

44 Measurement and estimation of Indoor clothing insulation
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Standards and handbooks have been developed by Organizations such as the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers and the International Standardization Organization which specify the environmental conditions that are thermally acceptable to most people at different levels of clothing insulation and metabolic activity. For example, ISO 7730, ASHRAE 55-1 981, and Chapter 8 of ASHRAE Handbook - 1981 Fundamentals are documents concerning the thermal comfort of people in indoor environments.

It is necessary for users of these documents to determine what types of clothing provide different amounts of insulation. In addition, researchers who study man/environment systems often need to control or vary clothing insulation levels experimentally. The purpose of this study was: (1) to expand the current data base of insulation clothing values for garments and clothing ensembles commonly worn in indoor environments, and (2) to develop and compare different methods for estimating clothing insulation.

The clo values of 115 different garments and 60 representative ensembles were measured using a standing, electrically-heated manikin in a climate-controlled chamber. Regression analysis was used to relate a number of variables to garments and ensemble insulation. A new computer model which calculates local and total body heat loss (or clothing insulation) was also developed. The model divides the body into 12 main segments which may be further divided into subsegments so that each one represents a uniformly clothed area of the body surface.

Results indicated that garment insulation values can be predicted with accuracy from fabric thickness and the amount of body surface area covered by the garment.

Together, ensemble weight (without shoes) and the amount of body surface area covered by different numbers of fabric layers are fairly good predictors of ensemble insulation. Summation formulas which estimate ensemble insulation from the sum of the clo values of the component garments give relatively accurate predictions of ensemble clo values when the garment clo values are measured on a manikin or predicted with accuracy (this does not include estimating garment clo values from a prepared list).

The relative accuracy of the predictive equations and model was determined by calculating the standard deviation of error between measured and predicted insulation values. Standard deviations ranged from 0.06 to 0.20 clo for equations used to estimate garment insulation and from 0.09 to 0.22 clo for predicting ensemble insulation. The computer model provided the most accurate prediction of clothing insulation ($S = 0.09$).