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Automated liquid handling systems – Uncertainty of the measurement procedures

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ISO/DTR 6037

ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E) 2024(en)

Contents

Forev	vord	х
Introd	luctionx	ĸi
1	_Scope	1
2	_Normative references	1
3	_Terms and definitions	1
<u>4</u>	_General procedure for the uncertainty calculation	
<u>5</u>	Modelling of the measurement	2
<u>6</u>	Standard uncertainty components associated with the measuring system	2
6.1	General information on standard uncertainty components estimation	2
6.2	Specific information on standard uncertainty components estimation	3
7	Standard uncertainty components associated with the ALHS	3
7.1	General	3
7.2	ALHS-type specific influencing parameters	3
7.3	Test liquid properties influencing ALHS operation	
7.4	Standard uncertainty of ALHS resolution4	4
7.5	Standard uncertainty of cubic expansion coefficient (optional)	
7.6	Standard uncertainty associated with air cushion effects (optional)	521
8	Repeatability and reproducibility of the liquid delivery process	5
8.1	Repeatability (experimental standard deviation)	5
8.2	Reproducibility	6
9	Combined standard uncertainty of measurement associated with the systematic error of mean volum	<u>e</u>
	_6 <u>ISO/DTR 6037</u>	
<u>10</u>	Sensitivity coefficients	
<u>11</u>	_Coverage factor k	
<u>12</u>	Expanded uncertainty of measurement associated with the mean volume	
<u>13</u>	Examples for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of ALHS10	
13.1		
	_Results10	
13.2.1		
13.2.2		
13.2.3		
13.2.4		
	Remarks on conformity with ISO/IEC Guide 98-31	
	x A (informative) Dual-dye ratiometric photometric procedure1	
<u>A.1</u>	Description of the measurement1	
<u>A.2</u>	Modelling the measurement1	3

ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E2024(en)

<u>A.3</u>		
photo	metric procedure	
<u>A.3.1</u>	Absorbance per unit path length of CuCl $_2$ solution (a_b)1	
<u>A.3.2</u>	Absorbance per unit path length of Ponceau S test liquid (a_r) 15	
<u>A.3.3</u>	Measured absorbance at 520 nm (A ₅₂₀)15	
<u>A.3.4</u>	Measured absorbance at 730 nm (A ₇₃₀)15	
<u>A.3.5</u>	Uncertainty components of the geometric dimensions of microplate wells (D , $ heta$)15	
<u>A.3.6</u>	Other uncertainty components15	
<u>A.4</u>	_Sensitivity coefficients15	
<u>A.5</u>	_Example for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of an ALHS with the dual-dy	
ration	netric photometric procedure17	
<u>A.5.1</u>	Measurement conditions17	
<u>A.5.2</u>	Results	
Anne	x B (informative) Gravimetric procedure21	
<u>B.1</u>	Description of the measurement21	
<u>B.2</u>	Modelling the measurement 2	
B.2.1	General gravimetric formula2	
B.2.2	Air density23	
B.2.3	Test liquid density	
B.2.4	Estimating evaporation2	
B.2.5	Modelling the gravimetric single-channel method2	
B.2.6	Modelling the gravimetric regression method25	
B.3	Standard uncertainty components associated with the measuring system28	
B.3.1	Standard uncertainty of weighing28	
B.3.2	Standard uncertainty of temperature31	
B.3.3	Standard uncertainty of test liquid density32	
B.3.4	Standard uncertainty of air density33	
B.3.5	Standard uncertainty of weights density34	
<u>B.4</u>	Sensitivity coefficients34	
<u>B.5</u>	Examples for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of the ALHS35	
B.5.1	Example of testing a single channel ALHS with multiple replicates	
B.5.2	Example of testing a single channel using gravimetric regression	
_	x C (informative) Optical image analysis of droplets42	
<u>C.1</u>	Description of the measurement	
C.1.1	General 42	
C.1.2	Optical image analysis of droplets	
C.2	Modelling the measurement	
C.2.1	General 42	
C 2 2	Analysis of the droplets	

ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E)-2024(en)

<u>C.3</u>	Standard uncertainty components associated with the measuring system43	
C.3.1	1 Standard uncertainties for the analysis of droplets44	
<u>C.3.2</u>	2 Standard uncertainty for the magnification factor α44	
<u>C.3.3</u>	3 Standard uncertainties for determining the number of pixels45	
C.3.4		
C.3.5	5 Standard uncertainty for evaporation49	
C.4	Sensitivity coefficients49	
<u>C.5</u>	Example for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of the ALHS50	
C.5.1	1 Measurement conditions for droplets50	
C.5.2	2 Results for droplets53	
<u>Biblio</u>	liography55	
Foros	eword vi	
	roduction vii	
	Scope 1	
2	Normative references 1 iTeh Standards	
3	Terms and definitions 1	
4		
5	General procedure for the uncertainty calculation 1 Standards item a Modelling of the measurement 2	
6	Standard uncertainty components associated with the measuring system 2	
6.1	General information on standard uncertainty components estimation2	
6.2	Specific information on standard uncertainty components estimation3	
7	Standard uncertainty components associated with the ALHS 3 0/DTR 6037	
7.1		
7.2	General: //star3dards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/3606540e-9d69-4513-b3c3-39 ALHS-type specific influencing parameters 3	
7.3	Test liquid properties influencing ALHS operation 3	
7.4	Standard uncertainty of ALHS resolution 3	
7.5	Standard uncertainty of cubic expansion coefficient (optional) 4	
7.6	Standard uncertainty associated with air cushion effects (optional) 4	
8	Repeatability and reproducibility of the liquid delivery process 5	
8.1	Repeatability (experimental standard deviation) 5	
8.2		
9	Combined standard uncertainty of measurement associated with the systematic error of mean volume	
		
10	Sensitivity coefficients 6	
11	Coverage factor k 7	
12	Expanded uncertainty of measurement associated with the mean volume (\overline{V}) 7	
13	Examples for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of ALHS 7	
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ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E2024(en)

13.1	Measurement conditions 7	
13.2	Results 8	
13.2.1	Standard uncertainty of the ALHS mean volume 8	
13.2.2	Expanded uncertainty of the measurement 8	
13.2.3	Result of measurement 8	
13.2.4	Caution regarding use of numerical values in this report 8	
13.2.5	Remarks on conformity with ISO/IEC Guide 98 8	
Annex	A (informative) Dual dye ratiometric photometric procedure 10	
A.1	Description of the measurement 10	
A.2	Modelling the measurement 10	
	Standard uncertainty components associated with the input quantities to the dual-dye ratiometri netric procedure 11	e
A.3.1	Absorbance per unit pathlength of GuCl $_2$ -solution (a_b)11	
A.3.2	Absorbance per unit pathlength of Ponceau S test liquid (a _r) 11	
A.3.3	Measured absorbance at 520 nm (A ₅₂₀) 12	
	Measured absorbance at 730 nm (A ₇₃₀) 12	
A.3.5	Uncertainty components of the geometric dimensions of microplate wells (D, θ) 12	
	Other uncertainty components 12	
A.4	Sensitivity coefficients 12 (https://standards.iteh.	
	Example for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of an ALHS with the dual dy	e
	etric photometric procedure—13 Document Preview	
	Measurement conditions 13	
	Results 15	
	Standard uncertainty of the ALHS mean volume 15 ISO/DTR 6037	
	Expanded uncertainty of the measurement s. 15 dards/iso/3606540e-9d69-4513-b3c3	
	Result of measurement 15	
	General remarks 15	
	B (informative) Gravimetric procedure 17	
	Description of the measurement 17	
	–Modelling the measurement 17	
	General gravimetric formula 17	
	Single channel analysis 17	
	Regression analysis 18	
	Air density 18	
	Test liquid density 18	
	Estimating evaporation 19	
	Modelling the gravimetric single-channel method 19	
	Modelling the gravimetric regression method 19	
B.3	Standard uncertainty components associated with the measuring system 21	

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ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E) 2024(en)

```
B.3.1 Standard uncertainty of weighing 21
B.3.1.1 Single-channel analysis
B.3.1.2 Regression analysis 22
B.3.1.3 Standard uncertainty of balance drift 23
B.3.1.4-Standard uncertainty of the calibration of the balance 23
B.3.2 Standard uncertainty of temperature 23
B.3.3 Standard uncertainty of water density 24
B.3.4 Standard uncertainty of air density 25
B.3.5 Standard uncertainty of weights density 25
B.4 Sensitivity coefficients 25
B.5 Examples for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of the ALHS 26
B.5.1 Example of testing a single channel ALHS with multiple replicates 26
B.5.1.1 Results 27
B.5.1.1.1 Standard uncertainty of the ALHS mean volume 27
B.5.1.1.2 Expanded uncertainty of the ALHS mean volume 28
B.5.1.1.3 Expression of the measurement result 28
B.5.2 Example of testing a single channel using gravimetric regression 28
B.5.2.1-Measurement conditions
B.5.2.2 Results 30
B.5.2.2.1 Standard uncertainty of the ALHS mean volume 30
B.5.2.2.2 Expanded uncertainty of the ALHS mean volume 30 Ment Preview
B.5.2.2.3 Expression of the measurement result 30
Annex C (informative) Optical image analysis of droplets 31
C.1 Description of the measurement 31
C.1.1 General ards. itch.ai/catalog/standards/iso/3606540e-9d69-4513-b3c3-3962f962a9af/iso-dtr-6037
C.1.2 Optical image analysis of droplets 31
C.2 Modelling the measurement 31
C.2.1 General 31
C.2.2 Analysis of the droplets
C.3 Standard uncertainty components associated with the measuring system 32
C.3.1 Standard uncertainties for the analysis of droplets 32
C.3.2 Standard uncertainty for the magnification factor \alpha 33
C.3.3 Standard uncertainties for determining the number of pixels 34
C.3.4—Standard uncertainty for the spherical shape of the droplet—34
C.3.5 Standard uncertainty for evaporation 36
C.4 Sensitivity coefficients 36
     Example for determining the uncertainty of the volume measurement of the ALHS 37
C.5.1 Measurement conditions for droplets 37
C.5.2 Results for droplets 39
                                               © ISO<del>####</del> <u>2024</u> – All rights reserved
```

ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E2024(en)

C.5.2.1 Standard uncertainty of the ALHS delivered volume 39
C.5.2.2 Expanded uncertainty of the ALHS mean volume 39
C.5.2.3 Expression of the measurement results 39
Bibliography 41

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

ISO/DTR 6037

ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E) 2024(en)

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ISO/DTR 6037:2023(E2024(en)

Introduction

The examples given in this document are informative and support the requirement found in the-ISO 23788 series to perform an estimation of measurement uncertainty when calibrating automated liquid handling systems (ALHS) according to the measurement procedures described in ISO 23783-2. The examples in this document are based on the principles of ISO/IEC Guide 98-3.

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

ISO/DTR 6037

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

ISO/DTR 6037

ISO/DTR 6037:2024(en)

Automated liquid handling systems – Uncertainty of the measurement procedures

1 Scope

This document describes the measurement uncertainty analysis of the measurement procedures described in ISO 23783-2, following the approach described in ISO/IEC Guide 98-3.

This document also includes the determination of other uncertainty components related to the liquid delivery process and the device under test (DUT) to estimate the overall measurement uncertainty of delivered volumes by an automated liquid handling system (ALHS).

32 Normative references

ISO-23783-1, Automated liquid handling systems — Part 1: Vocabulary and general requirements

ISO/IEC_Guide_98-3, Uncertainty of measurement — Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)

ISO/IEC_Guide_99, International vocabulary of metrology — Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)

43 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 23783-1, ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, and ISO/IEC Guide 99 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/

54 General procedure for the uncertainty calculation

The evaluation of measurement uncertainty in this document follows the ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 "Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM)." The method has the following steps:

- a) 4-Expressing, in mathematical terms, the relationship between the measurand and its input quantities.
- b) 2. Determining the expected value of each input quantity.
- c) 3. Determining the standard uncertainty of each input quantity.
- d) 4. Determining the degree of freedom for each input quantity.
- e) 5. Determining all covariance between the input quantities.
- f) 6-Calculating the expected value for the measurand.
- g) 7. Calculating the sensitivity coefficient of each input quantity.
- h) 8-Calculating the combined standard uncertainty of the measurand.

ISO/DTR 6037:(en)

- i) 9-Calculating the effective degrees of freedom of the combined standard uncertainty.
- i) 10. Choosing an appropriate coverage factor, *k*, to achieve the required confidence level.
- k) 11. Calculating the expanded uncertainty.

In this document, the uncertainty of the measurement procedure is separated in three different clauses:

- the uncertainty components associated with the measuring system, see Clause 6; Clause 6:
- the uncertainty components associated with the device under test (ALHS), see Clause 7; and Clause 7;
- the uncertainty components associated with the liquid delivery process, see Clause 8.—Clause 8.

65 Modelling of the measurement

Each measurement procedure has specific uncertainty components associated with the measuring system. These uncertainty components are described in the respective annex for each procedure. See Annex Annex A for the dual-dye ratiometric photometric procedure, Annex B for the gravimetric procedure, and Annex C for the optical image analysis of droplets.

76 Standard uncertainty components associated with the measuring system

7.16.1 General information on standard uncertainty components estimation

It is possible to experimentally estimate the standard uncertainty of measurement, u(x), for a quantity x, by performing multiple measurements of x under repeatability conditions. This is called a type A evaluation according to ISO/IEC Guide 98-3. The standard deviation of the obtained values is a measure of the repeatability of the measurement. The standard uncertainty associated with x can be a standard deviation based on previous experience (in the case where a single measurement of x is made), or the standard deviation of the mean equal to stdev(x)/sqrt(n) (in the case where x is the average of n readings).

See ISO Guide 98-3:2008, 4.2 for more information on type A evaluation of standard uncertainty.

In addition to repeated measurements, the systematic component of the uncertainty of measurement for a quantity x is estimated by other means. This is called a type B evaluation according to ISO/IEC Guide 98-3. For example, one can obtain information for that estimation by considering the manufacturer's specifications of the ALHS (e.-g., resolution, linearity, drift, temperature dependence, etc.).

Often the manufacturer's specifications are given in the form of an interval covering the measurement value, with no additional information regarding distribution or coverage. In those cases, the measurement can be assumed to follow a uniform or rectangular distribution. This distribution is characterised by a constant probability inside the interval while the probability outside the interval is zero.

The interval can be used in a type B evaluation to give the variance of x in the form shown in Formula (1):

$$\frac{u^2(x) = \frac{(a_+ - a_-)^2}{12}}{12}$$

where $u^2(x)$ is the variance of the variable x;

 $-a_+$ and a_- give the upper and lower limits of the interval of the variable x.

$$u^{2}(x) = \frac{(a_{+} - a_{-})^{2}}{12} \tag{1}$$

where

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