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Ophthalmic instruments - Fundamental requirements and test methods - Part 2: Light hazard protection (ISO 15004-2:2024)

Ophthalmische Instrumente - Grundlegende Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren - Teil 2: Schutz gegen Gefährdung durch Licht (ISO 15004-2:2024)

Instruments ophtalmiques - Exigences fondamentales et méthodes d'essai - Partie 2: Protection contre les dangers de la lumière (ISO 15004-2:2024)

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English Version

Ophthalmic instruments - Fundamental requirements and test methods - Part 2: Light hazard protection (ISO 15004-2:2024)

Instruments ophtalmiques - Exigences fondamentales et méthodes d'essai - Partie 2: Protection contre les dangers de la lumière (ISO 15004-2:2024)

Ophthalmische Instrumente - Grundlegende Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren - Teil 2: Schutz gegen Gefährdung durch Licht (ISO 15004-2:2024)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 18 November 2024.

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Contents	Page
European foreword.....	3

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[SIST EN ISO 15004-2:2025](https://standards.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/24f22144-f683-47ef-807a-2a4777b56e8d/sist-en-iso-15004-2-2025)

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 15004-2:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 172 "Optics and photonics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 170 "Ophthalmic optics" the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2025.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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International Standard

ISO 15004-2

Ophthalmic instruments — Fundamental requirements and test methods —

Part 2: Light hazard protection

*Instruments ophtalmiques — Exigences fondamentales et
méthodes d'essai —*

Partie 2: Protection contre les dangers de la lumière

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**Second edition
2024-12**

ISO 15004-2:2024(en)

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Classification principles	7
4.1 General.....	7
4.2 Group 1 instruments.....	9
4.3 Group 2 instruments.....	9
5 Requirements for classification	9
5.1 General.....	9
5.2 Requirements for classification as a Group 1 instrument.....	9
5.3 Requirements for classification as a Group 2 instrument.....	10
5.4 Exposure limits for Group 1 classification.....	10
5.4.1 Continuous wave instruments.....	10
5.4.2 Pulsed instruments.....	10
5.4.3 Time-limited instruments.....	11
5.4.4 Dose limited instruments.....	11
5.4.5 Scanning instruments.....	11
5.4.6 Instruments with multiple sources.....	12
5.4.7 Instruments for long-term repetitive daily use.....	12
5.5 Recommended maximum exposure (RME) values for Group 2 instruments.....	12
5.5.1 Continuous wave instruments.....	12
5.5.2 Pulsed instruments.....	12
5.5.3 Time-limited instruments.....	13
5.5.4 Scanning instruments.....	13
5.5.5 Instruments with multiple sources.....	13
5.5.6 Instruments for long-term repetitive daily use.....	14
5.6 Exposure limits and maximum recommended exposure values.....	14
6 Test methods	19
6.1 General.....	19
6.2 Classification of instruments into Group 1 or Group 2.....	19
6.3 Spectral measurements.....	20
6.4 Group 2 instruments: determination of time and number of pulses to reach recommended maximum exposure.....	20
6.4.1 Determination of time t_{\max} to reach the recommended maximum exposure for weighted corneal and lenticular ultraviolet radiation radiant exposure, H_{S-CL}	20
6.4.2 Determination of time t_{\max} to reach the recommended maximum exposure for photochemical aphakic retinal radiant exposure.....	20
6.4.3 Determination of the number of pulses necessary to reach the recommended maximum exposure for photochemical aphakic retinal exposure, n_{\max} (for pulsed instruments).....	21
7 Information supplied by the manufacturer	21
7.1 Information provided on request.....	21
7.2 Accompanying documents.....	21
7.2.1 General.....	21
7.2.2 Dose-limited instruments.....	21
7.2.3 Cautionary statements.....	21
7.3 Marking.....	25
7.3.1 Radiation output.....	25
7.3.2 Consult accompanying documents.....	25
7.3.3 Safety information for optical radiation.....	25

ISO 15004-2:2024(en)

Annex A (normative) Spectral weighting functions	26
Annex B (informative) Measurement instruments	33
Annex C (informative) Measurement methods for radiance/irradiance	37
Annex D (informative) Guidance on the direct measurement of irradiance	42
Annex E (informative) Examples of measurement methods for specific ophthalmic instruments	44
Annex F (informative) Safety signs	55
Bibliography	56

iTeh Standards
(<https://standards.iteh.ai>)
Document Preview

[SIST EN ISO 15004-2:2025](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/24f22144-f683-47ef-807a-2a4777b56e8d/sist-en-iso-15004-2-2025)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/24f22144-f683-47ef-807a-2a4777b56e8d/sist-en-iso-15004-2-2025>

ISO 15004-2:2024(en)

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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 172, *Optics and photonics*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Ophthalmic optics and instruments*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 170, *Ophthalmic optics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15004-2:2007), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- The terms and definitions include dose limited instruments and time limited instruments;
- The safe exposure limits have been reorganized into 4 tables ([Tables 2 to 5](#)), and the associated measurement conditions have been reorganized into a companion table ([Table 6](#));
- A number of Group 1 exposure limits and Group 2 recommended maximum exposures (RMEs) have been updated to conform to recent research and relevant standards;
- The language has been clarified and simplified throughout the document, and a flowchart has been added as a guide to make the standard more accessible to first-time users;
- Clauses and associated exposure limits have been added for long-term repetitive exposures, such as may apply to extensive use of head-mounted displays by people with visual impairments;
- Provisions have been added to ensure that the exposure limits and RMEs applicable to specific devices are easily accessible to end users.

A list of all parts in the ISO 15004 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

ISO 15004-2:2024(en)

Introduction

Ophthalmic instruments are classified into two groups to distinguish instruments that can present a potential hazard from those that cannot. The two groups are named Group 1 and Group 2. They are defined as follows:

Group 1 instruments: ophthalmic instruments for which no potential light hazard exists when used as intended (see [Clause 4](#)).

Group 2 instruments: ophthalmic instruments for which a potential light hazard exists (see [Clause 4](#)).

Limits and guidelines for optical radiation exposure of the eye during ophthalmic examination can differ from those of non-ophthalmic applications. They can be more restrictive because of pupils dilation or retinal image stabilization, or less restrictive based on benefit/risk ratios. Furthermore, interruptions of exposure during surgical procedures mitigate the risk.

All group 2 instruments pose a potential risk of injury at the upper emission values of the instrument. This is true for both photochemical (where time is critical) and thermal, where transmission and absorption values can vary. Clinical judgement of individual susceptibility is also required.

NOTE 1 The basic limits and guidelines in this document are based on the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for human exposure to optical radiation. They also cover cases where pupils are dilated, or the image is stabilized on the retina during ophthalmic examinations.

NOTE 2 This document provides exposure limits for ocular tissues. The exposures can be calculated based upon the measured instrument emissions.

The flow chart in [Figure 1](#) at the beginning of [Clause 4](#) provides guidance on how to apply this document to any device to be tested or designed for light hazards conformity.

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<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/24f22144-f683-47ef-807a-2a4777b56e8d/sist-en-iso-15004-2-2025>

Ophthalmic instruments — Fundamental requirements and test methods —

Part 2: Light hazard protection

1 Scope

This document specifies fundamental requirements for optical radiation safety for ophthalmic instruments and is applicable to all ophthalmic instruments that direct optical radiation into or at the eye. It is also applicable to all new and emerging ophthalmic instruments that direct optical radiation into or at the eye, as well as to those portions of therapeutic or surgical systems that direct optical radiation into or at the eye for diagnostic, illumination, measurement, imaging or alignment purposes.

NOTE For the purpose of this document, optical radiation relates to the wavelength range of 250 nm to 2 500 nm.

This document does not apply to therapeutic radiation. However, in the case of the treatment beams of therapeutic devices, when conducting risk assessments for non-target tissues, the limits given in this document may be applied to those parts of the treatment beam that strike non-target tissue.

Where vertical (instrument-specific) International Standards contain specific light hazard requirements different from those given in ISO 15004-2, then those in the vertical International Standard take precedence.

This document classifies ophthalmic instruments into either Group 1 or Group 2 to distinguish instruments that are non-hazardous from those that are potentially hazardous.

2 Normative references

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<https://standards.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/24f22144-f683-47ef-807a-2a4777b56e8d/sist-en-iso-15004-2-2025>

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15004-1, *Ophthalmic instruments — Fundamental requirements and test methods — Part 1: General requirements applicable to all ophthalmic instruments*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 15004-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

aperture

aperture stop

opening that defines the area over which average optical emission is measured

Note 1 to entry: For spectral irradiance measurements this opening is usually the entrance of a small integrating sphere placed in front of the radiometer/spectroradiometer entrance slit.

ISO 15004-2:2024(en)

3.2

continuous exposure

continuous wave

CW

radiant exposure equal to or greater than 0,25 s duration

3.3

continuous wave instrument

CW instrument

ophthalmic instrument that is designed to expose the eye to one or more continuous wave radiation sources

3.4

continuous wave radiation source

CW radiation source

radiation source that is, or can be, operated with a continuous output for a time that can be equal or greater than 0,25 s (i.e. a non-pulsed radiation source)

3.5

dose-limited instrument

ophthalmic instrument whose emission could exceed the Group 1 exposure limits, but through its design and construction and accounting for multiple exposures within a 24-hour period, cannot under reasonably foreseeable conditions expose any given eye to radiation that exceeds the Group 1 cumulative exposure limits given in [Table 2](#) and [Table 3](#)

Note 1 to entry: This instrument would otherwise be a Group 2 instrument; for example, some UV-Fluorescent diagnostic instruments.

Note 2 to entry: The maximal exposure duration of dose-limited instruments is 30 000 s.

3.6

effective aperture

portion of the aperture that limits the amount of light delivered to the retina

Note 1 to entry: For an obscured or noncircular aperture, the effective aperture is defined as the uniformly illuminated, unobscured circular aperture that transmits the same radiant flux.

3.7

emission limit

maximum permitted value of optical radiation output to which the eye is potentially exposed

3.8

exposure limit

maximum permitted value of optical radiation exposure to which an ocular tissue is potentially exposed

3.9

endoilluminator

instrument consisting of a light source and an associated fibre optic light guide that is intended for insertion into the eye to illuminate any portion of the interior of the eye

3.10

field-of-view

conical solid angle as “seen” by the detector, such as the eye or the radiometer/spectroradiometer, over which the detector receives radiation

Note 1 to entry: This is also referred to as acceptance angle.

Note 2 to entry: The field-of-view denotes the angle over which radiance is averaged (sampled) and should not be confused with the angular subtense of the source α , which denotes source size.

Note 3 to entry: In this document, a plane angle is used to describe a circular symmetric solid angle field of view.