



**International
Standard**

ISO 16827

**Non-destructive testing —
Ultrasonic testing —
Characterization and sizing of
discontinuities**

*Essais non destructifs — Contrôle par ultrasons —
Caractérisation et dimensionnement des discontinuités*

**Second edition
2025-06**

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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.

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 document 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).

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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 Technical Committee ISO/TC 135, *Non-destructive testing*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Ultrasonic testing*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 138, *Non-destructive testing*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 16827:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- figures have been updated;
- references have been updated;
- information added in the scope that the technique can also be used with phased array.

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 following documents on ultrasonic testing are linked:

ISO 16810, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — General principles*

ISO 16811, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Sensitivity and range setting*

ISO 16823, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Through transmission technique*

ISO 16826, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Testing for discontinuities perpendicular to the surface*

ISO 16827, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Characterization and sizing of discontinuities*

ISO 16828, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Time-of-flight diffraction technique as a method for detection and sizing of discontinuities*

Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Characterization and sizing of discontinuities

1 Scope

This document specifies the general principles and techniques for the characterization and sizing of previously detected discontinuities in order to ensure their evaluation against applicable acceptance criteria.

This document is applicable, in general terms, to discontinuities in those materials and applications covered by ISO 16810.

Phased array techniques can also be applied but additional steps or verifications can be needed.

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 5577, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Vocabulary*

ISO 16810, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — General principles*

ISO 16811, *Non-destructive testing — Ultrasonic testing — Sensitivity and range setting*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 5577 apply.

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

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

4 Principles of characterization of discontinuities

4.1 General

Characterization of a discontinuity involves the determination of those features which are necessary for its evaluation with respect to specified acceptance criteria.

Characterization of a discontinuity can include:

- a) determination of basic ultrasonic parameters (echo height, time of flight);
- b) determination of its basic shape and orientation;
- c) sizing, which may take the form of either:
 - 1) the determination of one or more dimensions (or area/volume), within the limitations of the methods; or