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**Document management applications —  
Quality control for scanning office  
documents in colour**

*Applications de gestion de document — Contrôle de la qualité pour le  
balayage de documents de bureau en couleurs*



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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.

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.

ISO 29861 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 171, *Document management applications*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Quality*.

## Introduction

This International Standard is to be used in conjunction with ISO 12653 and describes procedures for the evaluation of output quality of a colour scanning system for office documents. ISO 12653-2 describes procedures for evaluating the output quality of a black-and-white scanning system for office documents, using the test target specified in ISO 12653-1.

Factors which affect the quality achieved by a document scanning system are:

- a) physical scanning irregularities;
- b) uniformity of exposure;
- c) chromatic sensitivity of the photosensing unit;
- d) contrast;
- e) threshold setting;
- f) reproduction of half-tones;
- g) resolution;
- h) scale.

The methods given in this International Standard

- can be used to
  - set up the system initially to yield satisfactory images,
  - check for consistent quality,
  - check that equivalent performance is being obtained from another system; and
- are intended to
  - enable the operator to check that the scanner is correctly set up,
  - inform the operator of the capabilities and limits of the scanner,
  - enable the user to monitor image quality over a period of time,
  - enable the user to draw up quality assessment procedures.

If the whole system is checked, from input to output, the results obtained can vary depending on the different items of equipment used. For example, one visual display unit screen might be poorly set up, giving worse quality than a well set up screen. It is thus important to establish the parts of the system on which to perform the tests. If tests are required for other parts of the system, then it might be necessary to repeat the tests as appropriate.

The regular use of the methods in this International Standard can ensure a given level of quality to be maintained.

Many systems include test procedures in their software. These tests can be performed in conjunction with the test methods defined in this International Standard.

This International Standard uses the test chart, Test Chart No.2 (CMYK), defined in ISO/IEC 15775:1999/Amd.1:2005, N4-1, as the test document.

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# Document management applications — Quality control for scanning office documents in colour

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies test methods for evaluating the consistency of the colour output quality over time from the colour reflection scanning of office documents.

It is applicable to assessing the output quality of colour scanners used in the office. It is particularly applicable where office documents containing half-tone and/or continuous tone colour areas are being scanned.

The test methods do not require specialist equipment that is not normally available in the office for the evaluation of the results. The test methods are based on the visual examination of the output of an office document scanner in comparison to the original test target.

It is not applicable to black-and-white only scanners or scanners used for the scanning of transparent or translucent documents.

This International Standard is to be used in conjunction with ISO 12653, which specifies a test method for the evaluation of the quality of output from black-and-white office document scanners.

## 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 12651, *Electronic imaging — Vocabulary*

ISO 12653-1, *Electronic imaging — Test target for the black-and-white scanning of office documents — Part 1: Characteristics*

ISO 12653-2, *Electronic imaging — Test target for the black-and-white scanning of office documents — Part 2: Method of use*

ISO/IEC 15775:1999/Amd.1:2005, *Information technology — Office machines — Method of specifying image reproduction of colour copying machines by analog test charts — Realisation and application — Amendment 1*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the terms and definitions given in ISO 12651 apply.