
**Graphic technology — Process control —
Optical, geometrical and metrological
requirements for reflection densitometers
for graphic arts use**

*Technologie graphique — Contrôle du processus — Exigences optiques,
géométriques et métrologiques relatives aux densitomètres par réflexion
utilisés dans l'industrie graphique*



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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 3.

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 International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 14981 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 130, *Graphic technology*.

Annexes A and B form a normative part of this International Standard.

Introduction

Densitometers used in the graphic arts for process control possess a number of features which are specific to the graphic arts. Whereas the photography standards ISO 5-1 [1], ISO 5-3 and ISO 5-4 [2] are considered to be the basis, the measuring instruments used in graphic technology require specific requirements and tolerances.

In principle, reflection densitometers and reflection colorimeters (of photoelectric or spectrophotometric type) are both reflectometers measuring the reflectance factor of reflection copy materials. Densitometers conforming to ISO 5 and colorimeters conforming to ISO 13655 possess a common geometry type, namely either 45/0 or 0/45. It is also noted that reflectometers of the spectrophotometer type can, in principle, be used both as a densitometer and as a colorimeter. The definition of the colorimeter used in this International Standard follows CIE 17.4, the International Lighting Vocabulary. In graphic arts, the geometry 45/0 (influx at 45° and efflux at 0°), or the geometry 0/45 are preferred over that with an integrating sphere because they correspond to the usual geometry under which glossy graphic products are being viewed to minimize the effect of gloss typically seen by the human observer, see also ISO 13655:1996, annex E. The introduction of polarizing means is an additional measure to remove first-surface reflection; for matt surfaces this is the only possibility.

Notwithstanding the similarities between instruments for densitometry and colorimetry, there are fundamental differences between them: Firstly, the illuminant used in densitometry is CIE standard illuminant A whereas ISO 13655 specifies CIE standard illuminant D_{50} for colorimetry in the graphic arts. Secondly, for the chromatic colours the weighting of the reflectance factors is different between densitometry and colorimetry. Only the "visual" weighting function, used for the densitometry of achromatic colours (such as black), is the same as that for the tristimulus value Y in colorimetry.

The aim of colorimetry is to provide a measuring instrument response which simulates, as well as possible, the visual characteristics of a sample as seen by the standard observer. In graphic arts, colorimetry serves mainly for colour matching and the establishment of colour standards. The availability of inexpensive, hand held colorimeters of the spectrophotometric or photoelectric type, with small sampling apertures, has also permitted the use of colorimetry in process control as a complement to densitometry. This should eliminate the use of densitometers for colour matching.

The aims of densitometry in graphic arts are the control of the ink film thickness or, more general, the control of the amount of colorant per area, and the determination of tone values or other quantities. A distinctly different task is the evaluation of the density ranges of colour separation input material; this type of densitometry is not covered by this International Standard.

The concept of this International Standard is based on the general principles specified for photography in the ISO 5 series of International Standards; for the spectral products it refers to certain tables of ISO 5-3. Just as the ISO 5 series it does not directly address the end user but the densitometer manufacturer or a suitably equipped laboratory. Directions for the end user are to be provided by ISO 13656, which will also give an overview on the various types of densitometers.

Graphic technology — Process control — Optical, geometrical and metrological requirements for reflection densitometers for graphic arts use

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for measuring instruments to be used for the measurement of the reflection densities and the tone values on half-tone or continuous-tone multi-colour graphic arts reflection-copy material.

This International Standard is applicable equally to measuring instruments that measure status density directly using filter/bandpass limiting techniques and to measuring instruments which measure spectrally and compute status density. This International Standard is not applicable to measuring instruments used for continuous-tone original art.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 5-3:1995, *Photography — Density measurements — Part 3: Spectral conditions*.

ISO 2846-1:1997, *Graphic technology — Colour and transparency of ink sets for four-colour-printing — Part 1: Sheet-fed and heat-set web offset lithographic printing*.

ISO 13655:1996, *Graphic technology — Spectral measurement and colorimetric computation for graphic arts images*.

ISO 13656:2000, *Graphic technology — Application of reflection densitometry and colorimetry to process control or evaluation of prints and proofs*.

ISO 14807:—¹⁾, *Photography — Method for the determination of densitometer performance specifications*.

ISO 15790:—¹⁾, *Graphic technology and photography — Reflection and transmission metrology — Certified reference materials — Documentation and procedures for use, including determination of combined standard uncertainty*.

1) To be published.