
**Laboratory glass and plastic ware —
Volumetric instruments — Methods
for testing of capacity and for use**

*Verrerie et matériel en plastique de laboratoire — Instruments
volumétriques — Méthodes d'essai de la capacité et d'utilisation*



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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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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).

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 48, *Laboratory equipment*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 332, *Laboratory equipment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 4787:2010), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- a) volumetric plastic ware has been included;
- b) new information on meniscus adjustment of convex meniscus has been added; namely, altered procedure "Upper edge of the graduation line is horizontally tangential to the highest point of meniscus" as compared to older procedure "Upper edge of the graduation line is horizontally tangential to the lowest point of the meniscus";
- c) improved figures for meniscus adjustment have been provided;
- d) [Table 1](#) has been improved;
- e) new [Table 2](#) for minimum requirements for the measurement devices has been added;
- f) new test room ambient conditions have been added;
- g) new information regarding repeatability and uncertainty has been added in [Annex E](#);
- h) [Formula \(C.1\)](#) has been changed to [Formula \(1\)](#).

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.

Introduction

The International Standards for the individual volumetric instruments include clauses on the specification of capacity (volume); these clauses describe the method of manipulation in sufficient detail to determine the capacity without ambiguity. This document contains supplementary information.

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Laboratory glass and plastic ware — Volumetric instruments — Methods for testing of capacity and for use

1 Scope

This document provides methods for the testing, calibration and use of volumetric instruments made from glass and plastic in order to obtain the best accuracy in use.

NOTE Testing is the process by which the conformity of the individual volumetric instrument with the appropriate standard is determined, resulting in the determination of its error of measurement at one or more points.

This document is applicable to volumetric instruments with nominal capacities in the range of 100 μl to 10 000 ml. These include single-volume pipettes (see ISO 648), graduated pipettes (see ISO 835), burettes (see ISO 385), volumetric flasks (see ISO 1042 and ISO 5215), and graduated measuring cylinders (see ISO 4788 and ISO 6706).

The methods are not intended for testing of volumetric instruments with capacities below 100 μl such as micro-glassware.

This document does not deal specifically with pycnometers as specified in ISO 3507. However, the procedures specified for the determination of volume of glassware can, for the most part, also be followed for the determination of a pycnometer volume. For some types of pycnometers, special handling can be necessary.

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 385, *Laboratory glassware — Burettes*

ISO 648, *Laboratory glassware — Single-volume pipettes*

ISO 835, *Laboratory glassware — Graduated pipettes*

ISO 1042, *Laboratory glassware — One-mark volumetric flasks*

ISO 1773, *Laboratory glassware — Narrow-necked boiling flasks*

ISO 3507, *Laboratory glassware — Pycnometers*

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

ISO 4788, *Laboratory glassware — Graduated measuring cylinders*

ISO 4797, *Laboratory glassware — Boiling flasks with conical ground joints*

ISO 5215¹⁾, *Laboratory plastic ware — Volumetric flasks*

ISO 6706, *Plastics laboratory ware — Graduated measuring cylinders*

ISO 24450, *Laboratory glassware — Wide-necked boiling flasks*

1) Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/DIS 5215:2021.

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/IEC Guide 99 apply.

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

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

4 Principle

The general procedure for testing the capacity (volume) and for use is based upon a determination of volume of water, either contained in or delivered by the volumetric instrument. This volume of water is based upon knowledge of its mass under consideration of buoyancy and its density (gravimetric method).

5 Volume and reference temperature

5.1 Unit of volume

The unit of volume shall be the millilitre (ml), which is equivalent to one cubic centimetre (cm³).

5.2 Reference temperature

The standard reference temperature, i.e. the temperature at which the volumetric instrument is intended to contain or deliver its volume (capacity), shall be 20 °C.

When the volumetric instrument is required for use in a country which has adopted a standard reference temperature of 27 °C (according to ISO 384), this figure shall replace 20 °C in [Formula \(1\)](#).

6 Apparatus and calibration liquid

6.1 Balance

The balance used for testing shall be chosen in accordance with the minimum requirements specified in [Table 1](#), depending on the nominal volume of the volumetric instrument under test.

Table 1 — Minimum requirements for the balance

| Nominal capacity (volume) V | Resolution mg | Repeatability mg | Expanded uncertainty in use $U (k = 2)^a$ mg |
|---|------------------|---------------------|---|
| $100 \mu\text{l} \leq V \leq 10 \text{ ml}$ | 0,1 | 0,2 | 0,4 |
| $10 \text{ ml} < V \leq 1\,000 \text{ ml}$ | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| $V > 1\,000 \text{ ml}$ | 10 | 10 | 40 |

^a Expanded uncertainty in use estimated according to Reference [\[1\]](#) (which includes applicable definitions) at the value of the nominal volume. If uncertainty in use is not available, then the uncertainty at calibration should be taken.

6.2 Measurement devices

The minimum requirements for each relevant measurement device are specified in [Table 2](#).