
**Optics and photonics — Optical
coatings —**

**Part 1:
Vocabulary**

*Optique et photonique — Traitements optiques —
Partie 1: Vocabulaire*



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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.

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 documents 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).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by ISO/TC 172, *Optics and photonics*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Optical materials and components*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 9211-1:2010), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the definitions of elliptical, circular and random polarization have been aligned with ISO 11145:2018;
- in [Table 1](#), the code designation HR and PR have been added to the reflecting function;
- [Figure A.7](#) has been replaced.

A list of all parts in the ISO 9211 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

The optical properties of a coated surface are characterized by spectrophotometric values. These values relate to the energy transported by electromagnetic waves (radiant or luminous) and they vary as a function of the wavelength, the angle of incidence, and the state of polarization. Additional influences can be caused by scattering.

NOTE 1 The functional spectral dependency is generally indicated by including the wavelength, λ , in parentheses as part of the symbol.

NOTE 2 The wavelength (λ) can be replaced by the wavenumber (σ) or the photon energy ($h\nu$). h = Planck constant; ν = frequency. The units recommended are the nanometre (nm) or the micrometre (μm) for the wavelength, the reciprocal centimetre (cm^{-1}) for the wavenumber and the electron volt (eV) for the photon energy.

When a coating is used at an angle of incidence different from zero, its characteristics depend upon the state of polarization of the incident radiation and it can influence the polarization state of the emergent radiation. It might then be necessary to indicate the orientation of the electric field vector in relation to the plane of incidence.

The coatings are defined according to their function, i.e. according to the nature of the principal modification to the surface properties that they realize. A coating intended to realize a principal function as defined in [Table 1](#) can also include one or more secondary functions. Their relative importance with regard to the principal function shall be indicated.

A surface for visual applications can be characterized by colorimetric parameters. These depend on the reference illumination source, the reference observer, and the optical properties of the surface. Colorimetric parameters are not part of this standard.

Examples of coating imperfections are given in [Annex A](#). Test methods for the surface imperfections are described in ISO 14997.

Optics and photonics — Optical coatings —

Part 1: Vocabulary

WARNING — The electronic file of this document contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of the document. Users should therefore consider printing this document using a colour printer.

1 Scope

This document defines terms relevant to optical coatings. These terms are grouped in four classes: Terms and definitions, definition of coatings by function, definitions of common coating imperfections and other definitions.

This document identifies surface treatments of components and substrates excluding ophthalmic optics (spectacles) by the application of optical coatings and gives a standard form for their specification. It defines the general characteristics and the test and measurement methods whenever necessary, but is not intended to define the process method.

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 11145, *Optics and photonics — Lasers and laser-related equipment — Vocabulary and symbols*

ISO 80000-7, *Quantities and units — Part 7: Light*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 11145 and ISO 80000-7 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Basic terms and definitions

3.1.1 General terms

3.1.1.1

surface treatment of components and substrates

application of a coating of material(s) intended to modify the optical, physical or chemical characteristics originally possessed by the surface of a component

Note 1 to entry: The substrates are considered to be geometrically perfect and optically homogeneous. In reality, an assembly made up of a substrate and a coating is identified and measured experimentally as an entity.