



International
Standard

ISO 18314-4

Analytical colorimetry —
Part 4:
Metamerism index for pairs of
samples for change of illuminant

Analyse colorimétrique —

*Partie 4: Indice de métamérisme de paires d'échantillons pour
changement d'illuminant*

Second edition
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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Symbols	2
5 Reference illuminant	3
6 Test illuminant	3
7 CIELAB coordinates L^*, a^*, b^*	3
8 Metamerism index for change in illuminant	4
8.1 General calculation methods	4
8.2 Basic calculation of the metamerism index from colour differences	5
8.3 Correction methods	5
8.3.1 Additive correction	5
8.3.2 Multiplicative correction	5
8.3.3 Spectral correction	6
8.4 Test report	10
Annex A (informative) Calculation examples	11
Bibliography	24

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 document 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).

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18314-4:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- a brief introduction about differentiation between metamerism and paramerism has been added in [8.1](#);
- [Formula \(1\)](#) has been updated to align with [Formulae \(2\)](#) and [\(4\)](#) to [\(24\)](#);
- the key of [Figure A.1](#) has been updated.

A list of all parts in the ISO 18314 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.

Introduction

This document distinguishes three kinds of metamerism of pairs of samples:

- a) Illuminant metamerism occurs if both of the object colours of a pair of samples are perceived as being the same only under a specific illuminant (e.g. under illuminant D65), while they differ under a different illuminant (e.g. illuminant A).
- b) Observer metamerism occurs if the object colours of a pair of samples are perceived as being the same by one observer, while a different observer perceives a colour difference under the same illuminant and the same reference conditions.

NOTE 1 The observer metamerism is caused by differences between the distributions of spectral colour matching functions of different observers.

- c) Field-size metamerism occurs if both of the object colours of a pair of samples are perceived as being the same on the retina for a size of an observation field (e.g. determined by the 2° standard observer), while they differ for a different observation field on the retina (e.g. 10°).

NOTE 2 The reason for field-size metamerism is based on the existent colour matching functions of an observer during an observation situation. The colour matching functions change with the size of the observation field on the retina. Such change of the observation field can also occur if, for example, the pair of samples is examined from different distances.

Analytical colorimetry —

Part 4: Metamerism index for pairs of samples for change of illuminant

1 Scope

This document specifies a formalism for the calculation of the illuminant metamerism of solid surface colours. It cannot be applied to colours of effect coatings without metrical adaptation.

This document only covers the phenomenon of metamerism for change of illuminant, which has the greatest meaning in practical application. In the case where chromaticity coordinates of a pair of samples under reference conditions do not exactly match, this document gives guidance on which correction measures to take. Regarding the reproduction of colours, the metamerism index is used as a measure of quality in order to specify tolerances for colour differences between a colour sample and a colour match under different illumination conditions.

The quantification of the illuminant metamerism of pairs of samples is formally performed by a colour difference assessment, for which tolerances that are common for the evaluation of residual colour differences can be used.

NOTE In the colorimetric literature and textbooks, the term geometric metamerism is sometimes used for the case where two colours appear to be the same under a specific geometry for visual assessment and selected standard observer and standard illuminant pair, but are perceived as two different colours at changed observation geometry. The term geometric metamerism is different to metamerism described in this document.

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/CIE 11664-1, *Colorimetry — Part 1: CIE standard colorimetric observers*

ISO/CIE 11664-2, *Colorimetry — Part 2: CIE standard illuminants*

ISO/CIE 11664-4, *Colorimetry — Part 4: CIE 1976 $L^*a^*b^*$ colour space*

CIE 015, *Colorimetry*

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/>