

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

ISO/ASTM  
51401

Third edition  
2013-11-15

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**Practice for use of a dichromate dosimetry system**

*Pratique de l'utilisation d'un système dosimétrique au dichromate*

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Reference number  
ISO/ASTM 51401:2013(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75% of the member bodies casting a vote.

ASTM International is one of the world's largest voluntary standards development organizations with global participation from affected stakeholders. ASTM technical committees follow rigorous due process balloting procedures.

A pilot project between ISO and ASTM International has been formed to develop and maintain a group of ISO/ASTM radiation processing dosimetry standards. Under this pilot project, ASTM Subcommittee E61, Radiation Processing, is responsible for the development and maintenance of these dosimetry standards with unrestricted participation and input from appropriate ISO member bodies.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. Neither ISO nor ASTM International shall be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO/ASTM 51401 was developed by ASTM Committee E61, Radiation Processing, through Subcommittee E61.02, on Dosimetry Systems, and by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85, Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies and radiological protection.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/ASTM 51401:2003), which has been technically revised.



# Standard Practice for Use of a Dichromate Dosimetry System<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation ISO/ASTM 51401; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the preparation, testing, and procedure for using the acidic aqueous silver dichromate dosimetry system to measure absorbed dose to water when exposed to ionizing radiation. The system consists of a dosimeter and appropriate analytical instrumentation. For simplicity, the system will be referred to as the dichromate system. The dichromate dosimeter is classified as a type I dosimeter on the basis of the effect of influence quantities. The dichromate system may be used as either a reference standard dosimetry system or a routine dosimetry system.

1.2 This document is one of a set of standards that provides recommendations for properly implementing dosimetry in radiation processing, and describes a means of achieving compliance with the requirements of ISO/ASTM Practice 52628 for the dichromate dosimetry system. It is intended to be read in conjunction with ISO/ASTM Practice 52628.

1.3 This practice describes the spectrophotometric analysis procedures for the dichromate system.

1.4 This practice applies only to gamma radiation, X-radiation/bremsstrahlung, and high energy electrons.

1.5 This practice applies provided the following conditions are satisfied:

1.5.1 The absorbed dose range is from  $2 \times 10^3$  to  $5 \times 10^4$  Gy.

1.5.2 The absorbed dose rate does not exceed 600 Gy/pulse (12.5 pulses per second), or does not exceed an equivalent dose rate of 7.5 kGy/s from continuous sources (1).<sup>2</sup>

1.5.3 For radionuclide gamma sources, the initial photon energy shall be greater than 0.6 MeV. For bremsstrahlung photons, the initial energy of the electrons used to produce the bremsstrahlung photons shall be equal to or greater than 2 MeV. For electron beams, the initial electron energy shall be greater than 8 MeV.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E61 on Radiation Processing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E61.02 on Dosimetry Systems, and is also under the jurisdiction of ISO/TC 85/WG 3.

Current edition approved Sept. 14, 2013. Published November 2013. Originally published as ASTM E 1401 – 91. ASTM E 1401 – 96<sup>1</sup> was adopted by ISO in 1998 with the intermediate designation ISO 15561:1998(E). The present International Standard ISO/ASTM 51401:2013(E) replaces ISO 15561 and is a major revision of the last previous edition ISO/ASTM 51401:2003(E).

<sup>2</sup> The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the bibliography at the end of this practice.

NOTE 1—The lower energy limits given are appropriate for a cylindrical dosimeter ampoule of 12 mm diameter. Corrections for displacement effects and dose gradient across the ampoule may be required for electron beams (2). The dichromate system may be used at lower energies by employing thinner (in the beam direction) dosimeter containers (see ICRU Report 35).

1.5.4 The irradiation temperature of the dosimeter shall be above 0°C and should be below 80°C.

NOTE 2—The temperature coefficient of dosimeter response is known only in the range of 5 to 50°C (see 5.2). Use outside this range requires determination of the temperature coefficient.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. Specific precautionary statements are given in 9.3.*

## 2. Referenced documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>3</sup>

E170 Terminology Relating to Radiation Measurements and Dosimetry

E178 Practice for Dealing With Outlying Observations

E275 Practice for Describing and Measuring Performance of Ultraviolet and Visible Spectrophotometers

E666 Practice for Calculating Absorbed Dose From Gamma or X Radiation

E668 Practice for Application of Thermoluminescence-Dosimetry (TLD) Systems for Determining Absorbed Dose in Radiation-Hardness Testing of Electronic Devices

E925 Practice for Monitoring the Calibration of Ultraviolet-Visible Spectrophotometers whose Spectral Bandwidth does not Exceed 2 nm

E958 Practice for Estimation of the Spectral Bandwidth of Ultraviolet-Visible Spectrophotometers

### 2.2 ISO/ASTM Standards:<sup>3</sup>

51261 Practice for Calibration of Routine Dosimetry Systems for Radiation Processing

51707 Guide for Estimating Uncertainties in Dosimetry for Radiation Processing

52628 Practice for Dosimetry in Radiation Processing

<sup>3</sup> For referenced ASTM and ISO/ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.