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**Vacuum technology — Standard  
methods for measuring vacuum-pump  
performance —**

**Part 1:  
General description**

*Technique du vide — Méthodes normalisées pour mesurer les  
performances des pompes à vide —*

*Partie 1: Description générale*



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# Contents

	Page
Foreword .....	iv
Introduction .....	v
<b>1 Scope .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Symbols and abbreviated terms .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Test methods .....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Volume flow rate (pumping speed) measurement by the throughput method .....	4
5.1.1 General .....	4
5.1.2 Test dome for the throughput method .....	5
5.1.3 Experimental setup .....	6
5.1.4 Determination of the volume flow rate .....	7
5.1.5 Measuring procedure .....	8
5.1.6 Measuring uncertainties .....	8
5.1.7 Evaluation of the measurement .....	8
5.2 Volume flow rate (pumping speed) measurement by the orifice method .....	9
5.2.1 General .....	9
5.2.2 Test dome for the orifice method .....	9
5.2.3 Experimental setup .....	10
5.2.4 Determination of the volume flow rate .....	11
5.2.5 Measuring procedure for the orifice method .....	12
5.2.6 Adjustment of the pressure-measuring gauges .....	12
5.2.7 Measurement of the volume flow rate .....	12
5.2.8 Measuring uncertainties .....	12
5.2.9 Evaluation of the measurement .....	13
5.3 Volume flow rate (pumping speed) measurement by the pump-down method .....	14
5.3.1 General .....	14
5.3.2 Test dome for the pump-down method .....	14
5.3.3 Quick-acting valve .....	15
5.3.4 Experimental setup .....	15
5.3.5 Determination of the volume flow rate .....	16
5.3.6 Measuring procedure .....	17
5.3.7 Limits of applicability .....	18
5.3.8 Evaluation of the measurement .....	18
5.3.9 Measurement uncertainty .....	18
5.4 Measurement of the base pressure .....	18
5.4.1 Operating conditions .....	18
5.4.2 Test procedure for pumps with a base pressure $>10^{-4}$ Pa .....	19
5.4.3 Test procedure for pumps with a base pressure $<10^{-4}$ Pa .....	19
5.4.4 Evaluation of the measurement .....	19
5.5 Measurement of the compression ratio and the critical backing pressure .....	19
5.5.1 Experimental setup .....	20
5.5.2 Determination of the compression ratio and the critical backing pressure .....	20
5.5.3 Measurement procedure .....	21
5.5.4 Measurement uncertainty .....	22
5.5.5 Evaluation of the measurements .....	22
5.5.6 Specific recommendations for extremely high compression ratio measurements .....	22
<b>Annex A (informative) Mean free path of some important gases .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Measuring uncertainties .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>28</b>

## 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 of 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 112, *Vacuum technology*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 21360-1:2012), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- Note in [3.3](#) has been deleted;
- $K_0$  in [3.7](#) has been corrected;
- [3.9](#) the definition of the volume has been changed to "is the volume of transported gas";
- [Figure 1](#) has been corrected;
- [Figure 2](#) has been corrected;
- [5.2.7](#): change to "for at least 60s" instead of "for the following minute".

A list of all parts in the ISO 21360 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document is a basic standard for measuring the performance data of vacuum pumps. The methods specified here are well known from existing national and International Standards. In developing this document, the aim has been to provide a single document containing the measurements of performance data of vacuum pumps and to simplify the future development of specific vacuum pump standards.

Specific vacuum pump standards will contain a suitable selection of measurement methods from this document in order to determine the performance data, limiting values and specific operational conditions on the basis of the specific properties of the particular kind of pump. Whenever a discrepancy exists between this document and the specific standard, it is the specific standard which is valid.



# Vacuum technology — Standard methods for measuring vacuum-pump performance —

## Part 1: General description

### 1 Scope

This document specifies three methods for measuring the volume flow rate and one method each for measuring the base pressure, the compression ratio, and the critical backing pressure of a vacuum pump.

The first method for measuring the volume flow rate (the throughput method) is the basic concept, in which a steady gas flow is injected into the pump while the inlet pressure is measured. In practice, the measurement of gas throughput may be complicated or inexact. For this reason, two other methods are specified which avoid the direct measurement of throughput.

The second method for measuring the volume flow rate (the orifice method) is used when there is very small throughput at very small inlet pressures (under a high or ultra-high vacuum). It is based on measuring the ratio of pressures in a two-chamber test dome in which the two chambers are separated by a wall with a circular orifice.

The third method for measuring the volume flow rate (the pump-down method) is well suited for automated measurement. It is based on the evacuation of a large vessel. The volume flow rate is calculated from two pressures, before and after a pumping interval, and from the volume of the test dome. Different effects, such as leak and desorption rates, gas cooling by nearly isentropic expansion during the pumping interval, and increasing flow resistance in the connection line between test dome and pump caused by molecular flow at low pressures, influence the results of the pressure measurement and the resulting volume flow rate.

The choice of the required measurement methods depends on the properties of the specific kinds of vacuum pump, e.g. the measurement of the critical backing pressure is only necessary for vacuum pumps which need a backing pump. All data that are measured on a vacuum pump, but not specified in this document (e.g. measurement of power consumption), are defined in the specific pump standard.

### 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 3529-2, *Vacuum technology — Vocabulary — Part 2: Vacuum pumps and related terms*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 3529-2 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/>