
Radiological protection — X and gamma reference radiation for calibrating dosimeters and doserate meters and for determining their response as a function of photon energy —

**Part 3:
Calibration of area and personal dosimeters and the measurement of their response as a function of energy and angle of incidence**

Radioprotection — Rayonnements X et gamma de référence pour l'étalonnage des dosimètres et des débitmètres et pour la détermination de leur réponse en fonction de l'énergie des photons —

Partie 3: Étalonnage des dosimètres de zone et individuels et mesurage de leur réponse en fonction de l'énergie et de l'angle d'incidence



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Contents

Page

Foreword.....	v
Introduction.....	vi
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references.....	2
3 Terms and definitions.....	2
4 Procedures applicable to all area and personal dosimeters.....	2
4.1 General principles.....	2
4.1.1 Radiation qualities.....	2
4.1.2 Recommended conversion coefficients.....	3
4.1.3 Point of test and reference point.....	4
4.1.4 Axes of rotation.....	4
4.1.5 Condition of the dosimeter to be calibrated.....	5
4.1.6 Effects associated with electron ranges.....	5
4.2 Methods for the determination of the calibration factor and of the response.....	6
4.2.1 Operation of the standard instrument.....	6
4.2.2 Measurements without a monitor for the source output.....	7
5 Particular procedures for area dosimeters.....	7
5.1 General principles.....	7
5.2 Quantities to be measured.....	7
6 Conversion coefficients for area dosimetry.....	7
6.1 Conversion coefficients from air kerma, K_a , to $H'(0,07)$	7
6.1.1 Mono-energetic radiation.....	7
6.1.2 Low air kerma rate series.....	8
6.1.3 Narrow series.....	8
6.1.4 Wide series.....	8
6.1.5 High air kerma rate series.....	8
6.1.6 Radionuclides.....	8
6.2 Conversion coefficients from air kerma, K_a , to $H'(3)$	15
6.2.1 Mono-energetic radiation.....	15
6.2.2 Low air kerma rate series.....	15
6.2.3 Narrow series.....	15
6.2.4 Wide series.....	15
6.2.5 High air kerma rate series.....	15
6.2.6 Radionuclides.....	15
6.2.7 High energy photon radiations.....	15
6.3 Conversion coefficient from air kerma, K_a , to $H^*(10)$	23
6.3.1 Mono-energetic radiation.....	23
6.3.2 Low air kerma rate series.....	23
6.3.3 Narrow series.....	23
6.3.4 Wide series.....	23
6.3.5 High air kerma rate series.....	23
6.3.6 Radionuclides.....	23
6.3.7 High energy photon radiations.....	23
7 Particular procedures for personal dosimeters.....	27
7.1 General principles.....	27
7.2 Quantities to be measured.....	27
7.3 Experimental conditions.....	27
7.3.1 Use of phantoms.....	27
7.3.2 Geometrical considerations in divergent beams.....	28
7.3.3 Simultaneous irradiation of several dosimeters.....	28
7.3.4 Influence of the orientation on the values of $H_p(0,07)$	29
7.3.5 Length of the rod phantom.....	30

8	Conversion coefficients for personal dosimetry	30
8.1	General	30
8.2	Conversion coefficients from air kerma, K_a , to $H_p(0,07)$ in the rod phantom	30
8.2.1	Mono-energetic radiations	30
8.2.2	Low air kerma rate series	30
8.2.3	Narrow series	30
8.2.4	Wide series	30
8.2.5	High air kerma rate series	30
8.2.6	Radionuclides	31
8.3	Conversion coefficients from air kerma, K_a , to $H_p(0,07)$ in the pillar phantom	34
8.3.1	Mono-energetic radiations	34
8.3.2	Low air kerma rate series	34
8.3.3	Narrow series	34
8.3.4	Wide series	34
8.3.5	High air kerma rate series	34
8.3.6	Radionuclides	34
8.4	Conversion coefficients from air kerma, K_a , to $H_p(0,07)$ in the ICRU slab phantom	37
8.4.1	Mono-energetic radiations	37
8.4.2	Low air kerma rate series	37
8.4.3	Narrow series	37
8.4.4	Wide series	37
8.4.5	High air kerma rate series	38
8.4.6	Radionuclides	38
8.5	Conversion coefficients from air kerma, K_a , to $H_p(3)$ in the cylinder phantom	41
8.5.1	Mono-energetic radiations	41
8.5.2	Low air kerma rate series	41
8.5.3	Narrow series	41
8.5.4	Wide series	41
8.5.5	High air kerma rate series	41
8.5.6	Radionuclides	41
8.5.7	High energy photon radiations	41
8.6	Conversion coefficients from air kerma, K_a , to $H_p(10)$ in the ICRU slab phantom	44
8.6.1	Mono-energetic radiations	44
8.6.2	Low air kerma rate series	45
8.6.3	Narrow series	45
8.6.4	Wide series	45
8.6.5	High air kerma rate series	45
8.6.6	Radionuclides	45
8.6.7	High energy photon radiations	45
9	Uncertainties	53
9.1	Statement of uncertainties	53
Annex A (informative)	Estimated conversion coefficients for fluorescence X radiation	54
Annex B (informative)	Estimated conversion coefficients for gamma radiation emitted by ^{241}Am radionuclide	59
Annex C (informative)	Estimated conversion coefficients for continuous filtered X radiation based on the quality index	61
Annex D (informative)	Additional information	63
Bibliography		67

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).

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85, *Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies and radiological protection*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Radiological protection*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 4037-3:1999), which has been technically revised.

A list of all the parts in the ISO 4037 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

The maintenance release of this document incorporates the improvements to high voltage generators from 1996 to 2017 (e.g., the use of high frequency switching supplies providing nearly constant potential), and the spectral measurements at irradiation facilities equipped with such generators (e.g., the catalogue of X-ray spectra by Ankerhold^[1]). It also incorporates all published information with the aim to adjust the requirements for the technical parameters of the reference fields to the targeted overall uncertainty of about 6 % to 10 % for the phantom related operational quantities of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU)^[2]. It does not change the general concept of the existing ISO 4037.

ISO 4037, focusing on photon reference radiation fields, is divided into four parts. ISO 4037-1 gives the methods of production and characterization of reference radiation fields in terms of the quantities spectral photon fluence and air kerma free-in-air. ISO 4037-2 describes the dosimetry of the reference radiation qualities in terms of air kerma and in terms of the phantom related operational quantities of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU)^[2]. This document describes the methods for calibrating and determining the response of dosimeters and doserate meters in terms of the phantom related operational quantities of the ICRU^[2]. ISO 4037-4 gives special considerations and additional requirements for calibration of area and personal dosimeters in low energy X reference radiation fields, which are reference fields with generating potential ≤ 30 kV.

The determination of the response of dosimeters and doserate meters is essentially a three-step or two-step process. First, a basic quantity such as air kerma is measured free-in-air at the point of test. Then the appropriate operational quantity is derived by the application of the conversion coefficient that relates the quantity measured to the selected operational quantity. These two steps may be merged into a single-step if a standard for the phantom related quantities is used. Finally, the device under test is placed at the point of test for the determination of its response. Depending on the type of dosimeter under test, the irradiation is either carried out on a phantom or free-in-air for personal and area dosimeters, respectively. For area and individual monitoring this document describes details of the methods and provides, if applicable, the recommended conversion coefficients to be used for the determination of the response of dosimeters and doserate meters in terms of the phantom related operational quantities of the ICRU for photons. The use of these recommended conversion coefficients requires that the corresponding radiation quality of the reference field used for the irradiation is validated. For all non-validated radiation qualities, the recommended conversion coefficients cannot be used. For these radiation qualities, the dosimetry with respect to the phantom related operational quantities of the ICRU – see ISO 4037-2:2019, Clause 6 – or the spectrometry – see ISO 4037-2:2019, Annex B – should be performed. For tube potentials of 30 kV and below ISO 4037-4 gives special requirements.

The general procedures described in ISO 29661 are used as far as possible in this document. In addition, the symbols used are in line with ISO 29661.

Radiological protection — X and gamma reference radiation for calibrating dosimeters and doserate meters and for determining their response as a function of photon energy —

Part 3: Calibration of area and personal dosimeters and the measurement of their response as a function of energy and angle of incidence

1 Scope

This document specifies additional procedures and data for the calibration of dosimeters and doserate meters used for individual and area monitoring in radiation protection. The general procedure for the calibration and the determination of the response of radiation protection dose(rate)meters is described in ISO 29661 and is followed as far as possible. For this purpose, the photon reference radiation fields with mean energies between 8 keV and 9 MeV, as specified in ISO 4037-1, are used. In [Annex D](#) some additional information on reference conditions, required standard test conditions and effects associated with electron ranges are given. For individual monitoring, both whole body and extremity dosimeters are covered and for area monitoring, both portable and installed dose(rate)meters are covered.

Charged particle equilibrium is needed for the reference fields although this is not always established in the workplace fields for which the dosimeter should be calibrated. This is especially true at photon energies without inherent charged particle equilibrium at the reference depth d , which depends on the actual combination of energy and reference depth d . Electrons of energies above 65 keV, 0,75 MeV and 2,1 MeV can just penetrate 0,07 mm, 3 mm and 10 mm of ICRU tissue, respectively, and the radiation qualities with photon energies above these values are considered as radiation qualities without inherent charged particle equilibrium for the quantities defined at these depths. This document also deals with the determination of the response as a function of photon energy and angle of radiation incidence. Such measurements can represent part of a type test in the course of which the effect of further influence quantities on the response is examined.

This document is only applicable for air kerma rates above 1 $\mu\text{Gy/h}$.

This document does not cover the in-situ calibration of fixed installed area dosimeters.

The procedures to be followed for the different types of dosimeters are described. Recommendations are given on the phantom to be used and on the conversion coefficients to be applied. Recommended conversion coefficients are only given for matched reference radiation fields, which are specified in ISO 4037-1:2019, Clauses 4 to 6. ISO 4037-1:2019, Annexes A and B, both informative, include fluorescent radiations, the gamma radiation of the radionuclide ^{241}Am , S-Am, for which detailed published information is not available. ISO 4037-1:2019, Annex C, gives additional X radiation fields, which are specified by the quality index. For all these radiation qualities, conversion coefficients are given in [Annexes A to C](#), but only as a rough estimate as the overall uncertainty of these conversion coefficients in practical reference radiation fields is not known.

NOTE The term dosimeter is used as a generic term denoting any dose or doserate meter for individual or area monitoring.

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.

ISO 4037-1, *Radiological protection — X and gamma reference radiations for calibrating dosimeters and dose rate meters and for determining their response as a function of photon energy — Part 1: Radiation characteristics and production methods*

ISO 4037-2:2019, *Radiological protection — X and gamma reference radiations for calibrating dosimeters and dose rate meters and for determining their response as a function of photon energy — Part 2: Dosimetry for radiation protection over the energy ranges from 8 keV to 1,3 MeV and 4 MeV to 9 MeV*

ISO 4037-4:2019, *Radiological protection — X and gamma reference radiation for calibrating dosimeters and dose rate meters and for determining their response as a function of photon energy — Part 4: Calibration of area and personal dosimeters in low energy X reference radiation fields*

ISO 29661, *Reference radiation fields for radiation protection — Definitions and fundamental concepts*

ISO 80000-10, *Quantities and units — Part 10: Atomic and nuclear physics*¹⁾

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)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 4037-1, ISO 4037-2, ISO 29661, ISO 80000-10, ISO/IEC Guide 99 and the following apply:

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

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

3.1 back-scatter factor

ratio of air kerma in front of a phantom to the air kerma at the same position free-in-air without the phantom. The field is considered to be unidirectional with a direction of incidence perpendicular to the phantom surface

Note 1 to entry: The value of the back-scatter factor depends on the point of test (distance from the surface and from the beam axis), beam diameter, phantom size and material and radiation energy.

4 Procedures applicable to all area and personal dosimeters

4.1 General principles

4.1.1 Radiation qualities

All radiation qualities shall be chosen from, and produced in accordance to, ISO 4037-1. In general, it is useful to select an appropriate validated radiation quality taking into account the specified energy and dose or dose rate range of the dosimeter to be tested.

1) Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication ISO/Guide 80000-10:2019.