
**Road vehicles — Vehicle test methods
for electrical disturbances from
narrowband radiated electromagnetic
energy —**

**Part 4:
Harness excitation methods**

*Véhicules routiers — Méthodes d'essai d'un véhicule soumis
à des perturbations électriques par rayonnement d'énergie
électromagnétique en bande étroite —*

Partie 4: Méthodes d'excitation des faisceaux

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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. 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. www.iso.org/patents

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 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 32, *Electrical and electronic components and general system aspects*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 11451-4:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows: www.iso.org/standards/std/210ee091-d62b-46a8-999c-a03d7285c09f/iso-11451-4-2022

- extension of BCI frequency range,
- addition of TWC test method,
- update of test plan and test report requirements,
- update of [Annexes A, B and C](#) for consistency with ISO 11452-4:2020.

A list of all parts in the ISO 11451 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.

Road vehicles — Vehicle test methods for electrical disturbances from narrowband radiated electromagnetic energy —

Part 4: Harness excitation methods

1 Scope

This document specifies harness excitation methods for testing the electromagnetic immunity of electronic components for passenger cars and commercial vehicles regardless of the propulsion system (e.g. spark-ignition engine, diesel engine, electric motor).

The bulk current injection (BCI) test method is based on current injection into the wiring harness using a current probe as a transformer where the harness forms the secondary winding. The tubular wave coupler (TWC) test method is based on a wave coupling into the wiring harness using the directional coupler principle.

The TWC test method was developed for immunity testing of automotive components with respect to radiated disturbances in the GHz ranges (GSM bands, UMTS, ISM 2,4 GHz). It is best suited to small (with respect to wavelength) and shielded device under test (DUT), since in these cases the dominating coupling mechanism is via the harness.

The electromagnetic disturbance considered in this document is limited to continuous narrowband electromagnetic fields.

ISO 11451-1 gives definitions, practical use and basic principles of the test methods.

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 11451-1, *Road vehicles — Vehicle test methods for electrical disturbances from narrowband radiated electromagnetic energy — Part 1: General principles and terminology*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 11451-1 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/>

4 Test conditions

The applicable frequency range of the BCI and the TWC test methods are direct functions of the transducer characteristics (current probe or tubular wave coupler). More than one type of transducer may be required to cover the applicable frequency range.

To test automotive electronic systems, the typical applicable frequency range:

- of the BCI test method is 100 kHz to 1 GHz. When an alternative test method is not feasible, then BCI testing between 400 MHz and 1 GHz may be used and shall be agreed between the users of this document and documented in the test plan,
- of the TWC test method is 400 MHz to 3 GHz.

The users shall specify the test severity level(s) over the frequency range. Suggested test severity levels are given in [Annex C](#). These test severity levels are expressed in terms of the equivalent root-mean-square value of the unmodulated wave.

Standard test conditions are given in ISO 11451-1 for the following:

- test temperature,
- supply voltage,
- modulation,
- dwell time,
- frequency step sizes,
- definition of test severity levels, and
- test signal quality.

5 Test location

The tests should be performed in a shielded enclosure.

The distance between the vehicle and all other conductive structures, such as the walls of a shielded room (with the exception of the ground plane underneath the vehicle) shall be a minimum of 0,5 m.

The test may be alternatively performed in an outdoor test site. The test facility shall be aware of (national) legal requirements regarding the transmission of electromagnetic fields.

CAUTION — Hazardous voltages and fields may exist within the test area. Care shall be taken to ensure that the requirements for limiting the exposure of humans to RF energy are met.

6 Test instrumentation

6.1 BCI test method

6.1.1 General

BCI is a method of carrying out immunity tests by inducing disturbance signals directly into the wiring harness by means of a current injection probe. The injection probe is a current transformer through which the wires of the device under test (DUT) are passed. Immunity tests are then carried out by varying the test severity level and frequency of the induced disturbance.

The following equipment is used:

- current injection probe(s);
- current measurement probe(s);
- radio frequency (RF) generator with internal or external modulation capability;
- power amplifier;

- power measuring instrumentation to measure the forward and reverse power;
- current measurement equipment.

BCI shall be conducted on each individual system fitted to the vehicle.

6.1.2 Injection probe

An injection probe or set of probes capable of operating over the test frequency range is required to couple the test signal to the DUT. The probe(s) shall be capable of withstanding the necessary input power for the maximum test level over the test frequency range regardless of the test set-up loading.

Saturation of the injection probe by test level and by DUT current should be taken into consideration.

6.1.3 Current measurement probe

The current measurement probe or set of probes shall be capable of operating over the test frequency range.

6.1.4 Stimulation and monitoring of the DUT

The DUT shall be operated as required in the test plan by actuators which have a minimum effect on the electromagnetic characteristics, e.g. plastic blocks on the push-buttons, pneumatic actuators with plastic tubes.

Connections to equipment monitoring electromagnetic interference reactions of the DUT may be accomplished by using fibre-optics, or high-resistance leads. Other type of leads may be used but require extreme care to minimize interactions. The orientation, length and location of such leads shall be carefully documented to ensure repeatability of test results.

Any electrical connection of monitoring equipment to the DUT may cause malfunctions of the DUT. Extreme care shall be taken to avoid such an effect.

6.2 TWC test method

6.2.1 General

The approach of this test method is an equivalent coupling to a plane wave coupling into a wiring harness of the vehicle. To realize this, a short 50 Ω coaxial line configuration with open ends, an inner tube-shaped conductor and matched terminations are used to generate a transverse electromagnetic (TEM) wave inside. The wiring harness leads through the inner conductor of the wave coupler. This leads to two disturbing components for the DUT: a TEM wave component coupled via the cable, and a radiated component, caused by the scattering field from the primary TEM wave in the connecting cable between the coupler and the DUT.

The following equipment is used:

- tubular wave coupler;
- RF generator with internal or external modulation capability;
- power amplifier;
- power measuring instrumentation to measure the forward and reverse power.

TWC shall be conducted on each individual system fitted to the vehicle.

6.2.2 Tubular wave coupler

A tubular wave coupler is used to couple the disturbances into the test wiring harness. It shall be capable of coupling the test power over the test frequency range into the wiring harness and shall have a sufficiently high coupling and power rating.

6.2.3 50 Ω load resistor

A 50 Ω load resistor is used to match the output of the tubular wave coupler. The power rating shall be equal or greater than the applied forward power.

6.2.4 Stimulation and monitoring of the DUT

See [6.1.4](#).

7 Test set-up

7.1 BCI Test methods

There are two test methods for the BCI test: the substitution method and the closed-loop method (see [7.1.1](#) and [7.1.2](#), respectively).

7.1.1 Substitution method

Unless otherwise specified in the test plan, the current injection probe shall be mounted around the harness (150 ± 50) mm from the connector or the outlet aperture of the DUT being tested on the vehicle.

Where the harness contains a number of branches to DUT connectors, the test should be repeated with the current injection probe(s) clamped around each of the branches (150 ± 50) mm from the branch termination. Under these test conditions, the measuring probe, if used, shall be left at its previous distance from the DUT.

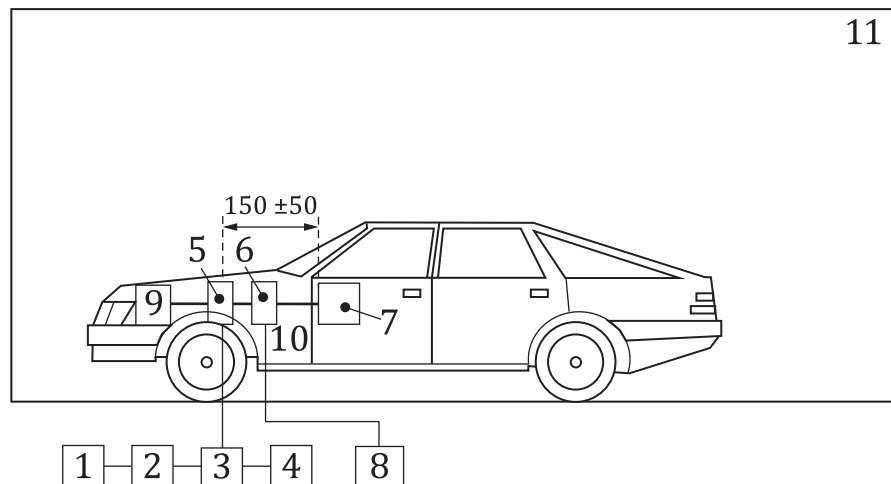
Using the pre-calibrated level of forward power, (described in [8.3.1.2.2](#)), conduct a search for events over the frequency range of the injection probe.

For each event, record the lowest forward power to the probe as the threshold of immunity at different frequencies.

A current measurement probe may optionally be mounted between the current injection probe and the DUT. It may provide extra useful information, but it may also modify the test conditions. When this probe is used, the measured current cannot be used to determine the performance of the DUT, but should be retained and used during investigative work for the causes of events and the variances in test conditions after system modifications.

An example of a test configuration shown in [Figure 1](#).

Dimensions in millimetres

**Key**

- 1 signal generators
- 2 broadband amplifier
- 3 RF 50 Ω directional coupler
- 4 RF power level measuring device or equivalent
- 5 RF injection probe
- 6 RF current measurement probe (optional)
- 7 DUT
- 8 spectrum analyser or equivalent (optional)
- 9 others vehicle devices
- 10 harness
- 11 shielded enclosure

It is recommended that appropriate ferrite chokes be placed on the coaxial cables to the injection and current measurement probes.

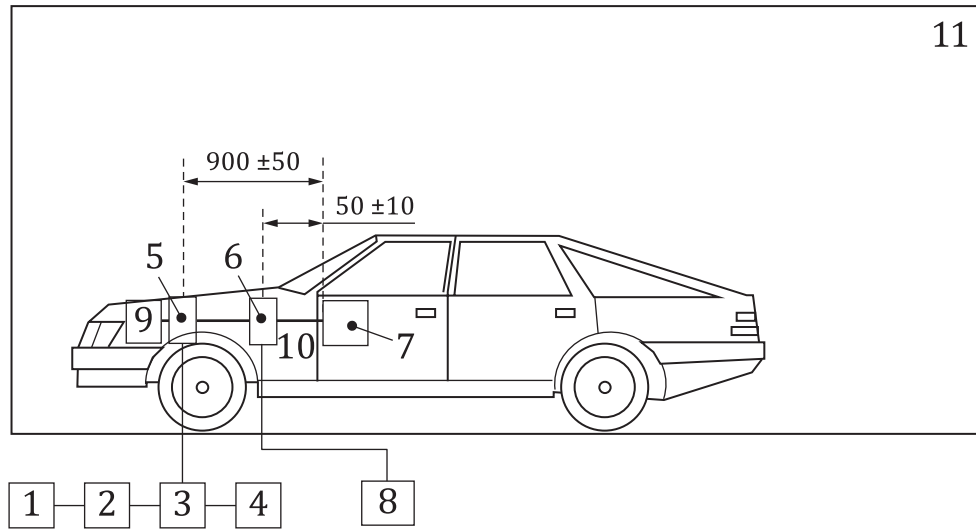
Figure 1 — Example of BCI test configuration – Substitution method

7.1.2 Closed-loop method with power limitation

Unless otherwise specified in the test plan, the injection probe should be placed at (900 ± 50) mm from the connector of the DUT.

Unless otherwise specified in the test plan, the current measurement probe shall be placed at (50 ± 10) mm from the connector of the DUT.

The vehicle and associated equipment are installed in the test location as described in [Figure 2](#).



Key

- 1 signal generators
- 2 broadband amplifier
- 3 RF 50 Ω directional coupler
- 4 RF power level measuring device or equivalent
- 5 RF injection probe
- 6 RF current measurement probe
- 7 DUT
- 8 spectrum analyser or equivalent
- 9 others vehicle devices
- 10 harness
- 11 shielded enclosure

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It is recommended that appropriate ferrite chokes be placed on the coaxial cables to the injection and current measurement probes.

Figure 2 — Example of BCI test configuration – Closed-loop method

7.2 TWC Test methods

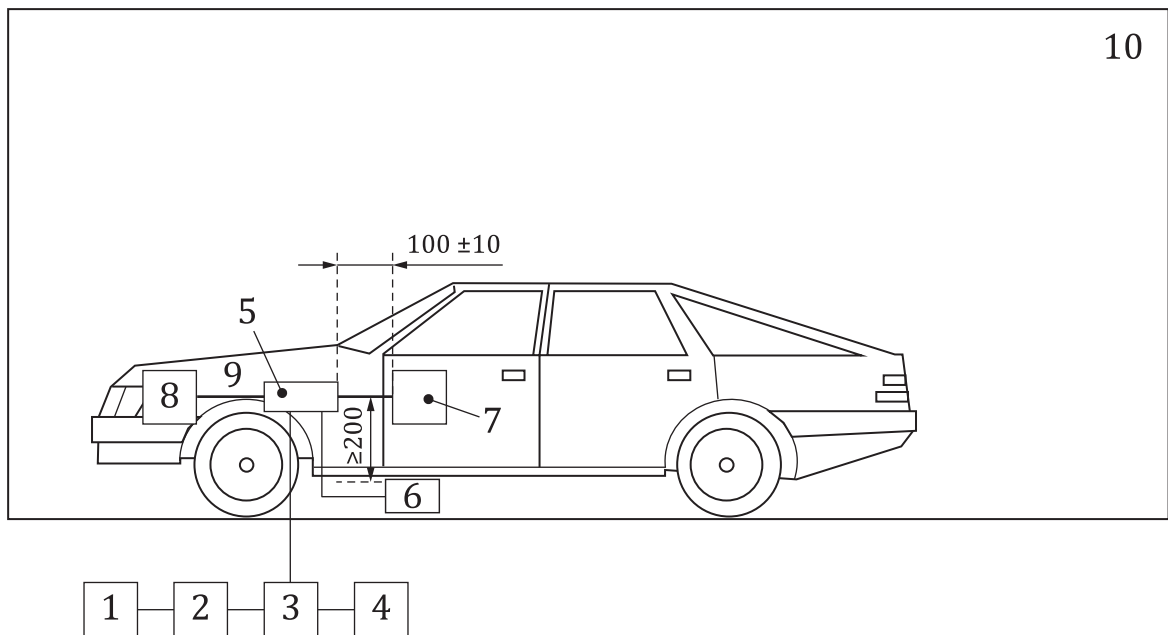
Measurements using this method can be affected by coupling between the TWC and the wiring harness as well as by reflected energy.

Unless otherwise specified in the test plan, the tubular wave coupler shall be placed at (100 ± 10) mm from the connector or the outlet aperture of the DUT being tested on the vehicle and isolated from any metallic part of the vehicle. It shall be connected to the high-frequency equipment at the port, which is closer to the DUT. The 50 Ω load resistor shall be placed isolated from any metallic part of the vehicle at a minimum distance of 200 mm from the wiring harness and connected to the second port of the TWC.

Where the harness contains a number of branches to DUT connectors, the test should be repeated with the tubular wave coupler clamped around each of the branches (100 ± 10) mm from the branch termination.

The vehicle and associated equipment are installed in the test location as described in [Figure 3](#).

Dimensions in millimetres

**Key**

- 1 signal generators
- 2 broadband amplifier
- 3 RF 50 Ω directional coupler
- 4 RF power level measuring device or equivalent
- 5 TWC
- 6 50 Ω load resistor
- 7 DUT
- 8 others vehicle devices
- 9 harness
- 10 shielded enclosure

Figure 3 — Example of TWC test configuration**8 Test procedure****8.1 General**

The general arrangement of the disturbance source with respect to the vehicle harness and DUT represents a standardized test condition. Any deviations from this shall be agreed upon prior to testing and recorded in the test report.

8.2 Test plan

Prior to performing the tests, a test plan shall be generated which shall include the following:

- test set-up;
- test method;
- frequency range;
- DUT mode of operation;

- DUT acceptance criteria;
- test severity levels;
- DUT monitoring conditions;
- injection and measurement probes locations;
- TWC location;
- injection conditions for wiring with multiple connectors and/or multiple branches;
- test report content;
- and any special instructions and changes from the standard test.

Every DUT shall be tested under the most significant operating conditions depending on significance of road safety and usability, i.e. at least in stand-by mode and in a mode where all the actuators can be excited.

8.3 Test methods

8.3.1 BCI test method

8.3.1.1 General

Two BCI test methods are specified:

- the substitution method;
- the closed-loop method with power limitation.

8.3.1.2 Substitution method

8.3.1.2.1 General

The substitution method is based upon the use of forward power as the reference parameter for calibration and test.

This method is performed in two phases:

- calibration (on fixture);
- test of the vehicle.

8.3.1.2.2 Calibration

The specific test level (current) shall be calibrated periodically by recording the forward power required to produce a specific current measured on a 50 Ω calibration fixture, as defined in [Annex A](#), at frequency steps not greater than the maximum frequency step sizes defined in ISO 11451-1.

For smaller incremental test frequency steps, interpolation between calibration frequencies is allowed.

This calibration shall be performed with an unmodulated sinusoidal RF signal.

The values of forward and reverse power recorded in the calibration file should be included in the test report upon request.

The calibration fixture shall be terminated by a 50 Ω (high power) load at one end and by a 50 Ω RF power measuring instrumentation at the other end, protected by a 50 Ω attenuator of adequate power rating as defined in [Annex A](#).