
**Clear liquids — Estimation of colour
by the platinum-cobalt colour scale**

*Liquides clairs — Évaluation de la couleur au moyen de l'échelle
platine-cobalt*

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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).

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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

ISO 6271 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*, Subcommittee SC 10, *Test methods for binders for paints and varnishes*, in collaboration with ASTM D 01.34, *Naval Stores*. It has been harmonized with ASTM D 1209-05, *Standard Test Method for Color of Clear Liquids (Platinum-Cobalt Scale)*.

This third edition of ISO 6271 cancels and replaces ISO 6271-1:2004 and ISO 6271-2:2004, which have been technically revised. The main changes are:

- a) both standards have been combined into one standard;
- b) the spectrophotometric method (formerly described in ISO 6271-2:2004) is the only one standardized now;
- c) the original visual comparison of colours (formerly described in ISO 6271-1:2004) has been deleted, and the description of manufacture of the original platinum-cobalt colour standards has been moved to [Annex A](#).

Clear liquids — Estimation of colour by the platinum-cobalt colour scale

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a spectrophotometric method for estimating the colour of clear liquids in terms of platinum-cobalt units (Pt-Co units). It is applicable to clear liquids having a colour characteristic similar to those of the platinum-cobalt colour scale specified in [Annex A](#). For products with colours more intense than the Pt-Co stock solution the method specified in ISO 4630 applies.

The spectrophotometric method provides a more precise way of measuring Pt-Co colour than a visual sample comparison by human eyes.

NOTE The term “Pt-Co colour” used here is preferred over the terms “Hazen colour” and “APHA colour”.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents, in whole or in part, are normally referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 5725-2, *Accuracy (trueness and precision) of measurement methods and results — Part 2: Basic method for the determination of repeatability and reproducibility of a standard measurement method*

ISO 15528, *Paints, varnishes and raw materials for paints and varnishes — Sampling*

CIE Publication No. 15:2004, *Colorimetry*

3 Principle

The colour of a liquid sample is measured using an instrument capable of measuring transmitted colour and reporting in Pt-Co colours or in a colour system that can be converted into Pt-Co colours.

4 Apparatus and materials

4.1 Colour-measuring instrument, spectrophotometer capable of measuring transmitted colour ($0^\circ/180^\circ$ geometry) and reporting the results in the Pt-Co colour scale. If such an instrument is not available, one may be used which is capable of measuring transmitted colour and reporting in tristimulus values using standard illuminant C and the 2° observer, described in CIE Publication No. 15:2004.

4.2 Absorption cells, 50 mm light path length recommended, unless a different path length is specified by the instrument manufacturer or

4.3 Glass tubes, 11 mm path length. Glass test tubes designed for a specific instrument may be used. Glass tubes might provide less accuracy in the very low colour range than 50 mm absorption cells and should be used only when a decrease in accuracy is tested and considered acceptable.