# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO**

**11146-1**

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# Lasers and laser-related equipment — Test methods for laser beam widths, divergence angles and beam propagation ratios —

## Part 1:
## Stigmatic and simple astigmatic beams

*Lasers et équipements associés aux lasers — Méthodes d'essai des largeurs du faisceau, angles de divergence et facteurs de limite de diffraction —*

*Partie 1: Faisceaux stigmatiques et astigmatiques simples*

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

ISO 11146-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 172, *Optics and photonics*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Electro-optical systems*.

This first edition of ISO 11146-1, together with ISO/TR 11146-3 cancels and replaces ISO 11146:1999, the contents of which have been technically revised and augmented.

ISO 11146 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Lasers and laser-related equipment — Test methods for laser beam widths, divergence angles and beam propagation ratios*:

— *Part 1: Stigmatic and simple astigmatic beams*

— *Part 2: General astigmatic beams*

— *Part 3: Intrinsic and geometrical laser beam classification, propagation and details of test methods* (Technical Report)

# Introduction

The propagation properties of every laser beam can be characterized within the method of second order moments by ten independent parameters (see ISO/TR 11146-3). However, due to their higher symmetry most laser beams of practical interest need fewer parameters for a complete description. Most lasers of practical use emit beams which are stigmatic or simple astigmatic because of their resonator design.

This part of ISO 11146 describes the measurement methods for stigmatic and simple astigmatic beams while Part 2 deals with the measurement procedures for general astigmatic beams. For beams of unknown type the methods of Part 2 shall be applied. Beam characterization based on the method of second order moments as described in both parts is only valid within the paraxial approximation.

The theoretical description of beam characterization and propagation as well as the classification of laser beams is given in ISO/TR 11146-3, which is an informative Technical Report and describes the procedures for background subtraction and offset correction.

In this part of ISO 11146, the second order moments of the power (energy) density distribution are used for the determination of beam widths. However, there may be problems experienced in the direct measurement of these quantities in the beams from some laser sources. In this case, other indirect methods of the measurement of the second order moments may be used as long as comparable results are achievable.

In ISO/TR 11146-3, three alternative methods for beam width measurement and their correlation with the method used in this part of ISO 11146 are described. These methods are:

— variable aperture method;

— moving knife-edge method;

— moving slit method.

The problem of the dependence of the measuring result on the truncation limits of the integration area has been investigated and evaluated by an international round robin experiment carried out in 1997. The results of this round robin testing were taken into consideration during the preparation of this document.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) draws attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this document may involve the use of a patent concerning the determination of beam characteristics by measuring along the beam caustic of the transformed beam produced by a lens as described in 5.5.

ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity and scope of this patent right.

The holder of this patent right (U.S. No. 5,267,012) has assured ISO that he is willing to negotiate licences under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions with applicants throughout the world. In this respect, the statement of the holder of this patent right is registered with the ISO. Information may be obtained from:

Coherent Inc.
5100 Patrick Henry Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95056-0980
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Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights other than those identified above. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

# Lasers and laser-related equipment — Test methods for laser beam widths, divergence angles and beam propagation ratios —

## Part 1:
## Stigmatic and simple astigmatic beams

## 1 Scope

This part of ISO 11146 specifies methods for measuring beam widths (diameter), divergence angles and beam propagation ratios of laser beams. This part of ISO 11146 is only applicable for stigmatic and simple astigmatic beams. If the type of the beam is unknown, and for general astigmatic beams, ISO 11146-2 should be applied.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 11145, *Optics and optical instruments — Lasers and laser-related equipment — Vocabulary and symbols*

ISO 11146-2, *Lasers and laser-related equipment — Test methods for laser beam widths, divergence angles and beam propagation ratios — Part 2: General astigmatic beams*

ISO 13694, *Optics and optical instruments — Lasers and laser-related equipment — Test methods for laser beam power (energy) density distribution*

IEC 61040:1990, *Power and energy measuring detectors, instruments and equipment for laser radiation*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 11145, ISO 13694, IEC 61040 and the following apply.

NOTE     The $x$-, $y$- and $z$-axes in these definitions refer to the laboratory system as described in Clause 4. Here and throughout this document the term "power density distribution $E(x,y,z)$" refers to continuous-wave sources. It might be replaced by "energy density distribution $H(x,y,z)$" in case of pulsed sources.

### 3.1
### first order moments of a power density distribution
$\overline{x}, \overline{y}$
centroid coordinates of the power density distribution of a cross section of a beam given as

$$\overline{x}(z) = \frac{\displaystyle\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E(x,y,z)\, x \ \mathrm{d}x \ \mathrm{d}y}{\displaystyle\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E(x,y,z)\, \mathrm{d}x \ \mathrm{d}y} \tag{1}$$