

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Fibre optic sensors - Generic specification

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references	8
3 Terms and definitions	8
3.1 Fibre optic sensor principles	9
3.2 Fibre optic sensor performance parameters	15
3.3 Interfaces.....	19
4 Abbreviated terms	19
5 Quality assurance.....	19
6 Test and measurement procedures.....	20
6.1 General.....	20
6.2 Standard conditions for testing.....	20
6.3 Test and measurement equipment requirements	20
6.4 Visual inspection.....	21
6.5 Dimensions and weight	21
6.6 Metrological properties	21
6.6.1 General	21
6.6.2 Metrological parameters	21
6.7 Optical tests.....	22
6.7.1 General	22
6.7.2 Optical power	22
6.7.3 Nominal wavelength and appropriate spectral characteristics	22
6.7.4 State of polarization.....	22
6.7.5 Fibre connector performance	22
6.8 Electrical tests	22
6.8.1 General	22
6.8.2 Parameters and test procedures	22
6.8.3 Voltage stress	23
6.9 Mechanical tests.....	23
6.9.1 General	23
6.9.2 Parameters and test procedures	23
6.10 Climatic and environmental tests	24
6.10.1 General	24
6.10.2 Parameters and test procedures	24
6.11 Susceptibility to ambient light.....	25
6.12 Resistance to solvents and contaminating fluids	25
7 Classification.....	25
7.1 General.....	25
7.2 Measurand.....	26
7.2.1 General	26
7.2.2 Presence or absence of objects or features	26
7.2.3 Position	26
7.2.4 Rate of positional change	26
7.2.5 Flow	26
7.2.6 Temperature.....	27

7.2.7	Force per directional vector	27
7.2.8	Force per area	27
7.2.9	Strain	27
7.2.10	Electromagnetic quantities	27
7.2.11	Ionizing and nuclear radiation	27
7.2.12	Other physical properties of materials	27
7.2.13	Composition and specific chemical quantities	27
7.2.14	Particulates	27
7.3	Transduction principle	27
7.3.1	General	27
7.3.2	Active generation of light	27
7.3.3	Atom-field interaction	28
7.3.4	Coherence modulation	28
7.3.5	Intensity modulation	28
7.3.6	Optical spectrum modulation	28
7.3.7	Phase modulation	28
7.3.8	Polarization modulation	28
7.4	Spatial distribution	28
7.5	Interface level	28
8	Marking, labelling, packaging and instruction manual	29
8.1	Marking of component	29
8.2	Marking of sealed package and instruction manual	29
9	IEC type designation	29
10	Safety aspects	29
10.1	General	29
10.2	Personal safety	29
10.3	Safety in explosive environment	30
11	Ordering information	30
12	Drawings	30
Annex A	(informative) Examples of fibre optic sensors	31
A.1	General	31
A.2	Presence or absence of objects or features	31
A.2.1	Level	31
A.2.2	Proximity	31
A.2.3	Photo interruption	31
A.3	Position	31
A.3.1	End position	31
A.3.2	Linear position	32
A.3.3	Angular position	32
A.3.4	Proximity	32
A.3.5	Zone (area)	32
A.3.6	Dimensional	32
A.4	Rate of positional change	32
A.4.1	Linear speed or velocity	32
A.4.2	Rotational speed or velocity	32
A.4.3	Gyroscope	33
A.4.4	Linear acceleration	33
A.4.5	Rotational acceleration	33

A.5	Flow.....	33
A.6	Temperature	33
A.7	Force per directional vector	34
A.7.1	Seismic	34
A.7.2	Vibration.....	34
A.7.3	Torque.....	34
A.7.4	Weight and mass.....	34
A.8	Force per area	34
A.8.1	Acoustic	34
A.8.2	Pressure.....	34
A.9	Strain.....	35
A.10	Electromagnetic quantities	36
A.10.1	Magnetic field	36
A.10.2	Electrical current	36
A.10.3	Electric field.....	36
A.10.4	Voltage	37
A.10.5	Electromagnetic radiation	37
A.11	Ionizing and nuclear radiation	37
A.12	Other physical properties of materials	37
A.12.1	Material refractive index	37
A.12.2	Density	37
A.12.3	Viscosity.....	37
A.12.4	Damage.....	37
A.13	Composition and specific chemical quantities	38
A.14	Particulates.....	38
A.14.1	Count	38
A.14.2	Atomic	38
A.14.3	Turbidity	38
A.15	Spatial distribution	38
A.15.1	Single point	38
A.15.2	Multiple point.....	38
A.15.3	Integrating	38
A.15.4	Distributed.....	39
	Bibliography.....	40
	Figure 1 – Fibre optic sensor in transmittance configuration with a passive fibre sensing element and separate fibre leads for optical input and output.....	9
	Figure 2 – Fibre optic sensor in reflectance configuration with a passive sensing element and separate fibre leads for optical input and output.....	10
	Figure 3 – Fibre optic sensor with an optical radiation-generating sensing element and separate fibre lead for optical output.....	10
	Figure 4 – Fibre optic sensor with an optical radiation-generating sensing fibre and separate fibre lead for optical output.....	11
	Figure 5 – Fibre optic sensor in backscattering configuration with a passive fibre sensing element and one fibre lead for optical input and output	11
	Figure 6 – Distributed fibre optic sensor in loop configuration	12
	Figure 7 – Multiple point fibre optic sensor in backscattering configuration	13
	Figure 8 – Single point fibre optic sensor in backscattering configuration.....	14

Table 1 – Electrical test parameters and procedures.....	23
Table 2 – Mechanical test parameters and procedures	24
Table 3 – Climatic and environmental test parameters and procedures	25

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Fibre optic sensors - Generic specification

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IEC 61757 has been prepared by subcommittee 86C: Fibre optic systems, sensing and active devices, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics. It is an International Standard.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) expansion of the list of metrological parameters;
- b) updates of the terms and definitions;
- c) updates of the normative references and bibliography;
- d) updates of the technical descriptions in Annex A.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
86C/2008/FDIS	86C/2011/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61757 series, published under the general title *Fibre optic sensors*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

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INTRODUCTION

A fibre optic sensor comprises an optical or optically powered sensing element in which incident light is modified by the measurand in such a way that the output light of the sensing element carries quantifiable information on the measurand. The sensing element can be the fibre itself or an optically powered element inserted along the optical path. In a fibre optic sensor, one or more parameters of the guided optical waves are directly or indirectly modified by the measurand somewhere in the optical sensing element, in contrast to a fibre optic data link where the optical information signal is merely transmitted from the transmitter to the receiver.

This document provides generic specifications on optical fibres, components, and sub-assemblies that pertain specifically to fibre optic sensing applications. It is intended to be used as a common working and discussion tool by the vendors of components and subassemblies that are integrated in fibre optic sensors, as well as by designers, manufacturers, and users of fibre optic sensors, independent of specific applications or installations. The individual parts of the IEC 61757 series are numbered as IEC 61757-*M-T*, where *M* denotes the measurand and *T* the technology of the fibre optic sensor.

To better illustrate this classification scheme, Annex A gives examples of various fibre optic sensors. The examples are provided for illustration only and are not intended to be limitative, nor do they constitute a recommendation or endorsement of a particular transduction principle.

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1 Scope

This document defines, classifies, and provides a framework of generic tests or measurement methods for characterizing and specifying fibre optic sensors, including their specific components and subassemblies. The requirements of this document apply to all related fibre optic sensor standards that are part of the IEC 61757 series. Other parts of the IEC 61757 series contain requirements that are specific to sensors that measure particular quantities, and to a particular style or variant of such a fibre optic sensor.

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.

IEC 60068-1, *Environmental testing - Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60079-28, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 28: Protection of equipment and transmission systems using optical radiation*

IEC 60825-1, *Safety of laser products - Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements*

IEC 60825-2, *Safety of laser products - Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems*

IEC 61300-3-35, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components - Basic test and measurement procedures - Part 3-35: Examinations and measurements - Visual inspection of fibre optic connectors and fibre-stub transceivers*

IEC 61753 (all parts), *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components - Performance standard*

IEC TR 61931, *Fibre optic - Terminology*

IEC TR 62627-01, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components - Part 01: Fibre optic connector cleaning methods*

ISO/IEC Guide 99, *International vocabulary of metrology - Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC TR 61931, ISO/IEC Guide 99 (VIM), and the following apply.

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

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

3.1 Fibre optic sensor principles

3.1.1

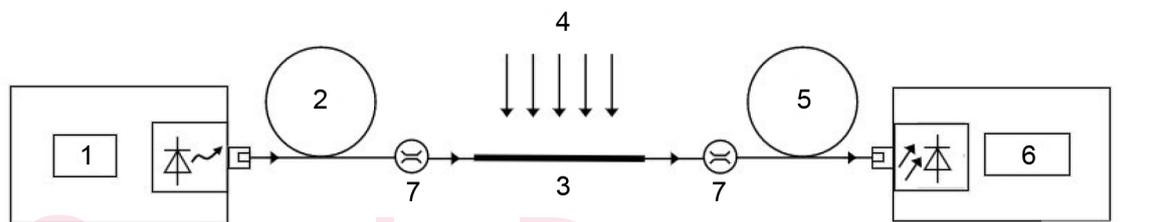
fibre optic sensor

part of a measuring instrument, or measuring chain, which is directly affected by the measurand, and which generates a change in the optical characteristics of an optical fibre related to the value of the measurand

Note 1 to entry: The optical fibre itself can act as the sensing element, or the fibre optic sensor can include an optical or optically powered sensing element and one or more of the following (see Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5):

- optical fibre lead;
- optical fibre termination;
- optical signal conditioning.

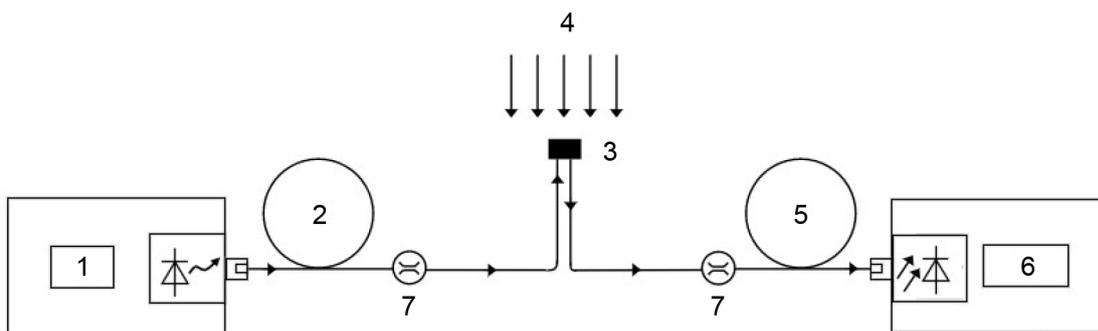
[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001,311-05-01, modified – in the term entry, “fibre optic” has been added. In the definition, “signal” has been replaced by “change in the optical characteristics of an optical fibre”. Note 1 to entry has been added.]



Key

- 1 Light source
- 2 Optical fibre lead
- 3 Optical or optically powered fibre sensing element
- 4 Measurand or phenomenon that is detected
- 5 Optical fibre lead
- 6 Optical receiver
- 7 Optical fibre splice or connection

Figure 1 – Fibre optic sensor in transmittance configuration with a passive fibre sensing element and separate fibre leads for optical input and output



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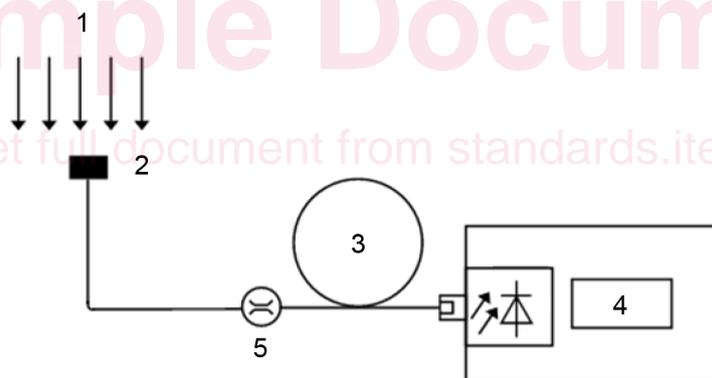
Key

- 1 Light source
- 2 Optical fibre lead
- 3 Optical or optically powered sensing element
- 4 Measurand or phenomenon that is detected
- 5 Optical fibre lead
- 6 Optical receiver
- 7 Optical fibre splice or connection

Figure 2 – Fibre optic sensor in reflectance configuration with a passive sensing element and separate fibre leads for optical input and output

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Key

- 1 Measurand or phenomenon that is detected (e.g. high-energy electromagnetic radiation)
- 2 Optical radiation-generating sensing element (e.g. scintillator crystal)
- 3 Optical fibre lead
- 4 Optical receiver
- 5 Optical fibre splice or connection

Figure 3 – Fibre optic sensor with an optical radiation-generating sensing element and separate fibre lead for optical output