
**Space systems — Liquid rocket
engines and test stands — Terms and
definitions**

*Systèmes spatiaux — Moteurs de fusée liquides et stands d'essai —
Termes et définitions*

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
www.iso.org

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Space systems and operations*.

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Introduction

This International Standard is intended to be applied for all types of rocket engines which use a liquid propellant.

The terms in this International Standard are specified in scope of design, testing, reliability analysis and quality control of liquid rocket engines.

The terms are intended to be required for use in all types of documentation and literature including in scope of standardization or using results of this activity.

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Space systems — Liquid rocket engines and test stands — Terms and definitions

1 Scope

The International Standard provides terms and definitions in scope of design, testing, reliability analysis and quality control of liquid rocket engines. The terms are required for use in all types of documentation and literature including in the scope of standardization or using the results of this activity.

2 Terms and definitions

2.1 General

2.1.1

rocket engine

RE

reaction engine producing thrust for vehicle movement with the help of substances and energy sources contained within the vehicle being moved

2.1.2

liquid rocket engine

LRE

rocket engine (2.1.1) using propellants in liquid form

2.1.3

low-thrust engine

LTE

rocket engine (2.1.1) of a thrust not more than 5 000 N

2.1.4

liquid rocket propulsion system

propulsion system including engine, propellant tanks, avionics for control sub-systems, pressure vessels and control devices for pneumatic and hydraulic control sub-systems, propellant feed system, actuators for steering sub-systems, and auxiliary equipment

2.1.5

clustered engine

liquid rocket propulsion system (2.1.4) consisting of multiple *rocket engines* (2.1.1), common propellant tanks, and autonomous (independent) propellant feed systems

2.2 Engine units

2.2.1

chamber

engine assembly where propellant and/or gas generation products, as a result of chemical reactions, are converted into products of combustion, created at the expiration of the reactive force

2.2.2

turbo-pump

TP

engine component designed to pump propellant into the *chamber* (2.2.1), gas generator sets and automatic engine

2.2.3

booster turbo-pump

BTP

turbo-pump (2.2.2) engine support designed to increase propellant pressure in the pipelines to *pump* (2.20.1)

2.2.4

gas generator

unit of engine wherein propellant, as a result of chemical reaction, is converted in gaseous products of reaction at relatively low temperature

2.2.5

automatic engine controller

engine assembly designed for automatic control, regulation or maintenance of engine

2.3 Engine types by way of work process

2.3.1

engine with afterburning

engine where gas generation products after their use are used to drive the *turbo-pump* (2.2.2) assembly

2.3.2

engine without afterburning

engine where gas generation products after their use to drive the *turbo-pump* (2.2.2) assembly are released into the environment

Note 1 to entry: Engine without afterburning have a *pump* (2.20.1) or a pressurized fuel supply.

2.3.3

single-mode engine

engine with one major mode

2.3.4

multimode engine

engine with several basic modes

2.4 Engine types by multiplicity of use and integration

2.4.1

expendable engine

engine intended for a specific purpose and used only one time

2.4.2

nonexpendable engine

engine intended for a specific purpose and used multiple times

2.4.3

single-start engine

engine started only once for a specific purpose

2.4.4

multi-start engine

restartable engine

engine started multiple times for one specific purpose

2.5 Engine types by purpose

2.5.1

main engine

engine intended to accelerate the space vehicle

2.5.2**correction engine**

engine intended to correct the speed during the correction of trajectory of the space vehicle

2.5.3**control engine**

engine intended to control the correction of the vector of the space vehicle in the active phase of the trajectory of motion

2.5.4**retrorocket engine**

engine intended to reduce the speed of the space vehicle

2.6 Low-thrust engine types by way of work process**2.6.1****catalytic engine**

LTE (2.1.3) where the transformation of propellant into gaseous chemical reaction products is performed with the help of a catalyst

2.6.2**thermo-catalytic engine**

catalytic *LTE* where the catalyst is heated by the external heat source

2.6.3**electro-thermo-catalytic engine**

thermo-catalytic *LTE* using an electrical source of energy

2.6.4**radio-thermo-catalytic engine**

thermo-catalytic *LTE* using a radioactive source of energy

2.6.5**thermal engine**

LTE (2.1.3) where the conversion of propellant in the gaseous products of chemical reactions is affected by heating the fuel from an external source of energy which increases their rate of expiration

Note 1 to entry: Energy is fed to the propellant or products of chemical reactions.

2.6.6**electro-thermal engine**

thermal *LTE* using an electrical energy source

2.6.7**radio-thermal engine**

thermal *LTE* using a radioactive energy source

2.6.8**electrolytic engine**

one-component of the *LTE* (2.1.3) where the electrolysis of the propellant is part of operating process

2.6.9**adjustable engine**

low-thrust engine (2.1.3) that has a device to change the thrust

2.7 General parameters and performance of engine**2.7.1****rated performance**

set of nominal values of the engine designated in the specifications

2.7.2

mass flow rate

mass of fluid passing a specified line or gate in unit time

2.7.3

volume flow rate

volume of fluid passing a specified line or gate in unit time

2.7.4

pre-start consumption

propellant mass consumption during the time interval from the first start command until the thrust build-up to a specified value equal to 5 % of the nominal

2.7.5

mixture ratio

ratio of oxidizer *mass flow rate* ([2.7.2](#)) to the fuel mass flow rate

2.7.6

volume ratio

ratio of oxidizer *volume flow rate* ([2.7.3](#)) to the fuel volume rate

2.7.7

pressure

<in chamber> average static pressure of combustion products at the beginning of the *combustion chamber* ([2.12.1](#)) at the mixing system chamber

2.7.8

pressure

<in gas generator> average static pressure of gas generation at the beginning of the *combustion chamber* ([2.12.2](#)) at the mixing system gas generator

2.7.9

combustion temperature

<in chamber> stagnation temperature of combustion products at the exit from the *combustion chamber* ([2.12.1](#))

2.7.10

combustion temperature

<in gas generator> stagnation temperature of gas generation at the exit from the *gas generator* ([2.2.4](#))

2.7.11

exhaust velocity

velocity of exhaust stream through the *nozzle* ([2.12.16](#)) or a reaction engine, relative to the nozzle

2.7.12

engine reactive force

gas and fluid flow resultant force acting on the thrust chamber internal surfaces resulting from the combustion gases

2.7.13

engine thrust

resultant of the *engine reactive force* ([2.7.12](#)) and the environment pressure forces acting on the engine external surfaces (excluding external aerodynamic drag forces)

2.7.14

engine impulse

time integral of engine thrust

2.7.15

cut-off impulse

impulse ([2.9.5](#)) of engine thrust for the time interval defining the engine tail-off

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2.7.16 specific impulse

ratio of engine thrust to the mass flow of propellant $\left(I_s = \frac{R}{\dot{m}} \right)$

Note 1 to entry: Thrust engine (chamber) specific impulse is converted in a vacuum and at sea level.

Note 2 to entry: Thrust engine (chamber) specific impulse is also an equalled derivative from the thrust engine (chamber) impulse by weight or volume of propellant consumed.

Note 3 to entry: For *LTE* (2.1.3), the term “specific impulse” is used for steady-state continuous mode, single inclusions mode and the steady-state impulse mode.

2.7.17 volume specific impulse

ratio of engine thrust to the propellant volume flow rate $\left(I_{s,v} = \frac{R}{\dot{v}} \right)$

2.7.18 thrust coefficient

ratio of chamber thrust to the product of the nozzle stagnation pressure (or chamber total pressure at nozzle inlet) and the area of nozzle throat

2.7.19 coefficient of specific impulse

ratio of actual specific impulse to the theoretical value that is defined by the same values of *mixture ratio* (2.7.5), the nozzle stagnation pressure or chamber total pressure at nozzle inlet

2.7.20 total coefficient of specific impulse

coefficient of *specific impulse* (2.7.16) defined at the *mixture ratio* (2.7.5) to be the maximum ideal value

2.7.21 consumable complex of chamber consumable complex

product of the combustion pressure in a given section of the *chamber* (2.2.1) to a nozzle throat area, referred to the mass flow of the propellant in chamber

Note 1 to entry: Given section of the *chamber* (2.2.1) is in analysis of camera characteristics stability during serial production [initial section of *combustion chamber* (2.12.1) at (near) *mixing system* (2.12.3)] and in analysis of multiphase flows (2.19.4) [initial section of *nozzle* (2.12.16)].

2.7.22 thrust complex

ratio of engine thrust chamber pressure and the product of combustion products in a given section of the *chamber* (2.2.1) for an area of minimum section of the *nozzle* (2.12.16)

Note 1 to entry: Thrust complex is also equal to the ratio of camera-specific impulse to *consumable complex* (2.7.19).

2.7.23 coefficient of consumable complex

ratio of the actual spending of the complex chamber rocket engine to the ideal that defined the same values of the ratio components fuel pressure in the *chamber* (2.2.1)

2.7.24 coefficient of nozzle flow coefficient of flow

ratio of the actual flow of gas through the rocket engine nozzle to the theoretical value, as defined under the same temperature and total pressure in the nozzle throat, under the conditions for the gas constant and the local adiabatic exponent

2.7.25

nozzle coefficient

ratio of the actual thrust coefficient in a vacuum to the ideal that defined the same values of the *mixture ratio* (2.7.5) and combustion pressure in the *chamber* (2.2.1) and the geometric expansion ratio nozzle

2.7.26

chamber coefficient

ratio of the real characteristic velocity in the *chamber* (2.2.1) to the ideal defined by the same values of the *mixture ratio* (2.7.5) and the combustion chamber pressure

2.7.27

characteristic velocity

product of the nozzle stagnation pressure and nozzle throat area, referred to the mass consumption of propellant in chamber

2.7.28

ideal parameter value

<of chamber> parameter value of *chamber* (2.2.1), corresponding to the equilibrium flow of combustion products in the absence outlet heat and friction

2.7.29

ideal parameter value

<of gas generator> parameter value of *gas generator* (2.2.4), corresponding to the equilibrium flow of products gas generation in the absence outlet heat and friction

2.7.30

wet mass

mass of engine designed with propellants and other consumption articles filling its pipelines and aggregates

2.7.31

relative mass

ratio of the *wet mass* (2.7.30) to the maximum thrust on the main steady-state operation

2.7.32

engine altitude characteristic

dependence of the thrust rocket engine on the environment pressure at constant values of the ratio of the propellant components and the pressure in the *chamber* (2.2.1)

2.7.33

engine throttle characteristic

dependence of the engine thrust from the chamber pressure at constant values of the *mixture ratio* (2.7.5) of propellants and the ambient pressure

2.8 Engine time characteristics, types of operating and resources

2.8.1

period of propellant flow

time interval from the moment of complete opening of the solenoid valve until it is completely closed

2.8.2

designed operating life

period of time during which the engine is expected to operate within its specified design parameters

2.8.3

engine operating time

operation duration and/or operation cycle number of the engine

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2.8.4**engine verification time**

mean time engine specified in the request for the proposal

2.8.5**engine specified resource**

engine operating time (2.8.3) specified in the request for the proposal

2.8.6**engine working resource**

total running time of engine during a specified period of service, used as directed

2.8.7**engine single working resource**

work resource of engines, or part thereof, during one cycle operation

2.8.8**engine designated resource**

total operating time after the expiry of which the use of the engine should be stopped

2.8.9**LTE total designated resource**

operation duration assigned for continuous and pulse modes

Note 1 to entry: In addition to total designated resource, for *LTE* (2.1.3), it is also determined designated resource according to the following:

- number of *inclusions* (2.9.8);
- duration at impulse mode;
- duration at continuous mode;
- total propellant consumption for catalytic LTE.

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catalytic LTE/iso-17540-2016

2.9 Low-thrust engine performance**2.9.1****full thruster impulse**

thruster impulse of *LTE* (2.1.3) at which the mean integrated value of thrust, or chamber pressure, is more or equal to 0,9 of the steady-state value of the thrust, or chamber pressure, for the firing

2.9.2**part-thrust impulse**

thruster impulse of *LTE* (2.1.3) at which the average integral value of thrust, or *pressure* (2.7.7) in the *chamber* (2.2.1), is less than 0,9 the steady-thrust, or pressure in the chamber, at a switch

2.9.3**unit impulse**

thruster impulse of *LTE* (2.1.3) or one firing (*on-time* (2.9.10)) in the pulse or single firing operation mode

2.9.4**total impulse**

thruster impulse of *LTE* (2.1.3) over the operating duration

2.9.5**impulse**

forceful impact of *LTE* (2.1.3) characterized by changes in traction or *pressure* (2.7.7) in the *chamber* (2.2.1) at the time of a switch