
**Light measuring system for smoke
emission testing**

Système de mesure de la lumière pour les essais d'émission de fumée

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 92, *Fire safety*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Fire initiation and growth*.

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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.

Light measuring system for smoke emission testing

1 Scope

This document specifies a measuring system that enables the determination of the transmittance and the optical density of smoke emission tests under laboratory conditions. This document also provides the calibration method for the system.

This document is an English-language version of DIN 50055, with minor editorial modifications.

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 13943, *Fire safety — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 13943 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

smoke emission test

test for determining smoke emission levels of substances subject to thermal decomposition

Note 1 to entry: This test requires a decomposition system, a measuring room or duct, and a light measuring system.

3.2

light-measuring system

system for the measurement of light, implemented using a device that measures the attenuation of light caused by smoke and comprising a light source, light receiver, power supply and voltage or current-measuring device

3.3

transmittance

τ

quotient of transmitted radiant flux, Φ_t , and incident radiant flux, Φ_m

Note 1 to entry: Transmittance is calculated using [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$\tau = \frac{\Phi_t}{\Phi_m} \quad (1)$$

**3.4
light attenuation**

S

loss in light power of the measuring beam caused by absorption and scatter

Note 1 to entry: The light attenuation value is expressed as a percentage and is calculated using [Formula \(2\)](#):

$$S = 100(1 - \tau(\lambda)) \quad (2)$$

**3.5
optical density**

D

common logarithm of the inversely proportional transmittance

Note 1 to entry: This is based on DIN 5036-1 and is calculated using [Formula \(3\)](#):

$$D(\lambda) = \lg \frac{1}{\tau(\lambda)} \quad (3)$$

4 Devices

4.1 Design and main connection settings

The light-measuring system consists of a light source, a lens system to create an almost parallel light beam as described in [Table 1](#), a light receiver, a power supply and electronics. A schematic of such a system is provided in [Figure 1](#). When the optional grey filter depicted in [Figure 2](#) is used, it is necessary to choose a shorter measuring path than the one indicated in [Figure 1](#). Attach the measuring light source and the light receiver to a sufficiently rigid and temperature-resistant frame in a manner that allows for adjusting and centring of the light beam (optical bench or similar setup). The frame is not described in this document. A frame suitable for the smoke emission test in question should be chosen.

4.2 Light source

The light source is comprised of an electrical lamp and a lens system that can generate an almost parallel light beam with a diameter of 25 mm (emission diameter) (see [Figure 2](#) and [Table 1](#)). It uses a gas-filled tungsten incandescent lamp at the correlated colour temperature of $(2\,900 \pm 100)$ K at the applied voltage.

The light source includes a movable aperture that allows the reduction of the illuminance at the light receiver for different measuring distances. A neutral density filter can be inserted between the lenses and apertures to reduce the illuminance at the light receiver for shorter measuring distances.

4.3 Light receiver

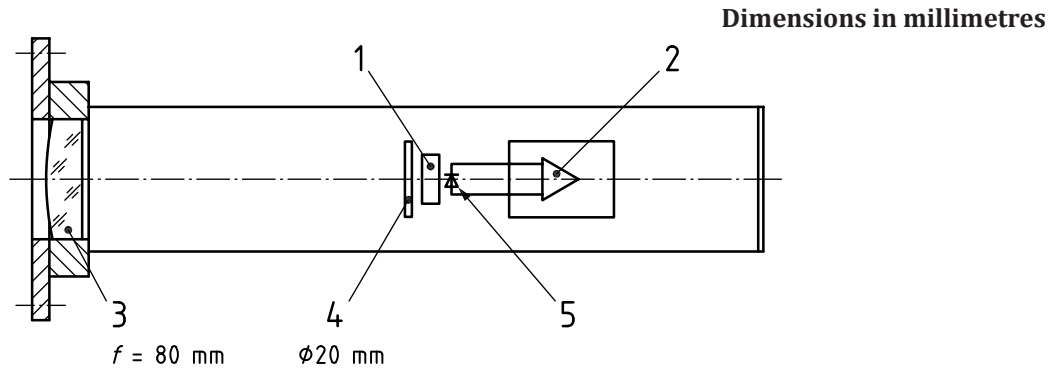
The light receiver comprises an achromatic lens system with a focal length of approximately 80 mm and a silicon photo element measuring at least 7 mm², which includes a spectral filter set for adjusting to human eye sensitivity at photopic vision.

NOTE See also DIN 5031-3.

The photo element should be temperature-compensated.

A frosted glass is positioned in front of the spectral filter set, which serves the purpose of diffusing light entering the focal plane of the lens.

The light receiver shall have a linear measuring range of 500 to 2 500 cd/m² (luminance at the reception surface).



Key

- | | | | |
|---|---|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | filter for adjusting to eye sensitivity | 4 | frosted cased glass |
| 2 | amplifier | 5 | si photodiode |
| 3 | achromatic lens | <i>f</i> | focal length of the achromatic lens |

Figure 3 — Schematic diagram of the light receiver

Table 1 — Diameter of the light beam as function of distance from the light source

| Distance from the light source, <i>a</i> (mm) | Diameter, <i>d</i> , of the light beam at the distance “ <i>a</i> ” (mm) |
|--|--|
| 0 | 25 |
| 1 200 | 37 |

When using a control unit and display, electronic components may be implemented to control the attenuation of the amplifier such that the response times for the 95 % measurement value setting (T 95) conform to the time constants shown in [Table 2](#).

Table 2 — Time constant at each attenuation level

| Attenuation level | Time constant (±10 %) s |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 | 0,75 |
| 1 | 1,60 |
| 2 | 2,50 |
| 3 | 4,00 |
| 4 | 6,00 |
| 5 | 8,00 |

5 Calibration

5.1 Setting the illumination level

After turning on the device and adjusting/centring the light beam, ensure the light beam is centred on the light receiver and adjust the beam as explained in [5.2](#).

5.2 Checking the light measuring system

Check the light measuring system using at least three neutral density filters made of glass with optical density of 0,1 ,0,3 and 1,0, for example. Place the filters (vertically) into the light beam. Compare the

measured optical density with the calibration value of the filter. If the optical density deviates by more than 5 % or 0,01 (whichever represents a wider tolerance) from the calibration value, then corrective action is required (for example, check the alignment and setup of the system, replace the light source, replace the light receiver or replace the optical filters).

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