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Publisher's version / Version de l'éditeur:

https://doi.org/10.4224/18227283 Technical Report, 2009-01-01

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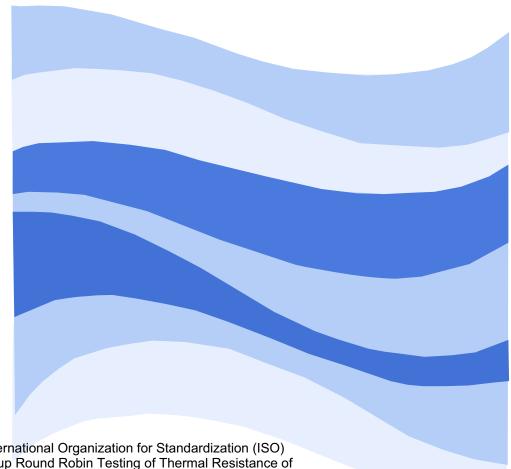
Conseil national de recherches Canada Institut des technologies océaniques

TR-2009-10

Technical Report

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Thermal Manikin Working Group Round Robin Testing of Thermal Resistance of Suits.

Mak, L.; Hackett, P.



Mak, L.; Hackett, P., 2009. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Thermal Manikin Working Group Round Robin Testing of Thermal Resistance of Suits. St. John's, NL : NRC Institute for Ocean Technology. Technical Report, TR-2009-10.



DOCUMENTATION PAGE

REPORT NUMBER	DATE	DATE			
TR-2009-10			May 2009		
REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICAT		DISTRIBUTION			
Unclassified		Unlimited	b		
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THERMAL MANIKIN WOR		411014 (130)			
	OF THERMAL RESISTANCE	OF SUITS			
AUTHOR(S)					
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CORPORATE AUTHOR(S)/PERFO National Research Council.	RMING AGENCY(S) Institute for Ocean Technolog	v. St. John's.	NL		
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SPONSORING AGENCY(S)					
ISO - International Organiza	tion for Standardization				
IOT PROJECT NUMBER 2306		NRC FILE NU	MBER		
KEY WORDS		PAGES	FIGS.	TABLES	
round robin, thermal resistar RTD	ice, immersion suit, SOLAS	ii, 20, App. A	9	5	
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO) THERMAL MANIKIN WORKING GROUP ROUND ROBIN TESTING OF THERMAL RESISTANCE OF SUITS

TR-2009-10

Lawrence Mak and Peter Hackett

May 2009

Executive Summary

The ISO Thermal Manikin Working Group has been tasked to assess the suitability to include thermal manikins in the standard for the current immersion suit approval testing. Five international laboratories were involved in a round robin test to measure the thermal resistance of immersion suits. The objectives are (1) to assess the uniformity of thermal resistance of suits derived from different manikins, to attempt to quantify the errors caused by methodology, tools and calculation methods; and (2) to evaluate the difference in thermal resistance of the tests conducted at National Research Council Canada, Institute for Ocean Technology (NRC-IOT) are documented in this report.

In air, the thermal resistance of a manikin wearing only test clothing was determined to be 1.408 clo. The thermal resistance of a manikin wearing a non-insulated immersion suit and an insulated suit, with SOLAS RTD lifejacket over test clothing were 2.442 clo and 2.574 clo, respectively.

In water, under uniform cooling conditions, the thermal resistance for a noninsulated immersion suit and an insulated immersion suit were 0.532 clo and 1.355 clo, respectively. Under non-uniform cooling conditions, the results can be up to 25% different from those conducted in uniform cooling conditions.

It is concluded that under uniform cooling conditions, the constant temperature control mode of thermal manikins and the parallel method can be used to determine thermal resistance. Further research and development are needed before thermal manikins could be used with confidence for suit evaluation under non-uniform cooling conditions. To provide the scientific evidence that manikins can be used as an evaluation tool for immersion suits, it is also important to assess the thermal resistance of humans and manikins in the same environmental conditions, concurrently, in the same laboratory.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2007, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) formed a Thermal Manikin Working Group. The Group's objective is to assess the equivalence between thermal manikin and human subjects for immersion suit approval testing, include thermal manikins in the current immersion suit approval testing where appropriate and recommend suitable test methods.

The use of thermal manikins for approval testing is of interest to manufacturers and regulatory authorities. In comparison with human subject testing with inherent variability from subject to subject, thermal manikins generate repeatable results within a laboratory. It does not require ethics approval and in general the test duration and costs are lower relative to human subject testing. The results are also available faster. It is, however, very important to ensure inter-laboratory results are consistent and comparable, given differences in thermal manikin technology, operation modes, test methods, laboratory environment conditions and calculation methods.

The ISO Thermal Manikin Working Group has commissioned 5 international laboratories to conduct a round robin test. The Research Institute of Marine Engineering in Japan, the CORD Group in Canada, Hohenstein Institute in Germany, and the National Research Council Canada Institute of Ocean Technology (NRC-IOT) in Canada conducted thermal manikin tests. The SINTEF in Norway conducted human subject tests. The thermal manikin tests conducted at NRC-IOT are documented in this report.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the round robin are -

- (1) To assess the uniformity of thermal resistance of an immersion suit derived from different manikins to attempt to quantify the errors caused by methodology, tools and calculation methods.
- (2) To evaluate the difference in thermal resistance output between manikin and human for the same immersion suit.

3.0 THERMAL MANIKIN

A Measurement Technology Northwest (Seattle, Washington, USA) NEMO 23zone submersible thermal manikin was used in this study (Figure 1). Its stature represents a 50th percentile adult North American male, weighting 71 kg. The manikin shell is made of aluminium.

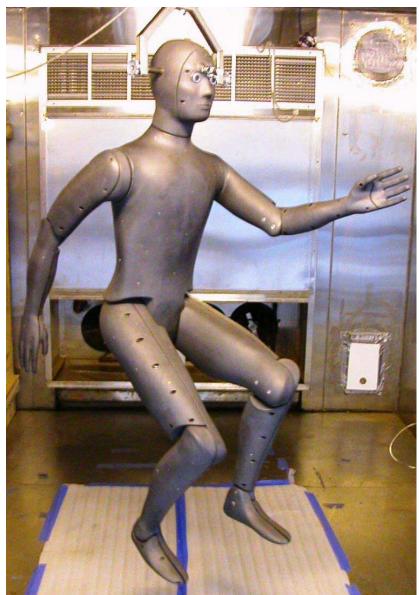


Figure 1. NEMO 23-zone submersible thermal manikin

The 23 independently heated thermal zones are shown in Figure 2. Each thermal zone is equipped with heaters to generate uniform heating of the aluminium shell and two precision thermistors to measure skin temperature.

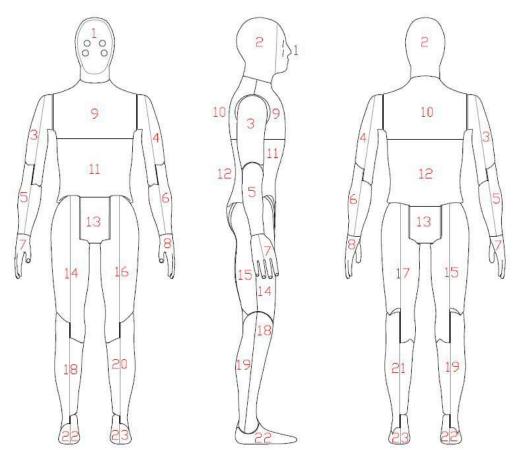


Figure 2. NEMO submersible thermal manikin zones

The main components of the thermal manikin are shown in Figure 3 and include:

- Thermal manikin with heaters, sensors and internal controllers for regulation and monitoring
- Power supply enclosure which includes the heater power supply, ground isolation meter, serial data converter module, master zone controller, and an air pressure regulator.
- Ambient sensors (2 temperature, 1 relative humidity and 1 wind speed)
- Interconnect cabling and air pressure supply hose
- Laptop with ThermDAC control software.

The NEMO thermal manikin operates on 60Hz AC electrical power, 200-250 VAC with a maximum current of 20 Amps.

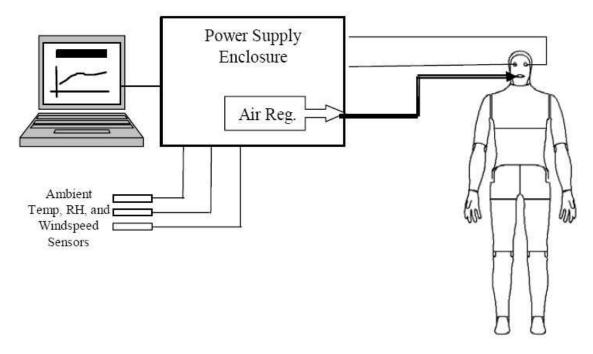


Figure 3. Thermal Manikin Block Diagram

The ThermDAC control software is a 32-bit Windows based program that controls, records and displays real-time zone information numerically and graphically. Each thermal zone is individually controlled using either a temperature control, constant heat flux or comfort equation output.

ThermDAC is a fully automated data acquisition and control program. It has two independent methods of data logging. Full Data logging provides a complete data set of the entire run, at user selectable intervals. Steady State logging will write steady state average values to the file once the system has stabilized. These logging methods can be used individually or together. ThermDAC also includes an automatic steady state detection, which can initiate data logging.

Tests generate comma delimited (*.CSV) data files suitable for direct importing into Excel or any other Windows compatible spreadsheet program. The data file contains a header with the data file name, test date, comments entered at test start, setpoint, and logging interval. The data consists of a time stamp, followed by, in order, all zone temperatures, all zone heat fluxes, area weighted average temperature, area weighted heat flux, area weighted thermal resistance, ambient temperature, and relative humidity.

4.0 TEST FACILITIES

The thermal manikin tests were conducted in the model preparation shop. The tests in water were conducted in a 7' long x 4.5' wide x 7' high aluminium tank (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Aluminum tank for thermal manikin tests

For circulation, a pump (Taco Inc., Cartridge circulator Model 0013-F3 1/6 HP, R.I. USA) (Figure 5) extracted water from the bottom of the tank, circulated it to 67.3 cm below the still waterline, where it was dispersed back into the tank through a series of holes on the pipes mounted along the inside tank perimeter (see Figure 6). The average water circulation velocity measured using a current meter (Nortek AS, Vectrino probe, Norway) is shown in Table 1.

	Velocity [m/s]			
Position	Average	Standard Deviation		
Manikin Head	0.01	0.01		
Manikin Chest	0.04	0.01		
Manikin Buttock	0.08	0.02		
Manikin Knee	0.05	0.01		
Manikin Foot	0.02	0.00		

Table 1. Water circulation velocity



Figure 5. Circulation pump

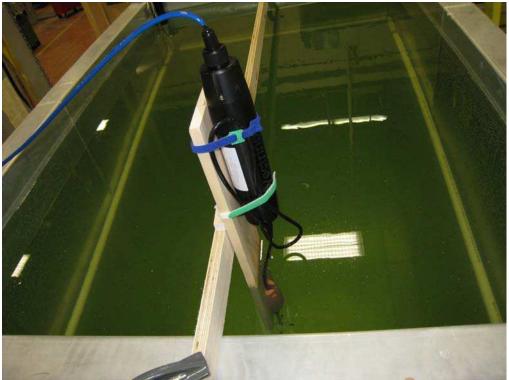


Figure 6. Underwater pipes mounted along the inside tank perimeter for circulation and sonic current probe for measuring flow velocity

5.0 TEST METHODOLOGY

The round robin test protocol was documented in Appendix A. It documents the protocol for manikin tests in air and in water and human subject tests.

The manikin constant temperature control mode was used in all the tests. The set point temperature of each zone was specified at 35°C. The thermal manikin test was terminated when it reached a steady state, with average surface temperatures of all zones steady within 0.005 °C of the set point temperature and constant average heat flux with standard deviation of less than 0.2 W/m² for 15 consecutive minutes.

The zone thermal resistance and the overall thermal resistance calculated using the parallel method are shown in equations 1 and 2 respectively.

$$R_i = \frac{(T_{skin} - T_{amb})}{Q / A}$$

Equation 1

where

 R_i = Zone thermal resistance T_{skin} = Zone average temperature T_{amb} = Ambient temperature Q/A = Area weighted heat flux

$$R_{wtd}(parallel) = \frac{1}{\Sigma(A_i / (A_{tot} R_i))}$$
 Equation 2

where

 $R_{wtd}(\mbox{parallel})$ = Thermal resistance calculated using the parallel method R_i = Zone resistance

Ai = Zone surface area

 $A_{tot} = Total surface area$

The tests at NRC-IOT were not conducted with water and air temperature of between 0°C and 2°C for insulated suits and 5°C for non-insulated suits as suggested in the test protocol. It is believed that thermal resistance tests with thermal manikin require only a sufficient temperature gradient. Unlike human subject testing, the absolute temperature should not matter. NRC-IOT has facilities that can conducted manikin tests in the required water and air temperatures, for example the ice tank, but these facilities were unavailable during the duration of this test.

The test conditions were detailed in the "Results and Discussion" section. The air temperature ranged between 20.4°C and 22.8°C. The water temperature varied

from 10.1°C to 19.8°C, depending on the time elapsed between the experiments and when the tank was filled.

When the tank was initially filled with tap water, it was approximately 10°C. As the water warmed up over time to air temperature, different tests were conducted to investigate the variability of thermal resistance in the following cases –

(i) Non-uniform cooling where air and water temperature are very different

(ii) Uniform cooling where air and water temperature are roughly the same We also studied the variability of thermal resistance in using the following as T_{amb} temperature in Equation 1 –

- (i) Average water and air temperature and
- (ii) Water temperature

The manikin's test clothing was supplied by ISO and comprised of one pair of socks, one pair of briefs, one white inner T-shirt (100% cotton), one blue outer T-shirt (100% cotton), one pair of jeans (100% cotton) and one sweater (80% wool; 20% acrylic). The ISO also supplied a non-insulated suit, an insulated suit and a SOLAS RTD lifejacket (SOS Inc., USCG Model 2000 SOLAS Reference Vest S/N 020) to be put on top of the test clothing.

Prior to testing, the manikin was dressed. We first put on the socks. Then we put on its briefs and white T-shirt without tucking it in. After that, we put on the blue T-shirt, followed by the jeans. The T-shirts were tucked under the jeans. Then, we put on the sweater, with its sleeves rolled up at the wrists. Lastly, we put on immersion suit and the SOLAS RTD lifejacket.

For tests in water, we first matched the manikin's floating position to those of human subjects from SINTEF (Table 2) on land inside a frame to within ± 0.5 cm (Figure 7). Then, the whole frame with the manikin was submerged in water. In so doing, we only required minor adjustments of the manikin's floating position when it was in water. A final measurement check was conducted to make sure the manikin floating position is comparable to the averaged floating position of human subjects at SINTEF to within ± 0.5 cm.

	Positioning above/below water (cm)					
Subject #	Heel Knee Buttock Corner of mout					
1	-15.0	+6.0	-30.0	+11.0		
2	-13.0	+6.0	-28.0	+13.0		
3	-16.0	+5.0	-29.0	+12.0		
4	-11.0	+3.0	-29.0	+11.0		
5	-15.0	+7.0	-31.0	+12.0		
6	-13.5	+6.0	-25.0	+13.0		
Average	-13.9	+5.5	-28.7	+12.0		

Table 2. Floating position of human subjects at SINTEF, Norway

Nylon straps (1" wide) at the ankles, knee joints and the chest fastened the manikin in the frame, so there is very little vertical and horizontal movement within the frame. This prevented the buoyancy of the manikin from disrupting the manikin's floating position. During submergence, the corners of the frame were fastened to four ropes. Each rope passed through a pulley at the bottom of each corner of the tank and came up to a spring loaded rope attachment cleat at the top of each corner of the tank. By adjusting the length of the ropes, the frame can be submerged to any depth desired.

A shortcoming of this technique to restrain the manikin floating position was that it compressed the insulation and the air layer where the straps are located. A restrain mechanism is necessary though. Without it, the manikin would be floating in its natural position, which would be very different from the floating position of a human. It is believed that the adverse effect of restraining the manikin this way is minimal because the contact area of the straps is only about 3% of the manikin surface area.



Figure 7. Manikin flotation position matched in a frame on land

6.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The thermal resistance results measured in air are summarized in Table 3. The results showed that the thermal resistance values obtained were repeatable, with variation in the range of 0.5%.

Test No.	Test Description	Air Temp	Relative Humidity	Thermal Resistance		
		[ºC]	[%]	[m ² ^o C/W]	[Clo]	
A1	Manikin wearing only test clothing.	21.5	14.2	0.218	1.406	
		21.7	13.9	0.219	1.413	
A2	Manikin wearing <u>non-</u> insulated immersion suit and SOLAS RTD	21.3	12.6	0.378	2.438	
	lifejacket over test clothing.	21.2	12.1	0.379	2.445	
A3	Manikin wearing insulated immersion suits and SOLAS RTD	21.5	11.2	0.398	2.567	
	lifejacket over test clothing.	21.3	10.9	0.4	2.580	

Table 3. Thermal Resistance Measured in Air

The thermal resistance tests measured in air are shown in Figure 8. In Test A1, the manikin was supported from its hanging bracket at the head. In Tests A2 and A3, the manikin was supported at the arms by slings, so the hood of the suits could cover the manikin's head.



(A)





(C) Figure 8. Thermal Resistance Measured in Air – (A) Manikin in Test Clothing (B) Manikin in Non-Insulated Suit and (C) Manikin in Insulated Suit

The thermal resistance tests in water are shown in Figure 9.

(A)

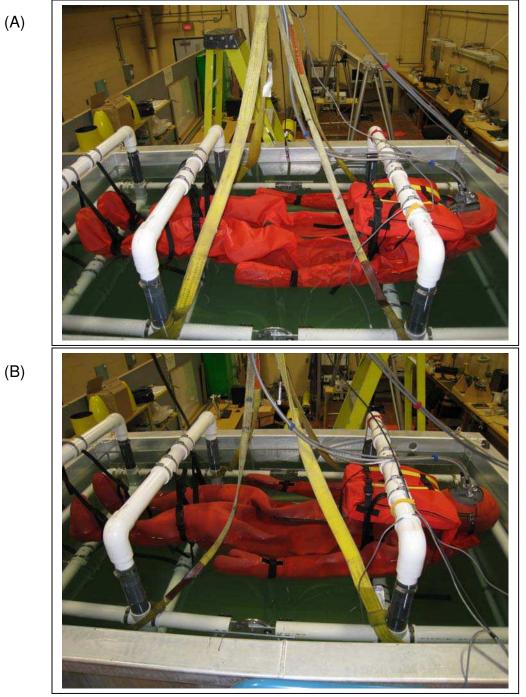


Figure 9. Thermal Resistance Measured in Water – (A) Manikin in Non-Insulated Suit and (B) Manikin in Insulated Suit

The thermal resistance results measured in water for non-insulated and insulated suits are summarized in Table 4 and Table 5 respectively. Tests WN1 and WN2 in Table 4, and Tests WI1 and WI2 in Table 5 were non-uniform cooling conditions, where the water temperature and air temperature were very different. Test WN3 in Table 4 and Test WI3 in Table 5 were approximate uniform cooling conditions, where the water and air temperature were roughly the same, within 2 °C.

Test No.	Test Description	Air Temp [⁰C]	Water Temp [ºC]	Relative Humidity [%]	Thermal F [m ² ^o C/W]	lesistance [Clo]
WN1	probes in water. Air	21.3 ¹	14.0	18.2	0.104	0.671
and water temperatures very different (non-uniform cooling).	22.2 ¹	14.2	18.3	0.101	0.651	
WN2	WN2 One manikin temperature probe in water, another in air. Air and water temperatures very different (non-uniform cooling).	20.4	14.3	18.2	0.085	0.548
		20.4	14.6	18.3	0.085	0.548
WN3	Manikin temperature probes in water. Air	21.7 ¹	19.7	28.3	0.082	0.529
	and water temperatures roughly the same (uniform cooling).	21.9 ¹	19.8	18.3	0.083	0.535

Table 4. Thermal Resistance Measured in Water - Manikin wearing <u>non-insulated</u> <u>immersion suit</u> and SOLAS RTD lifejacket over test clothing.

Ideally, for non-uniform cooling conditions, one should account for the portion of each zone exposed to air or water, and compute the thermal resistance value accordingly using the appropriate temperature gradient. Also, inter-zone heat transfer needs to be minimized. Since it is not possible in the current test to determine the areas of each zone exposed to air and water accurately and there

¹ Air temperature recorded by a handheld electronic thermometer (Omega engineering, Model HH311 Handheld Temperature and Humidity Meter, USA (Temperature measurement accuracy is ± 0.7 °C and relative humidity measurement accuracy is 2.5%)).

is no mechanism to restrict inter-zone heat transfer in NEMO's design, we approximated uniform cooling by conducting the tests when air and water temperature were approximately the same. The thermal resistance for non-insulated immersion suit and insulated immersion suit were 0.532 clo and 1.355 clo respectively (from tests WN3 and WI3).

Test Test No. Description		Air Temp	Water Temp	Relative Humidity	Thermal Resistance	
	[ºC]	[ºC]	[%]	[m ² ^o C/W]	[Clo]	
WI1	probes in water. Air	22.3 ¹	10.1	25.3	0.233	1.503
and water temperatures very different (non-uniform cooling).	22.8 ¹	10.3	25.8	0.232	1.496	
WI2	WI2 One manikin temperature probe in water, another in air. Air and water temperatures very different (non-uniform cooling).	21.4	10.6	26.1	0.162	1.045
		21.5	11.0	26.3	0.161	1.038
WI3	Manikin temperature probes in water. Air and water temperatures roughly the same (uniform cooling).	21.3 ¹	19.9	21.7	0.210	1.355

Table 5. Thermal Resistance Measured in Water - Manikin wearing <u>insulated</u> <u>immersion suit</u> and SOLAS RTD lifejacket over test clothing.

While the water temperature warmed up slowly to air temperature, we also conducted tests to assess the variability in thermal resistance under non-uniform cooling conditions. In WN1 and WI1 cases, both manikin temperature probes were placed in water. T_{amb} in Equation 1 was the average water temperature measured. In WN2 and WI2 cases, one manikin temperature probe was in air while the other was in water. T_{amb} in Equation 1 was the average water and air temperature measured.

The thermal manikin was exposed to basically the same cooling conditions in WN1 and WN2 cases, as observed in the air temperature, water temperature and

relative humidity. The manikin flotation postures were not changed in the frame between tests. So, the only explanation for differences in thermal resistance is the T_{amb} used. As expected, if T_{amb} is the average of water and air temperatures, thermal resistance was lower than if water temperature was used as T_{amb} . As can be seen, the thermal resistance of both non-uniform cooling cases can differ significantly from the uniform cooling case depending on how the ambient temperature was measured, inter-zone heat transfer etc. This can cause complication when manikin results are cross-compared among laboratories. The maximum difference in thermal resistance measured between uniform and nonuniform cooling is 25% for non-insulated suit and 23% for insulated suit.

There was no leak in the insulated suit. However, there was leak in the noninsulated suit. The non-insulated suit was repaired prior to the experiment but there was still leak during the experiment. It was unclear where the leak occurred. It was estimated that there was 0.285 kg of water in the suit by weighting the suit before and after the experiment.

The results also showed that the thermal resistance values obtained were repeatable, with variation typically in the range of 1% within a test condition. The largest variation was 3%.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Under uniform cooling conditions, constant temperature control mode of thermal manikins and the parallel method can be used to determine thermal resistance. Under non-uniform cooling conditions, further research and development needs to be conducted before thermal manikins could be used with confidence for suit evaluation.

A leak in the non-insulated suit complicated the determination of the true thermal resistance.

To provide scientific evidence that manikin can be used as an evaluation tool for immersion suits, it is also important to assess the thermal resistance of humans and manikins in the same environmental conditions concurrently in the same laboratory.

APPENDIX A

Round Robin test protocol of thermal protective test for immersion suits (5th version)

2007/12/6

1. The purpose of the RR test Phase one: To compare the results of three manikins Phase two: Evaluation of the correlation between manikin and human subject

2. Perticipating test house
Research Institute of Marine Engineering
Cord Group
Hohenstein
National Research Council - Institute for Ocean Technology
SINTEF

3. Test specimen (Immersion suits) and size

3.1 Insulated immersion suits

3.2 Non-insulated immersion suits

Suits size: Universal size for three manikins and also universal size for human subjects Test specimens have been prepared and distributed by Viking.

4. Standard test clothing

Based on ISO 15027-3 paragraph 3.8.1.2 for both insulated and non-insulated suits and they have been already distributed by Viking.

a) cotton underwear (short-sleeved, short-legged)

b) long-sleeved heavy cotton shirt

c) cotton trousers

d) woollen socks, calf length

e) woollen long sleeved pullover

5. Schedule of the RR test

After the test protocol is agreed within the members, the manikin test will be conducted as soon as possible.

After comparable results with manikins are reported, the human test will be conducted.

6. Test procedure for thermal manikin test

6.1 Donning of clothing and immersion suits

a. Weigh the mass of immersion suit and test clothing before the test in dry and after the test.

b. Manikin is to be worn only test clothing and clo is to be measured in air.

c. Manikin is to be worn immersion suits over test clothing and clo is to be measured in air.

6.2 Water temperature and air temperature

The manikin test may be conducted in either water and air temperature of between 0°C and +2°C for insulated suits and +5°C for non-insulated suits, or sufficient low temperature to measure thermal resistance of immersion suits. The water temperature should be measured at a place of at least [100mm] apart from the manikin.

6.3 Floating position (Option A)

Similar position as human subject:

Floating position of human subject wearing immersion suits and SOLAS RTD life jacket need to be measured before the manikin test.

[Half lower side of forearms and hands of manikin should be placed in the water.]

6.4 Water inside the suits (Option A) None (Dry)

6.5 Trapped air in suits

Trapped air in suits should be purged with immersing the manikin in water to the top of shoulder before the manikin test.

6.6 Calm circulating water

Method of circulating water and approximate circulating speed shall be reported.

6.7 Measurement and record items

To obtain heat resistance, surface temperature of the manikin, outside surrounding fluid temperature (water and air) and heat generation from manikin will be necessary to be measured in the appropriate way for each manikin.

The manikin may be operated with all segments at the same surface temperature, or with constant heat generation per unit area for each segment.

6.8 Test procedure and control method of manikin Test procedure and control method of manikin should be reported.

6.9 Test report and record

Detailed test method and measured result will be reported to the group.

Digital pictures of various stages of the set up as well as the test set up should be taken as far as possible.

7. Test procedure for human test (basically same as ISO 15027-3)

7.1 Test subjects

Test subjects shall be volunteers and shall have signed an informed consent. Due to the nature of this test, different test subjects to those used in the other tests can be required. Each subject shall be familiarised with the test procedure, medically screened, and their fat content shall be measured prior to the start of the test. Each subject shall be between 1 600 mm and 1 900 mm tall and shall not be more than 10 % overweight or underweight for his height and physical type as determined by a physician or physiologist or from published physiological data. Each subject shall have had a normal night's sleep before the test, a well balanced meal 1 h to 5 h before the test, and no alcoholic beverages for 24 h prior to the test. In addition to the suit system, each subject shall wear the test clothing described in 4.

The testing laboratory has to take care of the safety of the test subjects by medical checkup, monitoring and reporting the test by a physician. The preparation, the test and the follow-up have to be supervised by a physician experienced with the medical treatment of hypothermia. For the preparation of the tests ISO 9886, ISO 10551 and ISO/DIS 12894:1997 should be considered.

7.2 Principles

NOTE: The testing of immersion suits using test subjects is based on sound and proven procedures used for tests under SOLAS rules. The procedures are comparable and the results can be used vice versa. This will reduce the amount of tests for the benefit of users, manufacturers and test subjects.

The test of EN ISO 15027 class A will correspond with an insulated SOLAS suit, whereas class D will be comparable to an uninsulated SOLAS suit. The ISO classes B and C will fit in-between.

As an upgrade to SOLAS procedures, the amount of temperature transducers will be improved to at least 10 spots on skin and the measurement of the rectal temperature, see Figure 3.

The test shall be conducted in calm but circulated water with a temperature as specified by the different procedures.

The air temperature shall be < 10 °C. Each test subject will be fitted with specified amount of temperature transducers placed at the following spots as shown in Figure 3. The transducers shall be capable of measuring the surface temperature (accuracy 0,2 °C).

Figure 3 - Position of measuring sites

Mean skin temperature (MST) shall be calculated according to Figure 3

MST = (0,07 * S1 + 0,175 * S3 + 0,175 * S4 + 0,07 * S5 + 0,07 * S6 + 0,05 * S7 + 0,19 * S10 + 0,2 * S13). Mean Body Temperature (MBT) will be calculated as:

MBT = (0.5 * TR + 0.5 * MST)

7.3 Procedure

7.3.1 General

Following the placement of the transducers on the body, the test subjects shall don a suit system and be dressed with all primary and secondary closures secured. The test subjects shall enter the still water and assume a relaxed position.

Suit system insulation for the conditions shall be determined when the MST becomes stable (MST shall not change by more than 0,5 °C for a period not less than 15 min). The test shall be stopped if the test subject's core temperature has fallen more than 2 °C and/or the skin temperature has reached 10 °C at any of the transducers for more than 15 min.

7.3.2 Trapped air in suits

Trapped air in suits should be purged with immersing the test subject in water to the top of shoulder before the test.

7.3.3 Class A suit system (insulated immersion suits) Six test subjects as specified shall be exposed for a time of 6 h to water with a temperature < 2 °C.

7.3.4 Class D suit system (non-insulated immersion suits) Six test subjects as specified shall be exposed for a time of 1 h to water with a temperature < 5 °C.