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**Determination of particle size  
distribution — Single particle light  
interaction methods —**

**Part 4:  
Light scattering airborne particle  
counter for clean spaces**

*Détermination de la distribution granulométrique — Méthodes  
d'interaction lumineuse de particules uniques —*

*Partie 4: Compteur de particules en suspension dans l'air en lumière  
dispersée pour espaces propres*



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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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 24, *Particle characterization including sieving*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Particle characterization*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 21501-4:2007), which has been technically revised.

The main changes from the previous edition are:

- [Clause 4](#) for “Principle” and [Clause 5](#) for “Basic configuration” have been added;
- “size calibration” and “verification of size setting” have been combined as “size setting error” in the requirements clause;
- “Test report” (3.11 in the previous edition) has been changed to [6.10](#) on “Reporting of test and calibration results”;
- information about uncertainties has been enriched and is now the subject of [Annex E](#).

A list of all parts in the ISO 21501 series can be found on the ISO website.

## Introduction

Monitoring particle contamination levels is required in various fields, e.g. in the electronic industry, in the pharmaceutical industry, in the manufacturing of precision machines and in medical operations. Particle counters are useful instruments for monitoring particle contamination in air. The purpose of this document is to provide a calibration procedure and verification method for particle counters, so as to minimize the inaccuracy in the measurement result by a counter, as well as the differences in the results measured by different instruments.



# Determination of particle size distribution — Single particle light interaction methods —

## Part 4:

## Light scattering airborne particle counter for clean spaces

### 1 Scope

This document describes a calibration and verification method for a light scattering airborne particle counter (LSAPC), which is used to measure the size distribution and particle number concentration of particles suspended in air. The light scattering method described in this document is based on single particle measurements. The typical size range of particles measured by this method is between 0,1  $\mu\text{m}$  and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in particle size.

Instruments that conform to this document are used for the classification of air cleanliness in cleanrooms and associated controlled environments in accordance with ISO 14644-1 and ISO 14644-2, as well as the measurement of number and size distribution of particles in various environments.

The following parameters are within the scope of this document:

- size setting error;
- counting efficiency;
- size resolution;
- false count;
- maximum particle number concentration;
- sampling flow rate error;
- sampling time error;
- response rate;
- calibration interval;
- reporting results from test and calibration.

### 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

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