

**Minutes of TelCo Test Methods Work Group**

Date of the Meeting: 2022-05-25, 11:00 – 12:00

Participants

## Members WG

|                  |    |   |
|------------------|----|---|
| Bathsheba Fulton | BF | ✓ |
| Ralf Rönisch     | RR | ✓ |
| Thorsten Meier   | TM |   |
| David Vanraes    | DV |   |
| Klaus Menzel     | KM | ✓ |
| Uwe Maurieschat  | UM | ✓ |
| Jürgen Pomorin   | JP | ✓ |
| Karsten Seitz    | KS | ✓ |

## Others

|                   |    |   |
|-------------------|----|---|
| Reinhard Storbeck | RS | ✓ |
|-------------------|----|---|

Chair of Meeting: KS

Minutes: KS

Date of the Minutes: 2022-05-29

The meeting was performed as TelCo via TEAMS. After the welcome, topics were addressed as follows:

**TOP I          Agenda, minutes of last TelCo, Competition Law**

Agenda adopted as proposed, minutes of TelCo 2022-03-23 accepted. In addition to Top III, a brief discussion on the upcoming Round Robin was agreed.

Attachment 1 “Draft Agenda...”

The necessity to comply with EU competition law addressed by KS, attached compliance charts shown and explained. No questions on the topic.

Attachment 2 “Compliance Charts”

**TOP II          Test Method “dynamic shear”**

Just informative: Nine participants are taking part, see attachment 3. Meanwhile, most of the participants have received the samples.

Nitto will have to use slightly deviating surface quality of the steel plates, Lohmann will have some deviating geometry of the plates.

Measurements are expected to be finalized within June.

### **TOP III          Proposal for new test method, incl results of TC polling and Round Robin for standard test methods**

The idea from an Afera member (?) that the WG may work on a method to determine UV stability of tapes was conveyed via JP and Martijn Verhagen, however, without further specific details.

➡ Decision of the WG: Further test methods will be addressed according to the results of the respective polling within the TC. The idea “UV stability” goes into the backlog.

The results of the polling are shown in attachment 4.

- Clear winner is the proposal to work on methods to determine biodegradability – Focus on tapes.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> comes “characterization of creep behaviour, alternative to current static shear”.

➡ Decision of the WG: First priority is the work on the TM manual, see TOP IV. Only when the resource situation for this task allows, the new activities will be started.

Round Robin: There will be 11 participants, see attachment 5. Decision on the tapes to be used:

- Single sided acrylic PET tape from tesa - product number t.b.d.
- Single sided rubber cloth tape: Coroplast 839
- We will use the 19 mm dimension for the 180° peel on steel and 25 mm dimension for the adhesion to backing. => tapes have to be provided in both dimensions.

Sampling process at tesa and Coroplast can be started, however:

➡ Decision of the WG: Sending of the samples and kick-off of measurements will start only after the measurements for the dyn. shear method are finalized and the results are available. KS and RS will communicate to the participants accordingly.

### **TOP IV          Test Manual**

According to the decisions of the previous meetings, KS has worked out a rationale to contextualise these decisions, see charts 1, 7 and 8 of attachment 6.

- Benchmarking with relevant standards has shown that Afera methods are to a large part identical in text to those benchmarks, including a lot of “oddities”.
- Few critical mistakes that must be corrected.
- Guideline is to change as little as possible, to come close to benchmarks and not to sacrifice equivalence of Afera Standards to PSTC GTFs and ENs.

The rationale was agreed in the group and will be the basis for further activities and communications, also.

Important for our work are the PSTC methods, as mentioned above. RR had attended a PSTC Meeting in May and provided some information on the current status of test method work at PSTC: The technical group within PSTC that worked on the topic does not seem to be active anymore. Currently, PSTC focus their activities on economically attractive events, seminars, trainings and the like. It is unclear whom to approach for issues like whether we can use pictures from their manual or whom to discuss changes in the GTFs with. RR suggested that we should officially contact Laura Donkus from DOW and Andreas Meier from tesa NA.

➡ KS will talk to Andreas, depending on the outcome we will contact Laura, accordingly. Details to be agreed between KS and RR.

Changes in the Test Methods: KS has worked out amended drafts for all methods, based on the rationale described above. The drafts have been uploaded to the Afera website:

- Technical committee -> Test Methods Working Group -> Drafts of the amended test methods
- <https://www.afera.com/members-only/technical-committee/drafts-of-amended-test-methods.html>

The files can be viewed and downloaded, also. In the download version, with mark ups activated, the changes become visualized.

➡ Decision that we will have a cross-check of all the drafts by members of the WG, following a “4-eyes-principle”. KS will provide a list assigning a part of the methods to each member of the WG and will make appointments with each of them to review.

➡ Decision that RS and KS will inform the TC that the drafts are available for feedback from the TC.

To proceed further, we must find an agency that will work on a new layout and work on improvement of a number of technical drawings. Both topics must go in parallel to the further work on the text contents in order to keep the timeline (final draft until next TC meeting).

➡ BF will discuss in Afera and initiate process with agency, accordingly.

For the new layout, the group agreed to use the one (or very similar) to the one proposed by KS – see chart 15 of attachment 6.

Attachment 7 lists the findings and changes per method, done so far by KS – charts 3 – 21. It can be used as an additional reference and orientation for the cross-check.

The list contains a number of questions (marked in red) to be discussed in the group. Due to time constraints, only a few questions could be addressed:

- New title for 5001 (Peel)? Accepted as proposed
- Add conditioning times although they are not in PSTC or in ENs? No
- Work on clarification of procedure of 4015 (Quick Stick)? No
- Afera 5012 (static shear) needs a more fundamental revision, KS and TM will work on it and discuss with PSTC.

Karsten Seitz