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**Hydraulic fluid power — Multi-  
pass method of evaluating filtration  
performance of a filter element under  
cyclic flow conditions**

*Transmissions hydrauliques — Évaluation des performances d'un  
élément filtrant par la méthode de filtration multi-passe sous débit  
cyclique*



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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 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 131, *Fluid power systems*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Contamination control*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 23369:2021), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- calculation of ramp time.

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

In hydraulic fluid power systems, one of the functions of the hydraulic fluid is to separate and lubricate the moving parts of components. The presence of solid particulate contamination produces wear, resulting in loss of efficiency, reduced component life and subsequent unreliability.

A hydraulic filter is provided to control the number of particles circulating within the system to a level that is commensurate with the degree of sensitivity of the components to contaminants and the level of reliability required by the users.

Test procedures enable the comparison of the relative performance of filters so that the most appropriate filter can be selected. The performance characteristics of a filter are a function of the element (its medium and geometry) and the housing (its general configuration and seal design).

In practice, a filter is subjected to a continuous flow of contaminant entrained in the hydraulic fluid until some specified terminal differential pressure (relief-valve cracking pressure or differential-pressure indicator setting) is reached.

Both the length of operating time (prior to reaching terminal pressure) and the contaminant level at any point in the system are functions of the rate of contaminant addition (ingression plus generation rates) and the performance characteristics of the filter.

Therefore, a realistic laboratory test establishes the relative performance of a filter by providing the test filter with a continuous supply of ingressed contaminant and allowing the periodic monitoring of the filtration performance characteristics of the filter. A standard multi-pass method for evaluating the performance of hydraulic fluid power filter elements under steady-state flow conditions has been developed as ISO 16889. That test procedure provides a basis for the comparison of the relative performance characteristics of various filter elements. The results from such a test, however, might not be directly applicable to most actual operating conditions.

In actual operation, a hydraulic fluid power filter is generally not subjected to steady-state flow but to varying degrees of cyclic flow. Tests have shown that, in many instances, the filtration capabilities of an element are severely reduced when subjected to varying cyclic flow conditions. It is therefore important to evaluate the filtration performance of a filter for applications under cyclic flow conditions.

The cyclic flow multi-pass test procedure for hydraulic filters specified in this document has been developed to supplement the basic steady-state flow test (ISO 16889) for filter elements that are expected to be placed in service with cyclic flow. The recommended flow cycle rate of 0,1 Hz is a result of an industry survey and a broad range of test results. If much higher cycle rates are expected in actual service, the test should be conducted at that frequency to produce more meaningful results. The procedure specified in this document may be applied at a cycle rate other than 0,1 Hz, if agreed upon between the supplier and user. However, only values resulting from testing at the 0,1 Hz cycle rate may be reported as having been determined in accordance with this document.

Fluid samples are extracted from the test system to evaluate the filter element's particulate removal characteristics. To prevent this sampling from adversely affecting the test results, a lower limit is placed upon the rated flow rate of filter elements that should be tested with this procedure.

The current maximum flow rate specified in this document is based upon the maximum gravimetric level of injection systems that have been qualified to date.



# Hydraulic fluid power — Multi-pass method of evaluating filtration performance of a filter element under cyclic flow conditions

## 1 Scope

This document specifies:

- a) A multi-pass filtration performance test under cyclic flow conditions with continuous contaminant injection for hydraulic fluid power filter elements.
- b) A procedure for determining the contaminant capacity, particulate removal and differential pressure characteristics.
- c) A test currently applicable to hydraulic fluid power filter elements that exhibit an average filtration ratio greater than or equal to 75 for particle sizes  $\leq 25 \mu\text{m(c)}$ , and a final test system reservoir gravimetric level of less than 200 mg/L. It is necessary to determine by validation the range of flow rates and the lower particle size limit that can be used in test facilities.
- d) A test using ISO 12103-1 A3 medium test dust contaminant and a test fluid.

This document provides a test procedure that yields reproducible test data for appraising the filtration performance of a hydraulic fluid power filter element without influence of electrostatic charge.

This document is applicable to three test conditions:

- Base upstream gravimetric level of 3 mg/L;
- Base upstream gravimetric level of 10 mg/L;
- Base upstream gravimetric level of 15 mg/L.

## 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 2160, *Petroleum products — Corrosiveness to copper — Copper strip test*

ISO 2942, *Hydraulic fluid power — Filter elements — Verification of fabrication integrity and determination of the first bubble point*

ISO 3722, *Hydraulic fluid power — Fluid sample containers — Qualifying and controlling cleaning methods*

ISO 3968, *Hydraulic fluid power — Filters — Evaluation of differential pressure versus flow*

ISO 4021, *Hydraulic fluid power — Particulate contamination analysis — Extraction of fluid samples from lines of an operating system*

ISO 4405, *Hydraulic fluid power — Fluid contamination — Determination of particulate contamination by the gravimetric method*

ISO 11171, *Hydraulic fluid power — Calibration of automatic particle counters for liquids*

ISO 11943:2021, *Hydraulic fluid power — Online automatic particle-counting systems for liquids — Methods of calibration and validation*

ISO 12103-1, *Road vehicles — Test contaminants for filter evaluation — Part 1: Arizona test dust*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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/>

#### 3.1 contaminant mass injected

$m_i$   
mass of specific particulate contaminant injected into the test circuit to obtain the terminal differential pressure

#### 3.2 differential pressure

difference between the tested component inlet and outlet pressures as measured under the specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#) for a graphical depiction of differential pressure terms.

#### 3.3 clean assembly differential pressure

difference between the tested component inlet and outlet pressures as measured with a clean filter housing containing a clean filter element

#### 3.4 clean element differential pressure

differential pressure of the clean element calculated as the difference between the *clean assembly differential pressure* ([3.3](#)) and the *housing differential pressure* ([3.6](#))

#### 3.5 final assembly differential pressure

assembly differential pressure at the end of a test, equal to the sum of the housing differential pressure and the terminal element differential pressure

#### 3.6 housing differential pressure

differential pressure of the filter housing without an element

#### 3.7 terminal element differential pressure

maximum differential pressure across the filter element as designated by the manufacturer to limit useful performance

#### 3.8 rest conductivity

electrical conductivity at the initial instant of current measurement after a DC voltage is impressed between electrodes

Note 1 to entry: Rest conductivity is the reciprocal of the resistance of uncharged fluid in the absence of ionic depletion or polarization.