

AGEING RESISTANCE OF PAPER

Information provided by Steinbeis Papier GmbH

Paper used in public administration must meet ageing resistance requirements. ISO 9706 and DIN 6738, Lifespan Classes (LCs) 24–85 are standards used in tendering procedures for paper suppliers. With the new ISO 20494 standard, you can now meet the highest demands relating to archivability.

ISO 9706

With this standard, the ageing resistance is assessed based on the composition of the paper. This approach essentially excludes certain types of paper – irrespective of whether they are resistant to ageing in line with the latest findings. This applies to recycled paper, for example, due to its lignin content, even though it has been scientifically proven that the lignin content has no influence on the paper's ageing resistance.

DIN 6738

This standard assesses the ageing resistance using a process in which paper samples are subjected to accelerated ageing tests in a laboratory. The paper is then sorted into one of four different Lifespan Classes (LCs), depending on the result of the test. Paper types in the highest group, LCs 24–85, are considered resistant to ageing. In this standard there is no specification relating to the pH-neutral or alkaline manufacture of the paper nor the alkali reserve, which is fundamental to preventing decay. However, the pH-neutral or alkaline method has been the benchmark in European paper production for a number of years.

ISO 20494

The new ISO 20494 standard takes into account the essential elements of ISO 9706 and DIN 6738 along with the scientific findings of recent years. The paper's ageing-resistant requirements thus relate to its stability after accelerated ageing, the pH value and alkali reserve.

Update your archivability requirements in your paper tendering procedures. The international ISO 20494 standard is an extension of DIN 6738 and takes into account important parameters of ISO 9706. It is based on the findings from the latest research. All relevant aspects have been taken into account here and leave no doubt as to the archivability of different types of paper.