
**Guide for estimation of measurement un-
certainty in dosimetry for radiation pro-
cessing**

iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW

*Guide pour l'estimation de l'incertitude de mesure en dosimétrie
pour le traitement par irradiation*

[ISO/ASTM 51707:2015](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1ae568aa-a9eb-43c5-8d7f-d062ad064029/iso-astm-51707-2015)

[https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1ae568aa-a9eb-43c5-8d7f-
d062ad064029/iso-astm-51707-2015](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1ae568aa-a9eb-43c5-8d7f-d062ad064029/iso-astm-51707-2015)



Reference number
ISO/ASTM 51707:2015(E)

© ISO/ASTM International 2015

PDF disclaimer

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. Neither the ISO Central Secretariat nor ASTM International accepts any liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies and ASTM members. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the ISO Central Secretariat or ASTM International at the addresses given below.

iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW
(standards.iteh.ai)

[ISO/ASTM 51707:2015](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1ae568aa-a9eb-43c5-8d7f-d062ad064029/iso-astm-51707-2015)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1ae568aa-a9eb-43c5-8d7f-d062ad064029/iso-astm-51707-2015>

© ISO/ASTM International 2015

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester. In the United States, such requests should be sent to ASTM International.

ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700,
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, USA
Tel. +610 832 9634
Fax +610 832 9635
E-mail khooper@astm.org
Web www.astm.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

	Page
1 Scope	1
2 Referenced documents	1
3 Terminology	2
4 Significance and use	4
5 Basic concepts—components of uncertainty	4
6 Evaluation of Type A and Type B standard uncertainty	4
7 Examples of uncertainty budget components associated with absorbed dose measurements	5
8 Characterization of uncertainty components based on probability distributions	6
9 Statement of uncertainty	8
10 Uses of measurement uncertainty estimates	8
11 Keywords	9
Annexes	9
Bibliography	11
Figure 1 Normal distribution, also called Gaussian or “bell curve”, the most important continuous random distribution (JCGM 100:2008)	7
Figure 2 Rectangular distribution, also called continuous uniform distribution (JCGM 100:2008)	7
Table A2.1	10
Table A2.2	11

[ISO/ASTM 51707:2015](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1ae568aa-a9eb-43c5-8d7f-d062ad064029/iso-astm-51707-2015)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1ae568aa-a9eb-43c5-8d7f-d062ad064029/iso-astm-51707-2015>

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75% of the member bodies casting a vote.

ASTM International is one of the world's largest voluntary standards development organizations with global participation from affected stakeholders. ASTM technical committees follow rigorous due process balloting procedures.

A project between ISO and ASTM International has been formed to develop and maintain a group of ISO/ASTM radiation processing dosimetry standards. Under this project, ASTM Committee E61, Radiation Processing, is responsible for the development and maintenance of these dosimetry standards with unrestricted participation and input from appropriate ISO member bodies.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. Neither ISO nor ASTM International shall be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO/ASTM 51707 was developed by ASTM Committee E61, Radiation Processing, through Subcommittee E61.01, Dosimetry, and by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85, Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies and radiological protection.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/ASTM 51707:2005), which has been technically revised.



Standard Guide for Estimation of Measurement Uncertainty in Dosimetry for Radiation Processing¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation ISO/ASTM 51707; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision.

1. Scope

1.1 This standard provides guidance on the use of concepts described in the JCGM Evaluation of Measurement Data – Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) to estimate the uncertainties in the measurement of absorbed dose in radiation processing.

1.2 Methods are given for identifying, evaluating and estimating the components of measurement uncertainty associated with the use of dosimetry systems and for calculating combined standard measurement uncertainty and expanded (overall) uncertainty of dose measurements based on the GUM methodology.

1.3 Examples are given on how to develop a measurement uncertainty budget and a statement of uncertainty.

1.4 This document is one of a set of standards that provides recommendations for properly implementing dosimetry in radiation processing, and provides guidance for achieving compliance with the requirements of ISO/ASTM 52628 related to the evaluation and documentation of the uncertainties associated with measurements made with a dosimetry system. It is intended to be read in conjunction with ISO/ASTM 52628, ISO/ASTM 51261 and ISO/ASTM 52701.

1.5 This guide does not address the establishment of process specifications or conformity assessment.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate*

safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E170 Terminology Relating to Radiation Measurements and Dosimetry

E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics

2.2 ISO/ASTM Standards:²

51261 Practice for Calibration of Routine Dosimetry Systems for Radiation Processing

51608 Practice for Dosimetry in an X-Ray (Bremsstrahlung) Facility for Radiation Processing

51649 Practice for Dosimetry in an Electron Beam Facility for Radiation Processing at Energies Between 300 keV and 25 MeV

51702 Practice for Dosimetry in a Gamma Facility for Radiation Processing

52628 Practice for Dosimetry in Radiation Processing

52701 Guide for Performance Characterization of Dosimeters and Dosimetry systems for Use in Radiation Processing

2.3 ISO Documents:

ISO 11137-1 Sterilization of Health Care Products – Radiation – Requirements for Development, Validation and Routine Control of a Sterilization Process³

ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories⁴

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E61 on Radiation Processing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E61.01 on Dosimetry, and is also under the jurisdiction of ISO/TC 85/WG 3.

Current edition approved by ASTM Sept. 8, 2014. Published February 2015. Originally published as ASTM E 1707–95. Last previous ASTM edition E 1707–95^{e1}. ASTM E 1707–95^{e1} was adopted by ISO in 1998 with the intermediate designation ISO 15572:1998(E). The present International Standard ISO/ASTM 51707:2015(E) is a major revision of the last previous edition ISO/ASTM 51707:2005(E), which replaced ISO/ASTM 51707:2002(E).

² For referenced ASTM and ISO/ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, 1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 220, Arlington, VA 22201-4795, U.S.A.

⁴ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, CP 56, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.



2.4 *Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) Reports:*

JCGM 100:2008, GUM 1995, with minor corrections, Evaluation of measurement data – Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement⁵

JCGM 200:2008, VIM, International vocabulary of metrology – Basis and general concepts and associated terms⁶

2.5 *ICRU Reports:*⁷

ICRU Report 80 Dosimetry Systems for Use in Radiation Processing

ICRU Report 85a Fundamental Quantities and Units for Ionizing Radiation

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

NOTE 1—For definitions quoted here from VIM, only the text of the definition is kept here. Any NOTES or EXAMPLES are not included. They can be reviewed by referring to VIM (JCGM 200:2008).

3.2 Definitions:

3.2.1 *approved laboratory*—laboratory that is a recognized national metrology institute; or has been formally accredited to ISO/IEC 17025; or has a quality system consistent with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—A recognized national metrology institute or other calibration laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 should be used for irradiation of dosimeters or dose measurements for calibration in order to ensure traceability to a national or international standard. A calibration certificate provided by a laboratory not having formal recognition or accreditation will not necessarily be proof of traceability to a national or international standard.

3.2.2 *arithmetic mean, average* [GUM, C.2.19]—sum of values divided by the number of values:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \dots n \quad (1)$$

where:

x_i = individual values of parameters with $i = 1, 2, 3 \dots n$.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—The term ‘mean’ is used generally when referring to a population parameter and the term ‘average’ when referring to the result of a calculation on the data obtained in a sample.

3.2.3 *calibration curve* [VIM, 4.31]—expression of the relation between indication and corresponding measured quantity value.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—In radiation processing standards, the term “dosimeter response” is generally used for “indication”.

⁵ Document produced by Working Group 1 of the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM/WG 1). Available free of charge at the BIPM website (<http://www.bipm.org>).

⁶ Document produced by Working Group 2 of the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM/WG 2). Available free of charge at the BIPM website (<http://www.bipm.org>).

⁷ Available from International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 800 Bethesda, MD 20814, U.S.A.

3.2.4 *coefficient of variation (CV)*—sample standard deviation expressed as a percentage of sample average value (see 3.2.2 and 3.2.19):

$$CV = \frac{S}{\bar{x}} \times 100 \% \quad (2)$$

3.2.5 *combined standard measurement uncertainty* [VIM, 2.31]—standard measurement uncertainty that is obtained using the individual standard measurement uncertainties associated with the input quantities in a measurement model.

3.2.5.1 Discussion—

(1) It is also referred to as ‘combined standard uncertainty’.

(2) In case of correlations of input quantities in a measurement model, covariances must also be taken into account when calculating the combined standard measurement uncertainty.

3.2.6 *coverage factor (k)* [VIM, 2.38]—number larger than one by which a combined standard measurement uncertainty is multiplied to obtain an expanded measurement uncertainty.

3.2.6.1 *Discussion*—A coverage factor, k , is typically in the range of 2 to 3 (see 5.2.4).

3.2.7 *expanded uncertainty* [GUM, 2.3.5]—quantity defining the interval about the result of a measurement that may be expected to encompass a large fraction of the distribution of values that could reasonably be attributed to the measurand.

3.2.7.1 *Discussion*—Expanded uncertainty is obtained by multiplying the combined standard uncertainty by a coverage factor, the value of which determines the magnitude of the ‘fraction’. Expanded uncertainty is also referred to as ‘overall uncertainty’.

3.2.8 *influence quantity* [VIM, 2.52]—quantity that, in a direct measurement, does not affect the quantity that is actually measured, but affects the relation between the indication and the measurement result.

3.2.8.1 *Discussion*—In radiation processing dosimetry, this term includes temperature, relative humidity, time intervals, light, radiation energy, absorbed dose rate, and other factors that might affect dosimeter response, as well as quantities associated with the measurement instrument.

3.2.9 *level of confidence*—probability that the value of a parameter will fall within the given range.

3.2.10 *measurand* [VIM, 2.3]—quantity intended to be measured.

3.2.10.1 *Discussion*—In radiation processing dosimetry, the measurand is the absorbed dose (Gy) or simply ‘dose’.

3.2.11 *measurement* [VIM, 2.1]—process of experimentally obtaining one or more quantity values that can reasonably be attributed to a quantity.

3.2.12 *measurement uncertainty* [VIM, 2.26]—non-negative parameter characterizing the dispersion of the quantity values being attributed to a measurand, based on the information used.

3.2.12.1 Discussion—

(1) Measurement uncertainty includes components arising from systematic effects, such as components associated with corrections and the assigned quantity values of measurement

standards, as well as the definitional uncertainty. Sometimes estimated systematic effects are not corrected for but, instead, associated measurement uncertainty components are incorporated.

(2) The parameter may be, for example, a standard deviation called standard measurement uncertainty (or a specified multiple of it), or the half-width of an interval, having a stated coverage probability.

(3) Measurement uncertainty comprises, in general, many components. Some of these may be evaluated by Type A evaluation of measurement uncertainty from the statistical distribution of the quantity values from series of measurements and can be characterized by standard deviations. The other components, which may be evaluated by Type B evaluation of measurement uncertainty, can also be characterized by standard deviations, evaluated from probability density functions based on experience or other information.

(4) In general, for a given set of information, it is understood that the measurement uncertainty is associated with a stated quantity value attributed to the measurand. A modification of this value results in a modification of the associated uncertainty.

3.2.13 *metrological traceability* [VIM, 2.41]—property of a measurement result whereby the result can be related to a reference through a documented unbroken chain of calibrations, each contributing to the measurement uncertainty.

3.2.13.1 *Discussion*—

(1) The unbroken chain of calibrations is referred to as “traceability chain”.

(2) Metrological traceability of a measurement result does not ensure that the measurement uncertainty is adequate for a given purpose or that there is an absence of mistakes.

(3) The abbreviated term “traceability” is sometimes used to mean ‘metrological traceability’ as well as other concepts, such as ‘sample traceability’, ‘document traceability’, ‘instrument traceability’ or ‘material traceability’, where the history (“trace”) of an item is meant. Therefore, the full term of “metrological traceability” is preferred if there is any risk of confusion.

3.2.14 *quadrature*—method used in estimating combined standard uncertainty from independent sources by taking the positive square root of the sum of the squares of individual components of uncertainty, for example, coefficient of variation.

3.2.15 *quantity* [VIM, 1.1]—property of a phenomenon, body, or substance, where the property has a magnitude that can be expressed as a number and a reference.

3.2.16 *quantity value* [VIM, 1.19]—number and reference together expressing magnitude of a quantity.

3.2.16.1 *Discussion*—For example, absorbed dose of 25 kGy.

3.2.17 *repeatability (of results of measurements)* [GUM, B.2.15]—closeness of the agreement between the results of successive measurements of the same measurand carried out under the same conditions of measurement.

3.2.17.1 *Discussion*—

(1) These conditions are called ‘repeatability conditions’.

(2) Repeatability conditions include: the same measurement procedure, the same observer, the same measuring instrument used under the same conditions, the same location, repetition over a short period of time.

(3) Repeatability may be expressed quantitatively in terms of the dispersion characteristics of the results.

3.2.18 *reproducibility (of results of measurements)* [GUM, B.2.16]—closeness of the agreement between the results of measurements of the same measurand carried out under changed conditions of measurement.

3.2.18.1 *Discussion*—

(1) A valid statement of reproducibility requires specification of the conditions changed.

(2) The changed conditions may include: principle of measurements, method of measurement, observer, measuring instrument, reference standard, location, conditions of use and time.

(3) Reproducibility may be expressed quantitatively in terms of the dispersion characteristics of the results.

3.2.19 *sample standard deviation (S)* [adapted from GUM, C.2.21]—measure of dispersion of values of the same measurand expressed as the positive square root of the sample variance.

3.2.20 *sample variance* [GUM, C.2.20]—measure of dispersion, which is the sum of the squared deviations of observations from their average divided by $(n - 1)$, given by the expression:

$$s^2 = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{(n - 1)} \quad (3)$$

where:

x_i = individual value of parameter with $i = 1, 2 \dots n$, and

\bar{x} = mean of n values of parameter (see 3.2.2).

3.2.21 *standard measurement uncertainty* [VIM, 2.30]—measurement uncertainty expressed as a standard deviation.

3.2.21.1 *Discussion*—Also referred to as ‘standard uncertainty of measurement’ or ‘standard uncertainty’.

3.2.22 *true value* [VIM, 2.11]—quantity value consistent with the definition of a quantity.

3.2.22.1 *Discussion*—True value is by its nature indeterminate and only an idealized concept. In this guide the terms “true value of a measurand” and “value of a measurand” are viewed as equivalent (see 5.1.1).

3.2.23 *Type A evaluation of measurement uncertainty* [VIM, 2.28]—evaluation of a component of measurement uncertainty by a statistical analysis of measured quantity values obtained under defined measurement conditions.

3.2.24 *Type B evaluation of measurement uncertainty* [VIM, 2.29]—evaluation of a component of measurement uncertainty determined by means other than a Type A evaluation of measurement uncertainty.

3.2.25 *uncertainty budget* [VIM, 2.33]—statement of a measurement uncertainty, of the components of that measurement uncertainty, and of their calculation and combination.



3.2.25.1 *Discussion*—An uncertainty budget should include the measurement model, estimates, and measurement uncertainties associated with the quantities in the measurement model, covariances, type of applied probability density functions, degrees of freedom, type of evaluation of measurement uncertainty, and any coverage factor.

3.3 Definitions of other terms used in this standard that pertain to quality and statistics may be found in ASTM Terminology E456. Definitions of other terms used in this standard that pertain to radiation measurement and dosimetry may be found in ASTM Terminology E170. Definitions in ASTM Terminology E170 are compatible with ICRU 85a; that document, therefore, may be used as an alternative reference.

4. Significance and use

4.1 All measurements, including dose measurements, have an associated uncertainty. The magnitude of the measurement uncertainty is important for assessing the quality of the results of the measurement system.

4.2 Information on the range of achievable uncertainty values for specific dosimetry systems is given in the ISO/ASTM standards for the specific dosimetry systems. While the uncertainty values given in specific dosimetry standards are achievable, it should be noted that both smaller and larger uncertainty values might be obtained depending on measurement conditions and instrumentation. For more information see also ISO/ASTM 52628.

4.3 This guide uses the methodology adopted by the GUM for estimating uncertainties in measurements (see 2.4). Therefore, components of uncertainty are evaluated as either Type A uncertainty or Type B uncertainty.

4.4 Quantifying individual components of uncertainty may assist the user in identifying actions to reduce the measurement uncertainty.

4.5 Periodically, the uncertainty should be reassessed to confirm the existing estimate. Should changes occur that could influence the existing component estimates or result in the addition of new components of uncertainty, a new estimate of uncertainty should be established.

4.6 Although this guide provides a framework for assessing uncertainty, it cannot substitute for critical thinking, intellectual honesty, and professional skill. The evaluation of uncertainty is neither a routine task nor a purely mathematical one; it depends on detailed knowledge of the nature of the measurand and of the measurement method and procedure used. The quality and utility of the uncertainty quoted for the result of a measurement therefore ultimately depends on the understanding, critical analysis, and integrity of those who contribute to the assignment of its value (JCGM 100:2008).

5. Basic concepts—components of uncertainty

5.1 *Measurement:*

5.1.1 The objective of a measurement is to determine the value of the measurand (for example, dose), that is, the value of the specific quantity to be measured (dose). A measurement therefore begins with an appropriate specification of the

measurand, the method of measurement, the measurement system and the measurement procedure.

5.1.2 In general, the result of a measurement is the approximation or best estimate of the true value of the measurand (dose) and thus is complete only when accompanied by a statement of the uncertainty of that estimate.

5.2 *Uncertainty:*

5.2.1 The uncertainty of the measurement result reflects the inability to know the true value of the measurand. A lower value of overall uncertainty reflects a higher degree of confidence in the estimate of the value of the measurand.

NOTE 2—The result of any individual measurement can unknowingly be very close to the value of the measurand even though it may have a large uncertainty. Thus the uncertainty of a measurement result should not be confused as the unknown error.

5.2.2 The uncertainty associated with a measurement can arise from a number of different components, examples of some of which are listed in Section 7. In assessing measurement uncertainty, it is necessary to consider all steps associated with making a measurement and assign to each step a value for the uncertainty introduced. These individual components can then be collected together to produce a combined uncertainty for the measurement. The results of this type of analysis are often presented in the form of a table, referred to as an uncertainty budget (see Annex A2). Components of uncertainty are generally classified as Type A or Type B, depending on the method used to evaluate them.

5.2.2.1 The purpose of the Type A and Type B classification is to indicate the two different ways of evaluating uncertainty components. Both types of evaluation are based on probability distributions and the uncertainty components resulting from each type are quantified by a standard deviation or a variance.

5.2.2.2 Thus, a Type A standard uncertainty is obtained from a probability density function derived from a series of repeated observations (see 8.1), while a Type B standard uncertainty is obtained from an assumed probability density function based on the degree of belief that an event will occur (see 8.2). Both approaches are valid interpretations of probability.

5.2.3 The combined standard uncertainty, denoted by u_c , of the result of a measurement is obtained by combining all the components of uncertainty of both categories (see 9.1.1).

5.2.4 Typically, an expanded uncertainty U is calculated to provide an interval about the result of a measurement within which the true value is expected to lie. The value of U is obtained by multiplying the combined standard uncertainty u_c by a coverage factor k (see 9.2).

NOTE 3—The coverage factor k is always to be stated when reporting expanded uncertainty, so that the combined standard uncertainty of the measured quantity can be recovered.

6. Evaluation of Type A and Type B standard uncertainty

6.1 *Measurement Procedure:*

6.1.1 The measurand Y (absorbed dose) is generally not measurable directly, but depends on N other quantities X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N through a functional relationship: $Y=f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N)$.

6.1.1.1 The input quantities X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N and their associated uncertainties may be determined directly in the current

measurement process by means of repeated observations (such as Type A); these input quantities may include influence quantities such as temperature or humidity. They may also involve input quantities related to activities such as calibration of routine dosimetry systems under conditions that differ from those during use (different dose rates, temperature cycle, etc.). Other quantities that may be involved are those due to use of reference or transfer standard dosimeters.

6.1.1.2 The input quantities $X_1, X_2, X_3 \dots X_N$ and associated uncertainties may be treated either individually, for example, X_1 or X_2 or as aggregates, for example, $(X_1 \dots X_p)$ where $p < N$.

6.1.1.3 Grouping of input quantities is determined by the characteristics of the selected dosimetry system, method of calibration, measurement application environment, and the ability within these sets of conditions to generate experimental measurements either for individual or aggregate input quantities.

6.1.1.4 Both individual and aggregate input quantities may be used to estimate the combined standard uncertainty.

6.2 Type A Evaluation of Standard Uncertainty:

6.2.1 Type A evaluations of uncertainty are made by statistical analysis of a series of measurement results of a quantity value.

6.2.2 In most cases, the best estimate of the expected value of a quantity is obtained by n independent measurements made under repeatability conditions and is given by the arithmetic mean, \bar{x} , or average of those measurement results. The sample standard deviation, s , of these observations characterizes the variability of the observed values or their dispersion about their mean. The standard uncertainty of the mean value is given by s/\sqrt{n} . Therefore, for Type A components of uncertainty, increasing the number of measurements will reduce the standard uncertainty of the mean.

6.2.3 In cases where only a single, or very few, measurements are made, the estimate of the sample standard deviation has to be taken from prior measurements made using the same dosimetry system. The sample standard deviation could be determined from a single set of prior measurements, or derived as a pooled standard deviation from several sets of prior measurements.

NOTE 4—See GUM H.3.6 for further information on pooled variance and pooled standard deviation.

NOTE 5—Repeatability of dosimeter response is an example of a Type A component of uncertainty that is usually determined from a set, or sets, of prior measurements.

6.2.4 The Type A standard uncertainties are determined by the experimental design that is used to collect the observations for the uncertainty estimate. If the estimated Type A uncertainty is unacceptably large, the individual components of uncertainty may be estimated by a more refined experimental design. Knowledge of the components contributing to the estimated uncertainty might allow identification of components that can be controlled so as to reduce uncertainty.

NOTE 6—For example, if optical absorbance of a film dosimeter is measured during calibration without controlling film thickness, relative humidity, or temperature, the uncertainty of dose estimates from this calibration may be unacceptably large. An experimental design that controls these factors may indicate the film thickness and relative

humidity have significant effects on measured absorbance. Controlling these influence quantities during calibration and routine dosimetry will reduce the uncertainty in dose estimates.

6.3 Type B Evaluation of Standard Uncertainty:

6.3.1 The Type B component of uncertainty is evaluated by using all relevant information on the possible variability of the input quantities X_i . For the input value X_i that has not been obtained from repeated measurements, the estimated variance, u_B^2 , or standard uncertainty, u_B , is evaluated by judgment using all relevant information on the possible variability of X_i . This pool of information may include previous measurement data or documented performance characteristics of the dosimetry system. The uncertainty estimated in this way is referred to as a Type B standard uncertainty, u_B .

6.3.2 Several methods may be used to develop estimates of the magnitude of Type B standard uncertainty. One method estimates the maximum magnitude likely to be observed for each input quantity. For example, if the dosimeter response is known to vary with irradiation temperature, then the temperature range routinely seen in operation should be used to estimate this component of uncertainty. If there is no specific knowledge about the possible values of X_i within its estimated bounds of a_- to a_+ , it is assumed that it is equally probable for X_i to take on any value within those bounds (that is a rectangular distribution, see Fig. 2). As stated in JCGM 100:2008 (GUM), the sample standard deviation is $a/\sqrt{3}$ for such a distribution. In some cases it is more realistic to expect that values near the bounds are less likely than those near the midpoint. It may then be reasonable to replace the rectangular distribution with a symmetric triangular distribution with a base width of $a_+ - a_- = 2a$, see Fig. 2. Assuming such a triangular distribution for X_i , the expectation value of X_i is $(a_- + a_+)/2$ and its variance is $a^2/6$. Thus, the Type B standard uncertainty, $u_B = a/\sqrt{6}$ (see JCGM 100:2008 (GUM)).

6.3.3 It is important not to “double-count” uncertainty components. For example, if a component of uncertainty arising from a particular effect is obtained from a Type B evaluation, it should be included as an independent component of uncertainty in the calculation of the combined standard uncertainty of the measurement result only to the extent that the effect does not contribute to the observed variability of the observations. This is because the uncertainty due to that portion of the effect that contributes to the observed variability is already included in the component of uncertainty obtained from the statistical analysis of the observations (GUM 4.3.10).

7. Examples of uncertainty budget components associated with absorbed dose measurements

NOTE 7— See also ISO/ASTM 51261 and ISO/ASTM 52701 for additional details.

7.1 Components of the combined uncertainty in the measured values of absorbed dose which are identified and characterized during the dosimetry system calibration include the following:

7.1.1 Uncertainty in the absorbed dose reported by the approved laboratory. During calibration irradiations, the dose to dosimeters that was delivered or measured by an approved laboratory is subject to uncertainty. The uncertainty of this dose