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**Optics and optical instruments —  
Field procedures for testing geodetic  
and surveying instruments —**

**Part 5:  
Total stations**

*Optique et instruments d'optique — Méthodes d'essai sur site des  
instruments géodésiques et d'observation —*

*Partie 5: Stations totales*



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Published in Switzerland

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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 17123-5 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 172, *Optics and optical instruments*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Geodetic and surveying instruments*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17123-5:2005), which has been technically revised.

ISO 17123 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments*:

- *Part 1: Theory*
- *Part 2: Levels*
- *Part 3: Theodolites*
- *Part 4: Electro-optical distance meters (EDM measurements to reflectors)*
- *Part 5: Total stations*
- *Part 6: Rotating lasers*
- *Part 7: Optical plumbing instruments*
- *Part 8: GNSS field measurement systems in real-time kinematic (RTK)*

[Annexes A](#), [B](#) and [C](#) of this part of ISO 17123 are for information only.

## Introduction

This part of ISO 17123 specifies field procedures for adoption when determining and evaluating the uncertainty of measurement results obtained by geodetic instruments and their ancillary equipment, when used in building and surveying measuring tasks. Primarily, these tests are intended to be field verifications of suitability of a particular instrument for the immediate task. They are not proposed as tests for acceptance or performance evaluations that are more comprehensive in nature.

The definition and concept of uncertainty as a quantitative attribute to the final result of measurement was developed mainly in the last two decades, even though error analysis has already long been a part of all measurement sciences. After several stages, the CIPM (Comité Internationale des Poids et Mesures) referred the task of developing a detailed guide to ISO. Under the responsibility of the ISO Technical Advisory Group on Metrology (TAG 4), and in conjunction with six worldwide metrology organizations, a guidance document on the expression of measurement uncertainty was compiled with the objective of providing rules for use within standardization, calibration, laboratory, accreditation and metrology services. ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 was first published in 1995.

With the introduction of uncertainty in measurement in ISO 17123 (all parts), it is intended to finally provide a uniform, quantitative expression of measurement uncertainty in geodetic metrology with the aim of meeting the requirements of customers.

ISO 17123 (all parts) provides not only a means of evaluating the precision (experimental standard deviation) of an instrument, but also a tool for defining an uncertainty budget, which allows for the summation of all uncertainty components, whether they are random or systematic, to a representative measure of accuracy, i.e. the combined standard uncertainty.

ISO 17123 (all parts) therefore provides, for defining for each instrument investigated by the procedures, a proposal for additional, typical influence quantities, which can be expected during practical use. The customer can estimate, for a specific application, the relevant standard uncertainty components in order to derive and state the uncertainty of the measuring result.



# Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments —

## Part 5: Total stations

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 17123 specifies field procedures to be adopted when determining and evaluating the precision (repeatability) of coordinate measurement of total stations and their ancillary equipment when used in building and surveying measurements. Primarily, these tests are intended to be field verifications of the suitability of a particular instrument for the immediate task at hand and to satisfy the requirements of other standards. They are not proposed as tests for acceptance or performance evaluations that are more comprehensive in nature.

These field procedures have been developed specifically for *in situ* applications without the need for special ancillary equipment and are purposely designed to minimize atmospheric influences.

### 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 3534-1, *Statistics — Vocabulary and symbols — Part 1: General statistical terms and terms used in probability*

ISO 4463-1, *Measurement methods for building — Setting-out and measurement — Part 1: Planning and organization, measuring procedures, acceptance criteria*

ISO 7077, *Measuring methods for building — General principles and procedures for the verification of dimensional compliance*

ISO 7078, *Building construction — Procedures for setting out, measurement and surveying — Vocabulary and guidance notes*

ISO 9849, *Optics and optical instruments — Geodetic and surveying instruments — Vocabulary*

ISO 12858-2, *Optics and optical instruments — Ancillary devices for geodetic instruments — Part 2: Tripods*

ISO 17123-1, *Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments — Part 1: Theory*

ISO 17123-3, *Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments — Part 3: Theodolites*

ISO 17123-4, *Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments — Part 4: Electro-optical distance meters (EDM measurements to reflectors)*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3:2008, *Uncertainty of measurement — Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM: 1995)*

ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, *International vocabulary of metrology — Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)*