TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

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Nanotechnologies — Materials specifications — Guidance on specifying nano-objects

Nanotechnologies — Spécifications de matériaux — Lignes directrices de spécification des nano-objets

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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.

In other circumstances, particularly when there is an urgent market requirement for such documents, a technical committee may decide to publish other types of document:

— an ISO Publicly Available Specification (ISO/PAS) represents an agreement between technical experts in an ISO working group and is accepted for publication if it is approved by more than 50 % of the members of the parent committee casting a vote;

— an ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS) represents an agreement between the members of a technical committee and is accepted for publication if it is approved by 2/3 of the members of the committee casting a vote.

An ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is reviewed after three years in order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn. If the ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is confirmed, it is reviewed again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.

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/TS 12805 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

Introduction

The need for this Technical Specification arose in response to the failure of specifications agreed between suppliers of manufactured nano-objects and their customers to ensure delivery of material that responds consistently to downstream processing or that is capable of generating consistent performance in the final product between batches and lots.

This observed inconsistent performance of batches or lots of material has led to the conclusion that the cause has to be related to one or more of the following scenarios.

a) The specification agreed between customer and supplier does not cover all material characteristics that have an influence on performance and/or processability, or it has been interpreted differently by the customer and supplier.

b) One or more material characteristic is currently being measured by an inappropriate technique.

c) One or more measurement technique is being applied in an incorrect manner.

This Technical Specification is intended to help address all of these issues. These same issues are also relevant to the process of initial material qualification, prior to specification and use, and some of the guidance provided can be used in this context.

Each broad category of manufactured nano-object has been considered in a separate clause: those at the nanoscale in all three (orthogonal) dimensions, those at the nanoscale in two (orthogonal) dimensions and those at the nanoscale in one dimension only. Many nano-objects are supplied in the form of dispersion in a liquid medium. For each broad category of nano-object, the characteristics relevant to dispersions have therefore also been identified.

For each category of manufactured nano-object:

- a list is provided of material characteristics that are considered relevant to initial material qualification in all areas of application;

- a list is provided of additional material characteristics that are considered relevant to material qualification in specific areas of application;

- where the use of these material characteristics in agreed specifications does not ensure batch-to-batch or lot-to-lot consistency, a further list of characteristics that might have an influence on product performance and/or downstream processing is provided for consideration;

- for all identified material characteristics, appropriate measurement methods are proposed, which separate into two categories:

  a) those generally utilising relatively low-cost equipment, which can be envisaged for use in routine batch or lot quality control in an industrial environment, and

  b) those which require specialist equipment and which might therefore only be viable for use in less frequent assessments;

- a brief description of the basis of each measurement method is provided and, wherever possible, reference is made to an appropriate source of guidance on good practice in carrying out the test (usually an established standard); where no viable or validated measurement method can currently be identified,

this is also stated. For some parameters, guidance on an appropriate measurement method is not quoted because no International Standard exists for measuring such a parameter. Often, however, International Standards do exist which refer to the measurement of the parameter for specific materials or applications. Such material- or application-specific standards can be identified by searching the ISO standards database (www.iso.org).

A decision tree is provided in Annex A as a guide to the use of this Technical Specification.

Users of this Technical Specification should be aware that packaging, labelling and transport of materials specified in this Technical Specification may be subject to statutory and regional regulations.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this Technical Specification that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

Nanotechnologies — Materials specifications — Guidance on specifying nano-objects

1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides guidance on the preparation of specifications for the characteristics of manufactured nano-objects and their measurement methods. This is intended to help ensure the delivery of products with consistent properties for subsequent processing and/or final product performance.

This Technical Specification includes guidance on specifying the physical and chemical characteristics of manufactured nano-objects, which might affect performance or subsequent processing. A list of applicable measurement methods is given in Annex B.

NOTE 1 The nano-objects can be supplied in a dry form or as dispersions in a liquid medium.

Guidance on specifying the environmental, health and safety (EHS) characteristics of manufactured nano-objects is outside the scope of this Technical Specification.

NOTE 2 Nanotechnology is a rapidly growing and evolving field. It is therefore good practice for users of this Technical Specification to maintain an awareness of the legislative environment and latest developments in EHS regarding nanotechnology (see References [1][2][3][4][15][16][38][39][40][41][42][43]). If the customer or supplier wishes to assess the environmental, safety or health risks of the material, they can refer to ISO/TR 13121 and ISO/TR 12885 for further guidance.

This Technical Specification also does not include guidance on specifying materials containing nanosized phases formed in situ by a transformation in the material, e.g. Guinier-Preston zones in precipitation hardening metals. Furthermore, it does not specify quantitative requirements for the object to be considered a nano-object, but lists appropriate examples of characteristics and properties and their measurement methods useful for specifying nano-objects. Characteristics and measurement methods for nano devices are not included.

Although this Technical Specification refers to parameters, which could be considered aspects of material quality, it is not intended to provide guidance on the establishment of quality management systems. For guidance on quality management systems, reference can be made to ISO 9000.

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/TS 27687, *Nanotechnologies — Terminology and definitions for nano-objects — Nanoparticle, nanofibre and nanoplate*

ISO/TS 80004-1, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 1: Core terms*