

Draft Standards BS EN ISO 27668 for Gel Ink Ball Pens and Refills

The first ISO standards defining the minimum quality requirements of **Ball Point Pens and Refills (ISO 12757-1 & 2)** and the **Roller Ball Pens and Refills (ISO 14145-1 & 2)** have been published since 1998. In view of the market needs, similar ISO standards are now in draft (**ISO/DIS 27668-1 & 2**) for the **Gel Ink Ball Pens and Refills**. The British Standards Institution (BSI) has adopted these ISO drafts as the **Draft BS EN ISO 27668** standards and with them published on January 18, 2008 for invitation of comments. The last date to response comments is on April 30, 2008.

The **Draft BS EN ISO 27668 “Gel Ink Ball Pens and Refills”** consists of 2 parts:

- **Part 1: General Use**
- **Part 2: Documentary Use (DOC)**

Both establish the minimum quality requirements (**Table 1**) and are applicable for gel ink ball pens (refillable and non-refillable) and refills.



For gel ink ball pens and refills for documentary use, some requirements in addition to those for general use, are necessary (a) to assure the legibility of lettering, and (b) for the handling and storage of documents during long periods of time (these requirements are often discussed with the archivist). Furthermore, pens which meet the requirements for documentary use produce lines which are more resistant to modification (e.g., attempts to falsify a document) than those for general use.

Similar standards related to **Gel Ink Ball Pens and Refills** are also available in some other countries such as:

- **Japan: JIS S 6061: 2005**
- **China: QB/T 2625-2003**

Table 1 – Applicable Quality Requirements for Gel Ink Ball Pens and Refills

| Requirements | Draft BS EN ISO 27668 | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | Part 1: General Use | Part 2: Documentary Use |
| 1) Tip Classification | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Ultra Fine / Extra Fine / Fine / Medium / Broad | | |
| 2) Shapes and Dimensions of Refills | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3) Performance | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Writing Performance | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Strike Through | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Drying Time | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Reproducibility | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Water Resistance | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Light Resistance | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Cap-off Time | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Shelf Life | ✓ | ✓ |
| ▪ Erasure Resistance | --- | ✓ |
| ▪ Ethanol Resistance | --- | ✓ |
| ▪ Hydrochloric Acid Resistance | --- | ✓ |
| ▪ Ammonium Hydroxide Resistance | --- | ✓ |
| ▪ Bleaching Resistance | --- | ✓ |

As your key business partner, STR-HK offers Testing on Stationery Items to ensure your products are safe for marketing worldwide!

Specialized Technology Resources (H.K.) Ltd. has obtained HOKLAS accreditation on various stationery and toy safety standards. For details of our HOKLAS scope of accreditation, please visit: <http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hoklas/036.pdf>

For enquires or other information on stationery, toys and reliability testing, please contact STR at:

Email: Toys.enquiry@strhk.com / Telephone: 852-29434676

or visit our website at <http://www.strhk.com> or <http://www.strcn.com>