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**Micrographics — Duplicating  
film, silver, diazo and vesicular —  
Specifications and measurement for  
visual density**

*Micrographie — Films de duplication argentiques, diazoïques et  
vésiculaires — Spécifications et mesurage pour la densité visuelle*

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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)).

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

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 171, *Document management applications*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 8126:2000), of which it constitutes a minor revision. In 5.2, “and for low contrast tonal diazo film, not greater than 0,90” has been removed and the normative references have been updated.

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

Microforms should be of such quality that the information contained is clearly legible, and suitable for its intended end use. It is therefore important that documents for microfilming conform to microfilming criteria.

Controlling microimage density helps to ensure that good results are obtained. The overall quality of the master directly affects duplicate quality.

Since first generation silver film densities can be measured using regular densitometers, a method had to be found for measuring diazo and vesicular film duplicating films in addition to silver-gelatin films. In the current state of the art, only a method for visual density has been developed.

Visual density should not be confused with printing density. The former is a measurement taking account of the eye's spectral sensitivity whereas the latter is a measurement limited to the spectral sensitivity of the receiving material and the spectral energy distribution of the printing illumination.

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