	ISO 1181 and ISO 1970
Grade 1		— one black yarn in each of two strands	
Grade 2		— one black yarn in a single strand	
Sisal	Red	— one red yarn in one strand	ISO 1181 and ISO 1970
Polyamide	Green*	— one green yarn in one strand	ISO 1140
Polyester	Blue*	— one blue yarn in one strand	ISO 1141
Polyethylene	Orange	— one orange yarn in one strand or rope wholly coloured orange	ISO 1969
Polypropylene	Brown	— one brown yarn in one strand or rope wholly coloured brown	ISO 1346

* Choose a light enough green (for polyamide) and a deep enough blue (for polyester) so that there is no risk of confusion between the two colours.