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**Reciprocating internal combustion  
engines — Exhaust emission  
measurement —**

Part 9:

**Test cycles and test procedures for  
measurement of exhaust gas smoke  
emissions from compression ignition  
engines using an opacimeter**

*Moteurs alternatifs à combustion interne — Mesurage des émissions  
de gaz d'échappement —*

*Partie 9: Cycles et procédures d'essai pour le mesurage au banc  
d'essai des émissions de fumées de gaz d'échappement des moteurs  
alternatifs à combustion interne à allumage par compression  
fonctionnant en régime transitoire*



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## 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 documents 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 70, *Internal combustion engines*, Subcommittee SC 8, *Exhaust gas emission measurement*.

This third edition cancels and replaces ISO 8178-9:2012 and ISO 8178-10:2002, which have been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous editions are as follows:

- ISO 8178-10:2002 has been incorporated in this document;
- terms and definitions have been harmonized within the ISO 8178 series and differences to other ISO standards have been described where applicable;
- redundant specifications of testing equipment, calibration and verification requirements have been deleted or replaced by references to other parts of the ISO 8178 series;
- ambient density smoke correction has been deleted;
- order of annexes has been changed;
- [Annex A](#) has been added - Overview particulate and soot measurement methods;
- [Annex H](#) has been added - Test at steady speeds over full-load curve;
- [Annex I](#) has been added - Reporting smoke tests results.

A list of all parts in the ISO 8178 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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

On a global scale, there are currently many smoke measurement procedures in various forms. Some of these smoke measurement procedures are designed for test bed testing and intended to be used for certification or type-approval purposes. Others are designed for field-testing and can be used in inspection and maintenance programs. Different smoke measurement methods exist to meet the needs of various regulatory agencies and industries.

The two smoke measurement methods typically used are (1) the FSN method, measuring light absorption based on the change in optical reflectance of visible light from a blackening filter paper relative to the clean filter (filter-type smoke meters) and (2) the exhaust gas opacity method, measuring transmittance based on light extinction caused by absorption and scattering of light (opacimeter-type smoke meters).

[Figure A.1](#) in [Annex A](#) shows an overview of the measurement methods specified by an ISO standard including FSN and opacity respectively.

ISO 8178-4 specifies a number of different test cycles to be used to characterize and control gaseous and particulate emissions from nonroad engines using a variety of steady-state and transient operating conditions. The test cycles in ISO 8178-4 were developed in recognition of the differing operating characteristics of various categories of nonroad machines. Likewise, different smoke test cycles can be appropriate for different categories of nonroad engines and machines.

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# Reciprocating internal combustion engines — Exhaust emission measurement —

## Part 9:

# Test cycles and test procedures for measurement of exhaust gas smoke emissions from compression ignition engines using an opacimeter

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the measurement procedures and test cycles for the evaluation of smoke emissions from compression ignition engines using an opacimeter. The tests are carried out under steady-state and transient operation using tests cycles which are representative of a given application.

The smoke testing is conducted using opacimeter-type smoke meters which operate on the light extinction principle. The purpose of this document is to define the smoke test cycles and the methods used to measure the opacity and for the determination of the light absorption coefficient. It allows the use of either full-flow or partial-flow opacimeters and corrects for differences in rise time between the two types of opacimeters. Specifications of the apparatus for the measurement of opacity can be found in ISO 11614. The test procedures and measurement techniques described in this document are applicable to reciprocating internal combustion (RIC) engines in general. [Annex D](#), [Annex E](#), [Annex F](#) and [Annex G](#) each contains a test cycle that is relevant only for those specific applications listed in the first subclause of that annex. Where possible, the smoke test cycle described in the annex utilizes the engine and machine categories developed in ISO 8178-4.

For certain categories of non-road engines “at site” rather than “test bed” smoke test procedures can prove to be necessary. For engines used in machinery covered by additional requirements (e.g. occupational health and safety regulations), additional test conditions and special evaluation methods can apply.

## 2 Normative references

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 8178-1:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Reciprocating internal combustion engines — Exhaust emission measurement — Part 1: Test-bed measurement systems of gaseous and particulate emissions*

ISO 8178-2, *Reciprocating internal combustion engines — Exhaust emission measurement — Part 2: Measurement of gaseous and particulate exhaust emissions under field conditions*

ISO 8178-4:—<sup>2)</sup>, *Reciprocating internal combustion engines — Exhaust emission measurement — Part 4: Steady-state and transient test cycles for different engine applications*

ISO 8178-7, *Reciprocating internal combustion engines — Exhaust emission measurement — Part 7: Engine family determination*

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1) Under preparation.

2) Under preparation.

ISO 8178-8, *Reciprocating internal combustion engines — Exhaust emission measurement — Part 8: Engine group determination*

ISO 8528-1, *Reciprocating internal combustion engine driven alternating current generating sets — Part 1: Application, ratings and performance*

ISO 11614:1999, *Reciprocating internal combustion compression-ignition engines — Apparatus for measurement of the opacity and for determination of the light absorption coefficient of exhaust gas*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

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

#### 3.1 exhaust gas smoke

visible suspension of solid and/or liquid particles in gases resulting from combustion or pyrolysis

Note 1 to entry: The exhaust gas smoke may be black smoke, blue smoke, brown smoke or white smoke depending on the components present in the exhaust gas after the combustion or pyrolysis process. Black smoke (also referred to as “soot”) is mainly due to the presence of carbon particles. Blue smoke is usually due to droplets resulting from the incomplete combustion of fuel or lubricating oil. Brown smoke is due to the presence of NO<sub>2</sub> in the exhaust gas. White smoke is usually due to condensed water and/or liquid fuel.

#### 3.2 transmittance

$\tau$

fraction of light transmitted from a source through a smoke-obscured path which reaches the observer or the instrument receiver

Note 1 to entry: Transmittance is expressed as a percentage.

#### 3.3 opacity

$N$

fraction of light transmitted from a source through a smoke-obscured path which is prevented from reaching the observer or the instrument receiver

Note 1 to entry: Opacity is expressed as a percentage.

Note 2 to entry:  $N = 100 - \tau$ .

#### 3.4 effective optical path length

$L_A$

length of the smoke-obscured optical path between the *opacimeter* (3.8) light source and the receiver

Note 1 to entry: Effective optical path length is expressed in meters and corrected, as necessary, for non-uniformity due to density gradients and fringe effect.

#### 3.5 standard effective optical path length

$L_{AS}$

measurement used to ensure meaningful comparisons of quoted *opacity* (3.3) values

Note 1 to entry:  $L_{AS}$  values are defined in 9.1.4.



**3.6****light absorption coefficient***k*

fundamental property quantifying the ability of a smoke plume or smoke-containing gas sample to obscure light

Note 1 to entry: Light absorption coefficient is expressed in reciprocal meters (m<sup>-1</sup>).

**3.7****Beer-Lambert law**

mathematical equation describing the physical relationships between the *light absorption coefficient* (*k*) (3.6), *transmittance* (*τ*) (3.2) and *effective optical path length* (*L<sub>A</sub>*) (3.4)

Note 1 to entry: Because the light absorption coefficient (*k*) cannot be measured directly, the Beer-Lambert law is used to calculate *k*, when *opacity* (*N*) (3.3) or *transmittance* (*τ*) and *effective optical path length* (*L<sub>A</sub>*) are known.

$$k = \frac{-1}{L_A} \times \ln \left( \frac{\tau}{100} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$k = \frac{-1}{L_A} \times \ln \left( 1 - \frac{N}{100} \right) \quad (2)$$

**3.8****opacimeter**

instrument used for continuous measurement of *opacity* (3.3) and *light absorption coefficient* (3.6) of the exhaust gas

**3.9****full-flow opacimeter**

instrument which measures all flow of exhaust gas passing through the smoke measuring chamber

**3.10****full-flow end-of-line opacimeter**

instrument which measures the *opacity* (3.3) of the full exhaust plume as it exits at tailpipe

**3.11****full-flow in-line opacimeter**

instrument which measures the *opacity* (3.3) of the full exhaust plume within the tailpipe

**3.12****partial-flow opacimeter**

instrument which samples a part of the total exhaust flow and passes the sample through the measuring chamber

**3.13****opacimeter rise time***X*

overall rise time of the instrument

Note 1 to entry: The definition of the term “opacimeter rise time” used in this document is equal to the definition of the term “opacimeter response time” used in ISO 11614.

**3.14****opacimeter physical rise time***t<sub>p</sub>*

difference between the times when the raw *k*-signal reaches 10 % and 90 % of the full deviation when the *light absorption coefficient* (3.6) of the gas being measured is changed in less than 0,01 s

Note 1 to entry: The physical rise time of the *partial-flow opacimeter* (3.12) is defined with the sampling probe and transfer tube. Additional information on the physical rise time can be found in ISO 11614.

Note 2 to entry: The definition of the term “opacimeter physical rise time” used in this document is equal to the definition of the term “opacimeter physical response time” used in ISO 11614.

**3.15  
opacimeter electrical rise time**

$t_e$   
difference between the times when the instrument recorder output signal or display reaches 10 % and 90 % of full scale when the light source is interrupted or completely extinguished in less than 0,01 s

Note 1 to entry: Additional information on the electrical rise time can be found in ISO 11614.

Note 2 to entry: The definition of the term “opacimeter electrical rise time” used in this document is equal to the definition of the term “opacimeter electrical response time” used in ISO 11614.

**3.16  
filter rise time**

$t_F$   
filter rise time of the applied Bessel filter which is required to remove the high frequency distortions of the raw opacity (3.3) signal

Note 1 to entry: Additional information can be found in 9.2.

Note 2 to entry: The definition of the term “filter rise time” used in this document is equal to the definition of the term “filter response time” used in ISO 11614.

**4 Symbols and abbreviated terms**

**4.1 Symbols**

Symbol	Term	Unit
$B$	Bessel function constant	1
$C$	Bessel function constant	1
$D$	Bessel function constant	1
$E$	Bessel constant	1
$f$	Data sampling rate	Hz
$f_a$	Atmospheric factor	1
$f_c$	Bessel filter cut-off frequency	s <sup>-1</sup>
$k$	Light absorption coefficient	m <sup>-1</sup>
$K$	Bessel constant	1
$L_A$	Effective optical path length	m
$L_{AS}$	Standard effective optical path length	m
$N$	Opacity	%
$N_A$	Opacity at effective optical path length	%
$N_{AS}$	Opacity at standard effective optical path length	%
$p_{me}$	Brake mean effective pressure	kPa
$p_S$	Dry atmospheric pressure	kPa
$P$	Engine power	kW
$S_j$	Instantaneous smoke value	m <sup>-1</sup> or %
$t_e$	Opacimeter electrical rise time	s
$t_F$	Filter rise time for Bessel function	s
$t_p$	Opacimeter physical rise time	s
$\Delta t$	Time between successive smoke data	s

Symbol	Term	Unit
$T_a$	Engine intake air temperature	°C
$X$	overall rise time	s
$Y_j$	Bessel averaged smoke value	m <sup>-1</sup> or %
$\rho$	Dry ambient density	kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\tau$	Transmittance	%
$\Omega$	Bessel constant	1

## 4.2 Abbreviated terms

CL	Collimating lens
EC	Elemental Carbon
EP	Exhaust pipe
FAT	Free acceleration time
FM	Flow monitoring device
ID	Inner diameter
LD	Light detector
LS	Light source
LSV	Lug smoke value
MC	Measuring chamber
OD	Outer diameter
OPL	Optical path length
SPU	Sampling pump
PSV	Peak smoke value
PSV <sub>a</sub>	Average of peak smoke values
PSV <sub>F</sub>	Peak smoke value for free acceleration
SP	Sampling probe
SSSV	Steady-state smoke value
TS	Temperature sensor
TT	Transfer tube

## 5 Test conditions

For laboratory testing, the requirements regarding engine test conditions of ISO 8178-4 shall be applied except ISO 8178-4:—, 5.5.

For in-field testing the requirements for laboratory testing shall be applied with certain restrictions. Such restrictions shall be agreed in advance by the parties involved. It should be noted that emission

tests carried out under different test conditions do not necessarily comply with the limits specified when using laboratory conditions.

## 6 Test fuels

Fuel characteristics influence the engine smoke emissions. Therefore, the characteristics of the fuel used for the test shall be determined, recorded and presented with the results of the test.

For laboratory testing, the characteristics of the fuel shall fulfil the requirements given in ISO 8178-4:—, Clause 6.

For in-field testing, the definitions for the acceptance test described in ISO 8178-4:—, Clause 6 shall apply. It should be noted that emission tests carried out using commercial fuel do not necessarily comply with the limits specified when using reference fuels.

## 7 Measurement equipment and accuracy

### 7.1 General

The following equipment shall be used for smoke tests on engines. This document refers to the equipment and accuracy requirements necessary for conducting a smoke test.

### 7.2 Engine and ambient related testing equipment

The following engine and ambient related testing equipment shall comply with the characteristics given in ISO 8178-1:—, Clause 6 and shall meet the calibration and verification requirements given in ISO 8178-1:—, Clause 9:

- dynamometer specifications;
- speed sensors;
- torque sensors;
- pressure transducers;
- temperature sensors;
- dew point sensors.

For in-field testing, where applicable, the requirements of the testing equipment shall be applied as described in ISO 8178-2.

### 7.3 Opacimeters

#### 7.3.1 General

The smoke tests conforming with this document shall be conducted using opacimeter-type smoke meters. Three different types of opacimeters are allowed: in-line and end-of-line full-flow opacimeters and partial-flow opacimeters. Specifications for the three types of opacimeters can be found in [Clause 10](#) and in ISO 11614:1999, Clauses 6 and 7.

## 7.3.2 Types of opacimeters

### 7.3.2.1 Partial-flow opacimeter

With the partial-flow opacimeter, a part of the exhaust is taken from the exhaust pipe and passed through a transfer line to the measuring chamber. With this type of opacimeter, the effective optical path length is a function of the opacimeter design.

### 7.3.2.2 Full-flow opacimeters

Two general types of full-flow opacimeters may be used, in-line and end-of-line.

With the in-line opacimeter, the opacity of the full exhaust gas within the exhaust pipe is measured. With this type of opacimeter, the effective optical path length is a function of the opacimeter design.

With the end-of-line opacimeter, the opacity of the full exhaust plume is measured as it exits the exhaust pipe. With this type of opacimeter, the effective optical path length is a function of the exhaust pipe design and the distance between the end of the exhaust pipe and the opacimeter.

## 7.3.3 Performance Specifications

### 7.3.3.1 Linearity

The difference between the value measured by the opacimeter and the reference value of the calibrating device shall not exceed  $\pm 2$  % opacity.

### 7.3.3.2 Zero drift

Zero drift during a one-hour period shall not exceed  $\pm 0,5$  % opacity.

### 7.3.3.3 Opacimeter display and range

For display in both opacity and light absorption coefficient the opacimeter shall have a measuring range appropriate for accurately measuring the smoke of the engine being tested. The resolution shall be at least 0,1 % of full scale.

The optical path length selected for the smoke instrument shall be suitable for the smoke levels being measured in order to minimize errors in calibrations, measurements and calculations.

### 7.3.3.4 Instrument rise time

The physical rise time of the opacimeter shall not exceed 0,2 s. The electrical rise time of the opacimeter shall not exceed 0,05 s.

### 7.3.3.5 Neutral density filters

Any neutral density filter used for calibrating and checking opacimeters shall be known to an accuracy of  $\pm 1$  % opacity and the filter's nominal value shall be checked for accuracy at least yearly using a reference traceable to a national or International Standard.

Neutral density filters are precision devices and can easily be damaged during use. Handling should be minimized and, when required, should be done with care to avoid scratching or soiling of the filter.

## 7.3.4 Calibration of the opacimeter

### 7.3.4.1 Calibration procedure

The opacimeter shall be calibrated every 3 months.

The opacimeter shall be warmed up, stabilized and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. If the opacimeter is equipped with a purge air system to prevent contamination of the instrument's optics, this system should also be activated and adjusted in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

#### 7.3.4.2 Linearity

With the opacimeter in the opacity readout mode and with no blockage of the opacimeter light beam, the readout shall be adjusted to  $0 \% \pm 0,5 \%$  opacity.

With the opacimeter in the opacity readout mode and all light prevented from reaching the receiver, the readout shall be adjusted to  $100 \% \pm 0,5 \%$  opacity.

The linearity of the opacimeter shall be checked in the opacity mode periodically in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. A neutral density filter between 10 % and 60 % opacity which meets the requirements of [7.3.3.5](#) shall be introduced to the opacimeter and the value recorded. The instrument readout shall not differ by more than  $\pm 2 \%$  opacity from the nominal value of the neutral density filter.

## 8 Test run execution

### 8.1 Installation of the measuring equipment

#### 8.1.1 General

The opacimeter and sample probes, if applicable, shall be installed after the muffler or any after-treatment device, if fitted, according to the installation procedures specified by the instrument manufacturer.

#### 8.1.2 Exhaust pipe

For full-flow in-line opacimeters the exhaust pipe diameter shall be a straight pipe (free from elbows, bends and sudden change of pipe diameter) of at least 6 pipe diameters upstream and 3 pipe diameters downstream of the instrument location. If the diameter of the measuring zone is greater than the diameter of the exhaust pipe, a pipe gradually convergent before the measuring zone is required. Joints in the connecting pipes between the exhaust pipe and the opacimeter shall not allow air to enter from outside.

For full-flow end-of-line opacimeters the exhaust pipe diameter shall be a straight pipe (free from elbows, bends and sudden change of pipe diameter) of at least 6 pipe diameters upstream of the instrument location.

For partial-flow opacimeters, the exhaust pipe diameter shall be a straight pipe (free from elbows, bends and sudden change of pipe diameter) of at least 6 pipe diameters upstream and 3 pipe diameters downstream of the probe location. In the case of a large exhaust pipe (e.g. of more than about 250 mm diameter), it may be difficult to respect the requirements concerning the length of straight pipe. In such cases an alternative sampling arrangement may be used provided it has been established that the alternative ensures a representative sample.

#### 8.1.3 Rain caps

Smoke measurements cannot be performed using a full-flow end-of-line opacimeter when a tailpipe rain cap is operational. If present, rain caps shall be removed or secured in the fully open position prior to smoke testing. If the opacimeter is installed without removing the rain cap, the meter shall be oriented so that the cap does not interfere with the smoke plume or block any portion of the opacimeter light beam (see [Figure 1](#)).