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Performance of buildings - Detection of heat, air and  
moisture irregularities in buildings by infrared  
methods - Part 1: General procedures (ISO  
6781-1:2023)

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

## NATIONAL FOREWORD

<p>See Eesti standard EVS-EN ISO 6781-1:2023 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN ISO 6781-1:2023 ingliskeelset teksti.</p> <p>Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas.</p> <p>Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonid on teinud Euroopa standardi rahvuslikele liikmetele kättesaadavaks 16.08.2023.</p> <p>Standard on kättesaadav Eesti Standardimis-ja Akrediteerimiskeskusest.</p>	<p>This Estonian standard EVS-EN ISO 6781-1:2023 consists of the English text of the European standard EN ISO 6781-1:2023.</p> <p>This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.</p> <p>Date of Availability of the European standard is 16.08.2023.</p> <p>The standard is available from the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.</p>
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English Version

Performance of buildings - Detection of heat, air and  
moisture irregularities in buildings by infrared methods -  
Part 1: General procedures (ISO 6781-1:2023)

Performance des bâtiments - Détection d'irrégularités  
de chaleur, air et humidité dans les bâtiments par des  
méthodes infrarouges - Partie 1: Modes opératoires  
généraux (ISO 6781-1:2023)

Verhalten von Gebäuden - Feststellung von wärme-,  
luft- und feuchtebezogenen Unregelmäßigkeiten in  
Gebäuden durch Infrarotverfahren - Teil 1: Allgemeine  
Verfahren (ISO 6781-1:2023)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 24 June 2023.

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EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 6781-1:2023) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 163/SC 1 "Test and measurement methods" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 89 "Thermal performance of buildings and building components" the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2024.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 13187:1998.

This document has been prepared under a Standardization Request given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

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## Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 6781-1:2023 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 6781-1:2023 without any modification.

# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
3.1 General terms	2
3.2 Thermography terms	4
<b>4 Symbols and abbreviated terms</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5 Example applications of use of thermography in building assessments</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6 Customer preparation</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7 Qualification of personnel</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1 Personnel — General guidance	9
7.2 Application specific requirements	10
7.2.1 Residential buildings — Qualification requirements	10
7.2.2 Commercial buildings — Qualification requirements	10
7.2.3 Institutional / Industrial buildings — Qualification requirements	10
<b>8 Equipment requirements for thermographic examination of residential, commercial and institutional buildings</b>	<b>11</b>
8.1 Equipment — General requirements	11
8.2 Calibration and checking of equipment	12
<b>9 Safety</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10 Thermography techniques</b>	<b>12</b>
10.1 General	12
10.2 Comparative thermography	12
10.2.1 General	12
10.2.2 Technique	13
10.3 Comparative qualitative thermography	13
10.4 Comparative quantitative thermography	14
10.4.1 General	14
10.4.2 Comparative quantitative thermography — Limitations	14
<b>11 Non-contact infrared radiometry (spot radiometry) using infrared thermography cameras</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>12 Air leakage and mass transfer</b>	<b>15</b>
12.1 Air leakage	15
12.2 Mass transfer — Moisture	15
<b>13 Moisture detection</b>	<b>16</b>
13.1 Conductivity test method — Moisture detection	16
13.2 Capacitance test method — Moisture detection	16
13.3 Phase change test method — Moisture detection	16
<b>14 Baseline measurements for building maintenance and condition monitoring</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>15 Data collection</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>16 Field measurements of reflected temperature and emissivity, and attenuating media</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>17 Comparative assessment criteria — Severity</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>18 Diagnosis and prognosis</b>	<b>18</b>
18.1 Survey intervals	18

18.2	Image interpretation.....	18
18.3	Fault identification process.....	19
<b>19</b>	<b>Test report.....</b>	<b>19</b>
19.1	General information.....	19
19.2	Building-specific information.....	20
19.3	Qualitative inspections.....	21
19.4	Quantitative inspections.....	21
19.5	Reporting of unsafe conditions.....	22
<b>Annex A</b>	<b>(normative) Pro-forma safety rules and guidelines.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Annex B</b>	<b>(normative) Field measurements of reflected apparent temperature and emissivity.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Annex C</b>	<b>(informative) Examples of buildings heat, air and moisture faults, failures and anomalies detected by infrared thermography (IRT).....</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 whom 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)).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 163, *Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment*, Subcommittee SC1, *Test and measurement methods*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 89, *Thermal performance of buildings and building components*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO 6781:1983, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- now comprises the first part of the ISO 6781 series, which addresses the general user of thermography and provides general requirements pertinent to thermography;

NOTE Further parts of the ISO 6781 series provide specific thermographic requirements pertinent to thermographic practitioners, and the technical requirement for thermography of specific types of buildings.

- covers general requirements concerning detection of air leakage and moisture anomalies, using thermographic methods, in addition to thermal anomalies;
- thoroughly updates the thermographic requirements resulting from the vast technological upgrades in thermography since ISO 6781:1983 was published;
- provides general information and specific constraints concerning qualitative thermography and quantitative thermography;
- provides general information and requirements regarding the qualification of thermographic operators and report writers.

A list of all parts in the ISO 6781 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).

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## Introduction

Infrared building thermography provides a tool to qualitatively identify the presence of energy-wasting defects and anomalies within building structures. These defects and anomalies can include, for example, thermal insulation defects, moisture content, and / or unwanted air movement or leakage within the building enclosure.

Building thermography is carried out by means of an infrared thermography camera, which produces an image based on the apparent radiance temperature of the target surface area. The thermal radiation (infrared radiation density) from the target area is converted by the infrared thermography camera to produce a thermal image (thermogram). This image (thermogram) represents the relative intensity of thermal radiation from different parts of the surface. The radiation intensity indicated by the image is related directly to

- a) the surface temperature distribution,
- b) the characteristics of the surface,
- c) the ambient conditions, and
- d) the sensor itself.

As a result, surface temperature distribution can be a key parameter for monitoring the performance of building components, building enclosure and the diagnostics of problems. In use, via analysis of surface temperature distributions, irregularities in the heat and moisture properties of building enclosures and components, and air movement within the building enclosure, can be indicated. These irregularities can be due to, for example, thermal insulation defects, moisture content, air leakage within components or through assemblies, or incorrect installation of components which comprise the construction of the building.

To realize its full utility as an initial qualitative screening technique, or an in-depth diagnostic technique, thermography must often be supported and/or validated by other methods. These methods include, but are not limited to, infrared photosensitive tracer gas methods, fan pressurization of the building enclosure, heat-flow metres, smoke diffusion, anemometry, moisture metres and relative humidity (RH) sensors.

Infrared building thermography inspection methodologies can be used for either new-construction quality control applications or in existing buildings as ongoing condition monitoring for periodic or specific building-condition reporting. The latter applications may be accompanied with visual fault symptoms, while the former may not necessarily present symptoms via visual faults.

# Performance of buildings — Detection of heat, air and moisture irregularities in buildings by infrared methods —

## Part 1: General procedures

### 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and methodologies for infrared thermographic services for detection of heat, air and moisture irregularities in buildings that help users to specify and understand

- a) the extent of thermographic services required,
- b) the type and condition of equipment available for use,
- c) the qualifications of equipment operators, image analysts, and report authors and those making recommendations, and
- d) the reporting of results.

It provides guidance to understanding and utilizing the final results stemming from provision of the thermographic services.

This document is applicable to the general procedures for infrared thermographic methods as can be applied to residential, commercial, and institutional and special use buildings.

### 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 6781-3, *Performance of buildings — Detection of heat, air and moisture irregularities in buildings by infrared methods — Part 3: Qualifications of equipment operators, data analysts and report writers*

ISO 7345, *Thermal performance of buildings and building components — Physical quantities and definitions*

ISO 9288, *Thermal insulation — Heat transfer by radiation — Vocabulary*

ISO 9869-1, *Thermal insulation — Building elements — In-situ measurement of thermal resistance and thermal transmittance — Part 1: Heat flow meter method*

ISO 9972, *Thermal performance of buildings — Determination of air permeability of buildings — Fan pressurization method*

ISO 10878, *Non-destructive testing — Infrared thermography — Vocabulary*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 7345, ISO 9288, ISO 10878 and the following apply.