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**Particle characterization of particulate  
systems — Vocabulary**

*Caractérisation des particules dans les systèmes particulaires —  
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.

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 24, *Particle characterization including sieving*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Particle characterization*.

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## Introduction

Since 1995, some 20 International Standards have been published by ISO/TC 24/SC 4, and at the time of publication of this International Standard, about 12 projects were under development, not to mention revisions of existing standards. Therefore it was not before time that terms defined in standards that were relevant for others be collected and adjusted into a single, uniform vocabulary.

In particular, the interdisciplinary application fields of particle and particulate systems characterization — from mining and construction, the pharmaceutical and food industries, medicine and life sciences, the chemical industry, microelectronics and nanotechnology — need clear and unambiguous terminology. The development of international trade, not only in measurement devices for particle characterization, but also of process equipment for the production and treatment of particulate systems, underlines the need for comparability of quality and performance parameters, as well as in international health, safety and environmental protection regulations.

The structuring and presentation rules applied to the terminological entries, based on a clause structure, represents the methods of results presentation and the analysis methods, and starts with general terms in each clause.

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# Particle characterization of particulate systems — Vocabulary

## Scope

This International Standard establishes a vocabulary of terms and definitions relevant to the particle characterization of particulate systems. It covers such fields as the representation of results of particle size analysis, the descriptive and quantitative representation of particle shape and morphology, sample preparation, specific surface area and porosity characterization and measurement methods including sedimentation, classification, acoustic methods, laser diffraction, dynamic light scattering, single particle light interaction methods, differential electrical mobility analysis and image analysis, in a size scale from nanometre to millimetre.

## 1 General terms, representation of particle size and classification analysis

### 1.1

#### **particle**

minute piece of matter with defined physical boundaries

Note 1 to entry: A physical boundary can also be described as an interface.

Note 2 to entry: A particle can move as a unit.

Note 3 to entry: This general particle definition applies to nano-objects.

[SOURCE: ISO 14644-6:2007, 2.102, modified— The subject field “<general>” has been removed and the notes added.]

### 1.2

#### **agglomerate**

collection of weakly or medium strongly bound particles where the resulting external surface area is similar to the sum of the surface areas of the individual components

Note 1 to entry: The forces holding an agglomerate together are weak forces, for example van der Waals forces or simple physical entanglement.

Note 2 to entry: Agglomerates are also termed secondary particles and the original source particles are termed primary particles.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 27687:2008, 3.2, modified.]

### 1.3

#### **aggregate**

particle comprising strongly bonded or fused particles where the resulting external surface area is significantly smaller than the sum of surface areas of the individual components

Note 1 to entry: The forces holding an aggregate together are strong forces, for example covalent bonds, or those resulting from sintering or complex physical entanglement, or otherwise combined former primary particles.

Note 2 to entry: Aggregates are also termed secondary particles and the original source particles are termed primary particles.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 27687:2008, 3.3, modified.]

**1.4  
primary particle**

original source particle of agglomerates or aggregates or mixtures of the two

Note 1 to entry: Constituent particles of agglomerates or aggregates at a certain actual state may be primary particles, but often the constituents are aggregates.

Note 2 to entry: Agglomerates and aggregates are also termed secondary particles.

**1.5  
particle size**

$x$   
 $d$

linear dimension of a particle determined by a specified measurement method and under specified measurement conditions

Note 1 to entry: Different methods of analysis are based on the measurement of different physical properties. Independent of the particle property actually measured, the particle size is reported as a linear dimension, e.g. as the equivalent spherical diameter.

Note 2 to entry: Examples of size descriptors are those based at the opening of a sieve or a statistical diameter, e.g. the Feret diameter, measured by image analysis.

Note 3 to entry: In ISO 9276-1:1998, the symbol  $x$  is used to denote the particle size. However, it is recognized that the symbol  $d$  is also widely used to designate these values. Therefore the symbol  $x$  may be replaced by  $d$ .

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-1:1998, 4.2, modified.]

**1.6  
equivalent spherical diameter**

$x$   
 $d$

diameter of a sphere having the same physical properties as the particle in the measurement

Note 1 to entry: Physical properties are for instance the same settling velocity or electrolyte solution displacing volume or projection area under a microscope.

Note 2 to entry: The physical property to which the equivalent diameter refers shall be indicated using a suitable subscript, for example  $x_s$  for equivalent surface area diameter or  $x_v$  for equivalent volume diameter.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-1:1998, 4.2, modified.]

**1.7  
type of quantity**

$r$

specification of the quantity of a distribution, a cumulative or a density measure

Note 1 to entry: The type is indicated by the general subscript,  $r$ , or by the appropriate value of  $r$  as follows:

— number:  $r = 0$

— length:  $r = 1$

— area:  $r = 2$

— volume or mass:  $r = 3$

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-1:1998, 4.3, modified.]

## 1.8 cumulative distribution

$Q_r(x)$

distribution of the fraction of material smaller (undersize) than given particle sizes

Note 1 to entry: If the cumulative distribution,  $Q_r(x)$ , is calculated from histogram data, only individual points  $Q_{r,i} = Q_r(x_i)$  are obtained. Each individual point of the distribution,  $Q_r(x_i)$ , defines the relative amount of particles smaller than or equal to  $x_i$ . The continuous curve is calculated by suitable interpolation algorithms. The normalized cumulative distribution extends between 0 and 1, i.e. 0 and 100 %.

$$Q_{r,i} = \sum_{v=1}^i \Delta Q_{r,v} = \sum_{v=1}^i \bar{q}_{r,v} \Delta x_v \quad \text{with } 1 \leq v \leq i \leq n$$

where

$i$  (subscript) number of the size class with upper limit  $x_i$

$v$  (integer, see subscript  $i$ )

$n$  total number of size classes

$Q_{r,v}$  relative amount of particles in size class with upper limit  $x_v$

Note 2 to entry: When plotted on a graph paper with a logarithmic abscissa the cumulative values,  $Q_{r,i}$ , i.e. the ordinates of a cumulative distribution, do not change. However, the course of the cumulative distribution curve changes but the relative amounts smaller than a certain particle size remain the same. Therefore, the following formula holds:

$$Q_r(x) = Q_r(\ln x)$$

Note 3 to entry: The cumulative oversize distribution is given by  $1 - Q_r(x)$ .

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-1:1998, 5.2, modified.]

## 1.9 distribution density

$q_r(x)$

distribution of the fraction of material in a size class, divided by the width of that class

Note 1 to entry: Under the presupposition that the cumulative distribution,  $Q_r(x)$ , is differentiable, the continuous distribution density,  $q_r(x)$ , is obtained from

$$q_r(x) = \frac{dQ_r(x)}{dx}$$

Conversely, the cumulative distribution,  $Q_r(x)$ , is obtained from the distribution density,  $q_r(x)$ , by integration:

$$Q_r(x_i) = \int_{x_{\min}}^{x_i} q_r(x) dx$$

Note 2 to entry: Differential distribution is also named in statistics "density of a probability or frequency".

Note 3 to entry: The term "density distribution" can be misunderstood in the context of sedimentation methods with different materials and will be not used in standards developed by ISO/TC24/SC 4.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-1:1998, 5.3, modified — Notes 2 and 3 have been added.]

**1.10**  
**distribution density on a logarithmic abscissa**

$q_r^*(x)$   
distribution density, transformed for a logarithmic abscissa

Note 1 to entry: The density values of a histogram,  $\bar{q}_{r,i}^* = \bar{q}_r^*(x_{i-1}, x_i)$ , shall be recalculated using the following formula which indicates that the corresponding areas underneath the distribution density curve remain constant. In particular, the total area is equal to 1 or 100 %, independent of any transformation of the abscissa.

$$\bar{q}_r^*(\xi_{i-1}, \xi_i) \Delta \xi_i = \bar{q}_r(x_{i-1}, x_i) \Delta x_i$$

where  $\xi$  is any function of  $x$ .

Thus the following transformation shall be carried out to obtain the distribution density with a logarithmic abscissa:

$$q_r^*(x_i) = q_{r,i} \cdot x_i \quad \text{or} \quad \bar{q}_r^*(\ln x_{i-1}, \ln x_i) = \frac{\bar{q}_r(x_{i-1}, x_i) \Delta x_i}{\ln x_i - \ln x_{i-1}} = \frac{\bar{q}_{r,i} \Delta x_i}{\ln(x_i/x_{i-1})} = \frac{\Delta Q_{r,i}}{\ln(x_i/x_{i-1})}$$

Note 2 to entry: This formula also holds if the natural logarithm is replaced by the logarithm to base 10.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-1:1998, 6.2, modified.]

**1.11**  
**histogram**

$\bar{q}_r(x)$   
normalized histogram,  $\bar{q}_r(x)$ , of a *distribution density* (1.9),  $q_r(x)$ , comprising a successive series of rectangular columns, the area of each of which represents the relative quantity  $\Delta Q_{r,i}(x)$ , where

$$\Delta Q_{r,i} = \Delta Q_r(x_{i-1}, x_i) = \bar{q}_r(x_{i-1}, x_i) \Delta x \quad \text{or} \quad q_{r,i} = \bar{q}_r(x_{i-1}, x_i) = \frac{\Delta Q_r(x_{i-1}, x_i)}{\Delta x_i} = \frac{\Delta Q_{r,i}}{\Delta x_i}$$

Note 1 to entry: The sum of all the relative quantities,  $\Delta Q_{r,i}$  forms the area beneath the histogram  $q_r(x)$ , normalized to 100 % or 1 (condition of normalization). Therefore, the following formula holds:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \Delta Q_{r,i} = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{q}_{r,i} \Delta x_i = 1 = 100 \%$$

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-1:1998, 5.1, modified.]

**1.12**  
**concentration distribution density**

distribution of the concentration of material in a size class, divided by the width of that class

Note 1 to entry: In aerosol measurement, e. g. the distribution density of the particle number concentration, is represented as a function of the particle size.

Note 2 to entry: The concentration distribution density can be calculated from the distribution density function of the particle size by multiplication with the overall sizes measured concentration.

**1.13**  
**analytical cut size**

$x_a$   
cut size with the coarse and the fine material containing equal quantities of misplaced material

Note 1 to entry: Since the relative mass of the fine material as determined by the classification process, is taken to be equal to the relative mass of the undersize material in the feed, that is  $Q_{3,s}(x)$ , an analytical cut size  $x$  corresponding to this definition has to be found.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-4:2001, 4.3.2, modified.]

### 1.14

#### **equiprobable cut size**

$x_e$

cut size, which represents the median of the grade efficiency curve  $T(x_e) = 0,5$

Note 1 to entry: The weighted distribution density curves of the fine and the coarse fraction intersect at the equiprobable cut size  $x_e$ . Independently from other particle sizes, particles of this size have the equal probability to be classified into the fine and into the coarse fraction.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-4:2001, 4.3.1, modified.]

### 1.15

#### **grade efficiency**

Tromp's curve

$T(x)$

representation, for a certain particle size  $x$ , of the ratio of the amount of material present in the coarse material to the amount of the same size initially present in the feed material

Note 1 to entry: In the dust collection field, this efficiency is called "partial separation efficiency".

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-4:2001, 4.4, modified — The note has been added.]

## 2 Sedimentation analysis

### 2.1

#### **effective particle density**

particle mass divided by the volume of liquid it displaces

[SOURCE: ISO 13317-1:2001, 3.1.7, modified.]

### 2.2

#### **true particle density**

particle mass divided by the volume it would occupy excluding all pores, closed or open, and surface fissures

Note 1 to entry: True particle density is sometimes referred to as the absolute particle density.

[SOURCE: ISO 13317-1:2001, 3.1.8.]

### 2.3

#### **oversize**

portion of the charge which has not passed through the apertures of a stated sieve

[SOURCE: ISO 13317-1:2001, 3.1.5.]

### 2.4

#### **pycnometry**

method wherein particle density is obtained from the measured mass of sample with a given calibrated volume

### 2.5

#### **Stokes diameter**

equivalent spherical diameter of the particle that has the same density and terminal settling velocity as the real particle in the same liquid under creeping flow conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 13317-1:2001, 3.1.2.]

2.6

**terminal settling velocity**

velocity of a particle through a still liquid at which the force due to gravity on the particle is balanced by the drag exerted by the liquid

[SOURCE: ISO 13317-1:2001, 3.1.1.]

2.7

**undersize**

portion of the charge which has passed through the apertures of a stated sieve

[SOURCE: ISO 13317-1:2001, 3.1.6.]

### 3 Pore size distribution, porosity and surface area analysis

3.1

**molecular cross-sectional area**

molecular area of the adsorbate, i.e. the area occupied by an adsorbate molecule in the complete monolayer

[SOURCE: ISO 9277:2010, 3.10.]

3.2

**free space**

volume of the sample holder not occupied by the sample

Note 1 to entry: Also called head space, dead space, or dead volume.

[SOURCE: ISO 9277:2010, 3.14.]

3.3

**specific surface area**

absolute surface area of the sample divided by sample mass

[SOURCE: ISO 9277:2010, 3.15.]

3.4

**apparent density**

mass of a powder divided by the total volume of the sample, including closed and inaccessible pores, as determined by the stated method

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.23.]

3.5

**bulk density**

powder density under defined conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.1.]

3.6

**blind pore**

dead end pore  
open pore having a single connection with an external surface

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.6.]

3.7

**closed pore**

cavity not connected to the external surface

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.3.]

**3.8****contact angle**

angle that a non-wetting liquid makes with a solid material

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 4.4.]

**3.9****external surface area**

area of external surface including roughness but outside pores

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.5.]

**3.10****ink bottle pore**

narrow necked open pore

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.3.]

**3.11****interconnected pore**

pore which communicates with one or more other pores

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.7.]

**3.12****internal surface area**

area of internal pore walls

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.8.]

**3.13****intraparticle porosity**

ratio of the volume of open pores internal to the particle to the total volume occupied by the solid

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.9.]

**3.14****interparticle porosity**

ratio of the volume of space between particles in a powder to the apparent volume of the particles or powder

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.10.]

**3.15****macropore**

pore of internal width greater than 50 nm

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.11.]

**3.16****mesopore**

pore of internal width between 2 nm and 50 nm

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.12.]

**3.17****micropore**

pore of internal width less than 2 nm which is accessible for a molecule to be adsorbed

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.13.]

**3.18**

**open pore**

cavity or channel with access to an external surface

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.14.]

**3.19**

**open porosity**

ratio of the volume of open pores and voids to the total volume occupied by the solid

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.15.]

**3.20**

**pore size**

pore width, for example, the diameter of a cylindrical pore or the distance between the opposite walls of a slit

Note 1 to entry: One of the methods to determine pore sizes is by mercury porosimetry.

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.16.]

**3.21**

**pore volume**

volume of pores determined by stated method

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.17.]

**3.22**

**porosimeter**

instrument for measuring porosity and pore size distribution

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.18.]

**3.23**

**porosimetry**

methods for the estimation of porosity and pore size distribution

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.19.]

**3.24**

**porosity**

ratio of total pore volume to apparent volume of particle or powder

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.20.]

**3.25**

**porous solid**

solid with cavities or channels which are deeper than they are wide

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.21.]

**3.26**

**powder density**

mass of a powder divided by its apparent volume, which is taken to be the total volume of the solid material, open and closed pores and interstices

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.24.]

**3.27**

**skeleton density**

mass of a powder divided by the total volume of the sample, including closed pores but excluding open pores

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.22.]

**3.28****surface area**

extent of available surface area as determined by given method under stated conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.25.]

**3.29****surface tension**

force required to separate a film of liquid from either a solid material or a film of the same liquid

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.26.]

**3.30****through pore**

pore which passes all the way through the sample

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.27.]

**3.31****total porosity**

ratio of the volume of void plus the volume of open and closed pores to the total volume occupied by the solid and the volume of void plus pores, e.g. apparent solid volume

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.28.]

**3.32****true density**

mass of the particle divided by its volume, excluding open and closed pores

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.29.]

**3.33****void**

space between particles, i.e. an interparticle pore

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-1:2005, 3.30.]

**3.34****adsorbate**

adsorbed gas

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.1.]

**3.35****amount adsorbed**

*n<sub>a</sub>*

number of moles of gas adsorbed at a given pressure *p* and temperature *T* [SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.2.]

**3.36****adsorbent**

solid material on which adsorption occurs

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.3.]

**3.37****adsorption**

enrichment of the adsorptive gas at the external and accessible internal surfaces of a solid material

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.4.]

**3.38**

**adsorptive**

gas or vapour to be adsorbed

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.5.]

**3.39**

**equilibrium adsorption pressure**

$p$

pressure of the adsorptive gas in equilibrium with the adsorbate

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.7.]

**3.40**

**adsorption isotherm**

relationship between the amount of gas adsorbed and the equilibrium pressure of the gas, at constant temperature

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-3:2007, 3.5.]

**3.41**

**monolayer amount**

$n'm$

number of moles of the adsorbate that form a monomolecular layer over the surface of the adsorbent

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.14.]

**3.42**

**monolayer capacity**

$V_m$

volumetric equivalent of monolayer amount expressed as gas at standard conditions of temperature and pressure (STP)

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.15.]

**3.43**

**relative pressure**

ratio of the equilibrium adsorption pressure,  $p$ , to the saturation vapour pressure,  $p_0$ [SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.18.]

**3.44**

**right cylindrical pore**

cylindrical pore perpendicular to the surface

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.19.]

**3.45**

**saturation vapour pressure**

vapour pressure of the bulk liquefied adsorptive gas at the temperature of adsorption

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.20.]

**3.46**

**volume adsorbed**

volumetric equivalent of adsorbed amount expressed as gas at standard conditions of temperature and pressure (STP)

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-2:2006, 3.22.]

**3.47****physisorption**

weak bonding of the adsorbate, reversible by small changes in pressure or temperature

[SOURCE: ISO 15901-3:2007, 3.13.]

**4 Representation of particle shape analysis****4.1****particle shape**

external geometric form of a particle

Note 1 to entry: Macroshape is a description of the overall form of a particle defined in terms of the geometrical proportions of the particle. In general, simple geometrical descriptors calculated from size measurements made on the particle silhouette are used.

Note 2 to entry: Mesoshape description provides information about details of the particle shape and/or surface structure that are in a size range not much smaller than the particle proportions.

Note 3 to entry: Microshape determines the roughness of shape boundaries using fractal dimension or higher-order Fourier coefficients for surface-textural analysis.

[SOURCE: ISO 3252:1999, 1401.]

**4.2****Legendre ellipse of inertia**

ellipse with its centre at the particle's centroid and with the same geometrical moments of inertia, up to the second order, as the original particle area

Note 1 to entry: The ellipse can be characterized by its major and minor diameters, the position of its centre of gravity and its orientation.

Note 2 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, geometrical descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.2, modified.]

**4.3****geodesic length and thickness**

$x_{LG}$  and  $x_E$

approximations for very long and concave particles, such as fibres, calculated from the projection area  $A$  and perimeter  $P$ :

$$A = x_E \cdot x_{LG} \quad P = 2(x_E + x_{LG})$$

Note 1 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, geometrical descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.2, modified.]

**4.4****ellipse ratio**

ratio of the lengths of the axes of the Legendre ellipse of inertia )

Note 1 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, proportion descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.3, modified.]

**4.5****aspect ratio**

ratio of the minimum to the maximum Feret diameter

Note 1 to entry: For not very elongated particles.

Note 2 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, proportion descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.3, modified.]

**4.6  
elongation**

ratio of the geodesic thickness to the geodesic length

Note 1 to entry: For very elongated particles, such as fibres.

Note 2 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, proportion descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.3, modified.]

**4.7  
straightness**

ratio of the maximum *Feret diameter* (8.6) to the geodesic length

Note 1 to entry: For very elongated particles (reciprocal of curl).

Note 2 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, proportion descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.3, modified.]

**4.8  
irregularity**

ratio of the diameter of the maximum inscribed circle  $d_{\text{imax}}$  and that of the minimum circumscribed circle  $d_{\text{cmin}}$

Note 1 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, proportion descriptor, (modification ratio).

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.3, modified.]

**4.9  
compactness**

degree to which the projection area  $A$  of the particle is similar to a circle, considering the overall form of the particle with the maximum Feret diameter  $x_{\text{Fmax}}$ :

$$\text{compactness} = \frac{\sqrt{(4A/\pi)}}{x_{\text{Fmax}}}$$

Note 1 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, proportion descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.3, modified.]

**4.10  
box ratio**

ratio of the Feret box area to the projected area  $A$

Note 1 to entry: Macroshape descriptor, proportion descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.1.3, modified.]

**4.11  
sphericity**

$\Psi$   
square of the ratio of the volume equivalent diameter  $x_v$  to the surface equivalent diameter  $x_s$

$$\Psi = (x_v / x_s)^2 = \pi \cdot x_v^2 / S$$

Note 1 to entry: Wadell's sphericity,  $\Psi$ , also derived from surface area,  $S$ .

Note 2 to entry: Mesoshape descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.2, modified.]

#### 4.12

##### **circularity**

$C$

degree to which the projection area of the particle  $A$  is similar to a circle, considering the smoothness of the perimeter  $P$ :

$$C = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi A}{P^2}} = \frac{x_A}{x_P}$$

Note 1 to entry: Mesoshape descriptor, also derived from the area equivalent diameter  $x_A$  to the perimeter equivalent diameter  $x_P$ .

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.2, modified.]

#### 4.13

##### **solidity**

ratio of the projected area  $A$  to the area of the convex hull  $A_C$  (envelope)

$$\text{Solidity} = A / A_C$$

Note 1 to entry: Measure of the overall concavity of a particle.

Note 2 to entry: Mesoshape descriptor.

[SOURCE: ISO 9276-6:2008, 8.2, modified.]

## 5 Electrical sensing methods

### 5.1

#### **dead time**

time during which the electronics are not able to detect particles due to the signal processing of a previous pulse

[SOURCE: ISO 13319:2007, 3.1.]

### 5.2

#### **aperture**

small-diameter hole through which suspension is drawn

[SOURCE: ISO 13319:2007, 3.2.]

### 5.3

#### **sampling volume**

volume of suspension that is analysed

[SOURCE: ISO 13319:2007, 3.3.]

### 5.4

#### **sensing zone**

volume of electrolyte solution within, and around, the aperture in which a particle is detected

[SOURCE: ISO 13319:2007, 3.3.]

**5.5**  
**channel**  
size interval

[SOURCE: ISO 13319:2007, 3.4.]

**5.6**  
**envelope size**  
external size of a particle as seen in a microscope

[SOURCE: ISO 13319:2007, 3.5.]

**5.7**  
**envelope volume**  
volume of the envelope given by the three-dimensional boundary of the particle to the surrounding medium

[SOURCE: ISO 13319:2007, 3.6.]

## 6 Laser diffraction methods

**6.1**  
**light absorption**  
reduction of intensity of a light beam not due to scattering

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, definition 3.1.1.]

**6.2**  
**coefficient of variation**  
*CV*  
standard deviation divided by the mean

Note 1 to entry: The coefficient of variation is commonly reported as a percentage.

[SOURCE: ISO 3534-1:2006, 2.38.]

**6.3**  
**complex refractive index**  
refractive index of a particle, consisting of a real and an imaginary (absorption) part

Note 1 to entry: The complex refractive index of a particle can be expressed mathematically as

$$\underline{n}_p = n_p - ik_p$$

where

$i$  is the square root of  $-1$ ;

$k_p$  is the positive imaginary (absorption) part of the refractive index of a particle;

$n_p$  is the positive real part of the refractive index of a particle.

Note 2 to entry: In contrast to ISO 80000-7:2008, item 7-5, this International Standard follows the convention of adding a minus sign to the imaginary part of the refractive index.

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.3.]

#### 6.4 relative refractive index

$m_{\text{rel}}$

ratio of the complex refractive index of a particle to the real part of the dispersion medium

Note 1 to entry: Adapted from ISO 24235:2007.

Note 2 to entry: In most applications, the medium is transparent and, thus, its refractive index has a negligible imaginary part.

Note 3 to entry: The relative refractive index can be expressed mathematically as

$$m_{\text{rel}} = \underline{n}_p / n_m$$

where

$n_m$  is the real part of the refractive index of the medium;

$\underline{n}_p$  is the complex refractive index of a particle.

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.4.]

#### 6.5 deconvolution

mathematical procedure whereby the size distribution of an ensemble of particles is inferred from measurements of their scattering pattern

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.5.]

#### 6.6 diffraction

scattering of light around the contour of a particle, observed at a substantial distance (in the 'far field')

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.6.]

#### 6.7 light extinction

attenuation of a light beam traversing a medium through absorption and scattering

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.7.]

#### 6.8 model matrix

matrix containing vectors of the scattered light signals for unit volumes of different size classes, scaled to the detector's geometry, as derived from model computation

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.8.]

#### 6.9 multiple scattering

consecutive scattering of light by more than one particle, causing a scattering pattern that is no longer the sum of the patterns from all individual particles

Note 1 to entry: See *single scattering* (6.20).

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.9.]

**6.10**

**obscuration**

**optical concentration**

fraction of incident light that is attenuated due to extinction (scattering and/or absorption) by particles

Note 1 to entry: Adapted from ISO 8130-14:2004, 2.21.

Note 2 to entry: Obscuration can be expressed as a percentage.

Note 3 to entry: When expressed as fractions, obscuration plus transmission equal unity.

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.10.]

**6.11**

**optical model**

theoretical model used for computing the model matrix for optically homogeneous and isotropic spheres with, if necessary, a specified complex refractive index

EXAMPLE Fraunhofer diffraction model, Mie scattering model.

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.11.]

**6.12**

**light reflection**

change of direction of a light wave at a surface without a change in wavelength or frequency

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.12.]

**6.13**

**refraction**

process by which the direction of a radiation is changed as a result of changes in its velocity of propagation in passing through an optically non-homogeneous medium, or in crossing a surface separating different media

Note 1 to entry: The process occurs in accordance with Snell's law:  $n_m \sin \theta_m = n_p \sin \theta_p$

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-845:1987.]

**6.14**

**repeatability**

<instrument> closeness of agreement between multiple measurement results of a given property in the same dispersed sample aliquot, executed by the same operator in the same instrument under identical conditions within a short period of time

Note 1 to entry: This type of repeatability does not include variability due to sampling and dispersion.

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.14.]

**6.15**

**repeatability**

<method> closeness of agreement between multiple measurement results of a given property in different aliquots of a sample, executed by the same operator in the same instrument under identical conditions within a short period of time

Note 1 to entry: This type of repeatability includes variability due to sampling and dispersion.

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.15.]

**6.16****reproducibility**

<method>closeness of agreement between multiple measurement results of a given property in different aliquots of a sample, prepared and executed by different operators in similar instruments according to the same method

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.16.]

**6.17****light scattering**

change in propagation of light at the interface of two media having different optical properties

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.17.]

**6.18****scattering angle**

angle between the principal axis of the incident light beam and the scattered light

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.18.]

**6.19****scattering pattern**

angular pattern of light intensity,  $I(\theta)$ , or spatial pattern of light intensity,  $I(r)$ , originating from scattering, or the related energy values taking into account the sensitivity and the geometry of the detector elements

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.19.]

**6.20****single scattering**

scattering whereby the contribution of a single member of a particle population to the total scattering pattern remains independent of the other members of the population

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.20.]

**6.21****single shot analysis**

analysis, for which the entire content of a sample container is used

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.21.]

**6.22****light transmission**

fraction of incident light that remains unattenuated by the particles

Note 1 to entry: Transmission can be expressed as a percentage.

Note 2 to entry: When expressed as fractions, *obscuration* (6.10) plus transmission equal unity.

[SOURCE: ISO 13320:2009, 3.1.22.]

**7 Dynamic light scattering****7.1****average particle diameter**

$x_{DLS}$

harmonic intensity-weighted arithmetic average particle diameter

Note 1 to entry: Average particle diameter is expressed in nanometres. Typical average particle diameters are in the range 1 nm to about 1 000 nm.

Note 2 to entry: In ISO 13321:1996, the symbol  $x_{PCS}$  is used.

[SOURCE: ISO 22412:2008, 3.1, modified — Note 2 has been added.]

**7.2  
polydispersity index**

*PI*  
dimensionless measure of the broadness of the size distribution

Note 1 to entry: Adapted from ISO 13321:1996, 2.2.

Note 2 to entry: The *PI* typically has values less than 0,1 for a monodisperse test sample.

[SOURCE: ISO 22412:2008, 3.2.]

**7.3  
qualification**

proof with reference material that an instrument is operating in agreement with its specifications

[SOURCE: ISO 22412:2008, 3.5.]

**7.4  
scattering volume**

*V*  
section of the incident laser beam viewed by the detector optics

Note 1 to entry: Adapted from ISO 13321:1996, 2.3.

[SOURCE: ISO 22412:2008, 3.3.]

**7.5  
scattered intensity  
count rate  
photocurrent**

*I<sub>s</sub>*  
intensity of the light scattered by the particles in the scattering volume; in practice, a number of photon pulses per unit time or a photodetector current which is proportional to the scattered intensity as measured by a detector

[SOURCE: ISO 22412:2008, 3.4.]

**7.6  
validation**

proof with reference material that a procedure is acceptable for all elements of its scope

[SOURCE: ISO 22412:2008, 3.6.]

## 8 Image analysis methods

**8.1  
binary image**

digitized image consisting of an array of pixels, each of which has a value of 0 or 1, whose values are normally represented by dark and bright regions on the display screen or by the use of two distinct colours

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.3.]

**8.2  
connectivity**

logical criteria for the connection of a pixel to neighbouring pixels

Note 1 to entry: For rectangular pixels, two neighbouring pixels share the same side, in which case it is called 4-connectivity. If they share the same corner, it is called 8-connectivity.

**8.3****edge finding**

one of many edge detection methods used to detect transition between objects and background

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.4.]

**8.4****equivalent circular diameter****ecd**

diameter of a circle having the same area as the projected image of the particle

Note 1 to entry: It is also known as the Haywood diameter.

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.7.]

**8.5****Euler number**

number of objects minus the number of holes inside the objects, which describes the connectedness of a region, not its shape

Note 1 to entry: A connected region is one in which all pairs of points may be connected by a curve lying entirely in the region. If a complex two-dimensional object is considered to be a set of connected regions, where each one can have holes, the Euler number for such an object is defined as; (number of connected regions) - (number of holes). The number of holes is one less than the connected regions in the set complement of the object. Euler number should be reported together with the connectivity applied, i.e. 4-connectivity or 8-connectivity.

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.5.]

**8.6****Feret diameter**

distance between two parallel tangents on opposite sides of the image of a particle

Note 1 to entry: Maximum diameter  $x_{Fmax}$  corresponding to the "length" of the particle and minimum diameter  $x_{Fmin}$  corresponding to the "breadth" of the particle.

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.6.]

**8.7****grey image**

image in which multiple grey level values are permitted for each pixel

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.8.]

**8.8****image analysis**

processing and data reduction operation which yields a numerical or logical result from an image

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.9.]

**8.9****measurement frame**

field in a view field in which particles are counted for image analysis

Note 1 to entry: The set of measurement frames composes the total measurement field.

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.2.]

**8.10**  
**numerical aperture**  
NA

product of the refractive index of the object space and the sine of the semi-aperture of the cone of rays entering the entrance pupil of the objective lens from the object point

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.10.]

**8.11**  
**pixel**  
**picture element**

individual sample in a digital image that has been formed by uniform sampling in both the horizontal and vertical directions

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.11.]

**8.12**  
**raster pattern**

scanning order of measurement frames in the total measurement field

**8.13**  
**segmentation**

part into which something can be divided; subdivision or section

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.12.]

**8.14**  
**threshold**

grey level value which is set to discriminate objects of interest from background

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.14.]

**8.15**  
**view field**

field which is viewed by a viewing device, e.g. optical microscope or electron scanning microscope

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-1:2004, 3.1.1.]

**8.16**  
**depth of field**

region where the sharpness of the edges of the images reaches the pre-set optimum

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-2:2006, 3.1.6.]

**8.17**  
**flow-cell**

measurement cell inside which the fluid-particle mixture flows

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-2:2006, 3.1.1.]

**8.18**  
**image capture device**

matrix camera or line camera

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-2:2006, 3.1.7.]

**8.19**  
**measurement volume**

volume in which particles are measured by an image analyser

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-2:2006, 3.1.5.]

**8.20****orifice tube**

tube with an aperture through which a stream of fluid with dispersed particles flows

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-2:2006, 3.1.2.]

**8.21****particle illumination**

continuous illumination for image capture device with an electronic exposure time controller, or illumination of short duration for synchronized image capture device

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-2:2006, 3.1.4.]

**8.22****sheath flow**

clean fluid flow surrounding particle-laden fluid for directing particles into a specific measurement zone

[SOURCE: ISO 13322-2:2006, 3.1.3.]

**9 Single particle light interaction methods****9.1****aerosol spectrometer**

instrument that measures the particle size with high size resolution and high size classification accuracy and that counts the measured particles depending on the size

Note 1 to entry: There are optical aerosol spectrometers (ISO 21501-1) and aerodynamic aerosol spectrometers.

Note 2 to entry: The typical sampling flow rate is about 0,5 to 5 l/min.

**9.2****border zone error**

particle sizing error that occurs when particles pass through the optical border of the sensing zone

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-1:2009, 3.10.]

**9.3****coincidence error**

probability of the presence of more than one particle inside the sensing zone simultaneously

Note 1 to entry: Coincidence error is related to particle number concentration and size of sensing zone.

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-1:2009, 3.8.]

**9.4****counting efficiency**

relation of the concentration determined from the counting rate of the measuring instrument and the real concentration at the inlet of the instrument in a specified size range

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-1:2009, 3.10.]

**9.5****light scattering equivalent particle diameter**

$x_{sca\ v}$

equivalent diameter of a homogeneous sphere of a reference substance (e.g. latex) which scatters defined incident light with the same radiation efficiency into a defined solid angle element

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-1:2009, 3.5.]

**9.6**  
**number concentration distribution density**  
distribution density (frequency) of the particle number concentration represented as a function of the particle size

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-1:2009, 3.6.]

**9.7**  
**particle concentration**  
indication of, e.g. particle number, particle mass, particle surface related to the unit volume of the carrier gas or liquid

Note 1 to entry: For the exact concentration indication, information on the gaseous condition (temperature and pressure) or the reference to a standard volume indication is necessary.

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-1:2009, 3.7.]

**9.8**  
**calibration particles**  
mono-disperse spherical particles with a known mean particle size, e.g. polystyrene latex (PSL) particles, that are traceable to an international standard of length, and where the standard uncertainty of the mean particle size is equal to or less than 2,5 %

Note 1 to entry: The refractive index of polystyrene latex calibration particles is close to 1,59 at a wavelength of 589 nm (sodium D line).

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-3:2007, 2.1.]

**9.9**  
**particle counter**  
instrument that counts the number of particles and measures their size using the light scattering method or the light extinction method

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-2:2007, 2.3.]

**9.10**  
**pulse height analyser**  
instrument that analyses the distribution of pulse heights

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-3:2007, 2.4.]

**9.11**  
**size resolution**  
measure of the ability of an instrument to distinguish between particles of different sizes

[SOURCE: ISO 21501-2:2007, 2.5.]

## 10 Small angle X-Ray scattering method

**10.1**  
**small angle X-Ray scattering**  
**SAXS**  
method in which the elastically scattered intensity of X-rays is measured for small-angle deflections

Note 1 to entry: The angular scattering is usually measured within the range  $0,1^\circ$  to  $10^\circ$ . This provides structural information on macromolecules as well as periodicity on length scales typically larger than 5 nm and less than 200 nm for ordered or partially ordered systems.

Note 2 to entry: Wide-angle X-ray scattering (WAXS) is an analogous technique, similar to X-ray crystallography, in which scattering at larger angles, which is sensitive to periodicity on smaller length scales, is measured.

Note 3 to entry: The X-ray source may be a synchrotron, in which case the term synchrotron radiation small-angle X-ray scattering (SRXAS) is occasionally encountered.

[SOURCE: ISO 18115-1:2010, 4.18.]

## 10.2 radius of gyration

$R_g$

square root of the ratio of the moment of inertia to the particle mass

Note 1 to entry: Guinier radius (i.e. radius of gyration) is expressed in nanometres. Typical average radii are in the range of 1 nm to 50 nm.

## 11 Sample preparation and reference materials

### 11.1 clump

assemblage of particles which are either rigidly joined or loosely coherent

[SOURCE: ISO 14887:2000, 3.3.]

### 11.2 critical micelle concentration CMC

concentration of dispersing agent above which micelles will form

[SOURCE: ISO 14887:2000, 3.4.]

### 11.3 floc

assemblage of particles which are very loosely coherent

[SOURCE: ISO 14887:2000, 3.5.]

### 11.4 Tyndall effect

light scattered perpendicular to a beam of light passing through a liquid that contains particles

[SOURCE: ISO 14887:2000, 3.8.]

### 11.5 bias

estimate of a systematic measurement error

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.18.]

### 11.6 error

measured quantity value minus a reference quantity value

Note 1 to entry: Errors may have a random or a systematic nature.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.16.]

### 11.7 grab sample

sample that has not been taken under well-defined conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.5.]

**11.8**

**gross sample**

primary sample, composed of several sample increments

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.4.]

**11.9**

**primary sample**

sample (single or composed) taken from a defined bulk product

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.6.]

**11.10**

**representative sample**

sample that has the same properties as a defined batch of material and represents the bulk material, within a defined confidence limit

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.7.]

**11.11**

**sample**

part of a defined bulk product taken for the purpose of characterization

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.8.]

**11.12**

**sample increment**

single sample, taken from any of a defined set of locations in a bulk product or at any of a defined set of times from a production/ transportation line, to be mixed with other increments to form a gross sample

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.9.]

**11.13**

**sampling sequence**

sequence of sampling, sample division and combination steps that result in a test sample for a defined bulk product

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.10.]

**11.14**

**spot sample**

sample, taken at a defined location or production time, from a batch of material

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.11.]

**11.15**

**test sample**

sample that is entirely used for a property characterization

[SOURCE: ISO 14488:2007, 3.12.]

## **12 Electrical mobility and number concentration analysis for aerosol particles**

**12.1**

**aerosol**

system of solid or liquid particles suspended in gas

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.1.]

**12.2****attachment coefficient**

attachment probability of ions and aerosol particles

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.2.]

**12.3****condensation particle counter****CPC**

instrument that measures the particle number concentration of an aerosol

Note 1 to entry: The sizes of particles detected are usually smaller than several hundred nanometres and larger than a few nanometres.

Note 2 to entry: A CPC is one possible detector for use with a DEMC.

Note 3 to entry: In some cases, a condensation particle counter may be called a condensation nucleus counter (CNC).

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.5.]

**12.4****critical mobility**

instrument parameter of a DEMC that defines the electrical mobility of aerosol particles that exit the DEMC in aerosol form, which may be defined by the geometry, aerosol and sheath air flow rates, and electrical field intensity

Note 1 to entry: Particles larger or smaller than the critical mobility migrate to an electrode or exit with the excess flow and do not exit from the DEMC in aerosol form.

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.6.]

**12.5****differential electrical mobility classifier****DEMC**

classifier that is able to select aerosol particles according to their electrical mobility and pass them to its exit

Note 1 to entry: A DEMC classifies aerosol particles by balancing the electrical force on each particle with its aerodynamic drag force in an electrical field. Classified particles are in a narrow range of electrical mobility determined by the operating conditions and physical dimensions of the DEMC, while they can have different sizes due to difference in the number of charges that they have.

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.7.]

**12.6****differential mobility analysing system****DMAS**

system to measure the size distribution of submicrometre aerosol particles consisting of a DEMC, flow meters, a particle detector, interconnecting plumbing, a computer and suitable software

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.8.]

**12.7****electrical mobility**

mobility of a charged particle in an electrical field

Note 1 to entry: Electrical mobility can be defined as the migration velocity dependent on the strength of the electrical field, the mechanical mobility and the number of charges per particle.

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.9.]

**12.8**

**Knudsen number**

Kn  
ratio of gas molecular mean free path to the radius of the particle, which is an indicator of free molecular flow versus continuum gas flow

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.13.]

**12.9**

**laminar flow**

gas flow with no temporally or spatially irregular activity or turbulent eddy flow

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.14.]

**12.10**

**migration velocity**

steady-state velocity of a charged airborne particle within an externally applied electric field

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.15.]

**12.11**

**Peclet number**

Pe  
dimensionless number representing the ratio of a particle's convective to diffusive transport

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.17.]

**12.12**

**Reynolds number**

Re  
dimensionless number expressed as the ratio of the inertial force to the viscous force; for example, applied to an aerosol particle or a tube carrying aerosol particles

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.18.]

**12.13**

**slip correction**

Sc  
dimensionless factor that is used to correct the drag force acting on a particle for non-continuum effects that become important when the particle size is comparable to or smaller than the mean free path of the gas molecules

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.19.]

**12.14**

**Stokes' drag**

drag force acting on a particle that is moving relative to a continuum fluid in the creeping flow (low Reynolds number) limit

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.21.]

**12.15**

**system transfer function**

transfer function defined as the ratio of the particle concentration at the particle concentration measurement detector of a DMAS to the particle concentration at the inlet of the DMAS, which is normally expressed as a function of electrical mobility

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.22.]

**12.16****transfer function**

ratio of particle concentration at the outlet of a DEMC to the particle concentration at the inlet of the DEMC, which is normally expressed as a function of electrical mobility

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.23.]

**12.17****electrometer**

device that measures electrical current ranging from about 1 femtoampere (fA) to about 10 picoamperes (pA)

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.10.]

**12.18****Faraday-cup aerosol electrometer****FCAE**

electrometer designed for the measurement of electrical charges carried by aerosol particles

Note 1 to entry: A Faraday-cup aerosol electrometer consists of an electrically conducting and electrically grounded cup as a guard to cover the sensing element that includes aerosol filtering media to capture charged aerosol particles, an electrical connection between the sensing element and an electrometer circuit, and a flow meter.

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.12.]

**13 Electrical charge conditioning****13.1****space charge**

net charge spatially distributed in a gas

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.20.]

**13.2****charge neutralization**

process that leaves the aerosol particles with a distribution of charges that is in equilibrium and makes the net charge of the aerosol nearly zero, which is usually achieved by exposing aerosol particles to an electrically neutral cloud of positive and negative gas charges

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.4.]

**13.3****equilibrium charge distribution**

charging condition for aerosol particles that is stable after exposure to bipolar ions for a sufficiently long period of time

Note 1 to entry: Bipolar ions are positive and negative ions which are produced by either a radioactive source or a corona discharge.

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.11.]

**13.4****particle charge conditioner**

device used to establish a known size-dependent charge distribution on the sampled aerosol of an unknown charging state, which is either a bipolar or unipolar charger

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.16.]

### 13.5

#### **bipolar charger**

device to attain the equilibrium steady state of charging by exposing aerosol particles to both positive and negative ions within the device

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.3.]

### 13.6

#### **unipolar charger**

device to attain a steady-state charge distribution of aerosol particles by exposing them to either positive or negative ions within the device

[SOURCE: ISO 15900:2009, 2.24.]

## 14 Acoustic methods

### 14.1

#### **ultrasonic absorption**

direct reduction of incident ultrasonic energy by means other than scattering

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.1, modified — “Ultrasonic” has been added to the term.]

### 14.2

#### **attenuation**

total reduction of incident ultrasonic energy, including both scattering and absorption

Note 1 to entry: The recommended measurement unit is the decibel (dB), which is defined as 10 times the common (base 10) logarithm of the ratio of incident intensity to transmitted intensity, or equivalently 20 times the common logarithm of the ratio of incident amplitude to transmitted amplitude. The Neper (Np) is a permitted alternative measurement unit based on the natural logarithm rather than the common logarithm. The conversion factor is  $1 \text{ Np} = 8,686 \text{ dB}$ .

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.2, modified — The synonym “extinction” has not been included with the term.]

### 14.3

#### **attenuation coefficient**

#### **extinction coefficient**

attenuation (extinction) per unit length of ultrasonic propagation through a material, measured in units of dB/cm or Np/cm

Note 1 to entry: Attenuation coefficients are sometimes scaled by frequency, or frequency-squared, to identify the dominant attenuation mechanism. For clarity, in this part of ISO 20998, only the attenuation per unit length (in dB/cm) is considered.

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.3.]

### 14.4

#### **attenuation spectrum**

attenuation coefficient measured as a function of frequency

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.4.]

### 14.5

#### **bandwidth**

range of frequencies contained in an ultrasonic signal, typically measured as the frequency difference between the -3 dB points on a spectrum analyser

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.5.]

**14.6****broadband**

characterized as having a bandwidth that is equal to at least half of the centre frequency

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.6.]

**14.7****digitization**

act of generating a digital (quantized) representation of a continuous signal

Note 1 to entry: The number of bits determines the resolution (fidelity), and the sampling rate determines the bandwidth (Nyquist criterion).

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.7.]

**14.8****excess attenuation**

incremental attenuation caused by the presence of particles in the continuous phase

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.8.]

**14.9****Fourier transform**

mathematical transform that converts a time-varying signal into its frequency components, which is often implemented in computers as a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithm

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.9.]

**14.10****interference**

wave phenomenon of cancellation or enhancement observed when two or more waves overlap

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.10.]

**14.11****intrinsic response**

frequency-dependent response of the ultrasonic spectrometer itself

Note 1 to entry: This is not to be confused with the intrinsic absorption of the sample component materials.

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.11.]

**14.12****path length**

distance traversed by the ultrasonic wave between the emitting transducer and the receiver

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.12.]

**14.13****pulse**

wave of sufficiently short duration to contain broadband Fourier components

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.13.]

**14.14****ultrasonic reflection**

return of an ultrasonic wave at an interface or surface

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.14, modified — “Ultrasonic” has been added to the term.]

**14.15**

**ultrasonic scattering**

removal of ultrasonic energy from the incident wave by redirection

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.15, modified — “Ultrasonic” has been added to the term.]

**14.16**

**spectrum**

frequency components of a signal, typically arranged as magnitude versus frequency

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.16.]

**14.17**

**tone-burst**

short duration of a few (typically 5–10) cycles of a sinusoidal wave

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.17, modified — The term has been hyphenated and the accompanying note relating to the typical number of cycles incorporated into the definition.]

**14.18**

**transducer**

device for generating ultrasound from an electrical signal or vice versa

Note 1 to entry: Piezoelectric devices are commonly used for this purpose.

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.18.]

**14.19**

**ultrasonic transmission**

passage of ultrasound through a sample

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 3.21, modified — “Ultrasonic” has been added to the term.]

**14.20**

**transmission spectrum**

the transmission value measured as a function of frequency

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.20.]

**14.21**

**transmission value**

amplitude of an ultrasonic signal (or a component thereof) that has been transmitted through a sample; measured in volts or arbitrary units

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.21.]

**14.22**

**ultrasound**

high frequency (over 20 kHz) sound waves which propagate through fluids and solids

Note 1 to entry: The range employed in particle characterization is typically 100 kHz to 100 MHz.

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.22.]

**14.23**

**wave**

fluctuation (e.g. pressure, shear, or thermal) that propagates through a physical medium

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.23.]

**14.24****waveform**

shape of the wave when seen on an oscilloscope or digitized display

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.24.]

**14.25****wavelength**

length of a wave, determined by the distance between corresponding points on successive waves

[SOURCE: ISO 20998-1:2006, 2.25.]

**15 Focused beam methods****15.1****focused beam reflectance method**

method whose probe uses a focused light beam passing particles in a suspension or aerosol and which measures a chord length distribution (CLD) different from a particle size distribution (PSD)

Note 1 to entry: In order to compare results obtained by an FBRM probe with other measurement technologies such as laser diffraction, it is necessary to reconstruct the PSD from a measured CLD.

**16 Characterization of particle dispersion in liquids****16.1****agglomeration****coagulation****flocculation**

assembly of particles in a dispersed system into loosely coherent structures that are held together by weak physical interactions

Note 1 to entry: Agglomeration is a reversible process.

Note 2 to entry: The synonym "flocculation" has been frequently used to denote agglomeration facilitated by the addition of a flocculating agent (e.g. a polyelectrolyte).

**16.2****aggregation**

assembly of particles into rigidly joined structures

Note 1 to entry: Aggregation is an irreversible process.

Note 2 to entry: The forces holding an aggregate together are strong, for example covalent bonds, or those resulting from sintering or complex physical entanglement.

Note 3 to entry: In common use, the terms aggregation and agglomeration are often applied interchangeably.

**16.3****coalescence**

disappearance of the boundary between two particles (usually droplets or bubbles) in contact, or between one of these and a bulk phase followed by changes of shape leading to a reduction of the total surface area

Note 1 to entry: The flocculation of an emulsion, viz. the formation of aggregates, may be followed by coalescence.

**16.4****creaming**

rise (separation) of the dispersed phase in an emulsion due to the lower density of the dispersed phase (droplets) compared to the continuous phase

Note 1 to entry: Creaming velocity has a negative sign as particle movement is opposite to the acting force.

## 16.5

### **dispersion**

microscopic multi-phase system in which discontinuities of any state (solid, liquid or gas: discontinuous phase) are dispersed in a continuous phase of a different composition or state

Note 1 to entry: If solid particles are dispersed in a liquid, the dispersion is referred to as a suspension. If the dispersion consists of two or more liquid phases, it is termed an emulsion. A *suspoemulsion* consists of both solid and liquid phases dispersed in a continuous liquid phase.

## 16.6

### **dispersion stability**

ability to resist change or variation in the initial properties (state) of a dispersion over time; quality of a dispersion in being free from alterations over a given time scale.

Note 1 to entry: In this context, e.g. agglomeration or creaming represents a loss of dispersion stability.

## 16.7

### **flotation**

migration of a dispersed solid phase to the top of a liquid continuous phase, when the effective particle density is lower relative to the continuous phase density

Note 1 to entry: May be facilitated by adhering gas bubbles, for example dissolved air flotation, or the application of lipophilic surfactants (e.g. in ore processing).

## 16.8

### **Ostwald ripening**

dissolution of small particles and the redeposition of the dissolved species on the surfaces of larger particles

Note 1 to entry: The process occurs because smaller particles have a higher surface energy, hence higher total Gibbs energy, than larger particles, giving rise to an apparent higher solubility.

## 16.9

### **phase inversion**

phenomenon whereby the phases of a liquid-liquid dispersion (emulsion) interchange such that the dispersed phase spontaneously inverts to become the continuous phase, and vice versa, under conditions determined by the system properties, volume ratio and energy input

## 16.10

### **phase separation**

process by which a macroscopically homogeneous suspension, emulsion or foam separates into two or more new phases

## 16.11

### **sedimentation**

settling (separation) of the dispersed phase due to the higher density of the dispersed particles compared to the continuous phase

Note 1 to entry: The accumulation of the dispersed phase at the bottom of the container is evidence that sedimentation has taken place.

Note 2 to entry: In the case of a dispersed liquid (emulsion), droplets can sediment if their density is higher than that of the continuous liquid phase (e.g. water in oil emulsion).

## 16.12

### **shelf life**

recommended time period during which products (dispersions) can be stored and the defined quality of a specified property of the product remains acceptable under expected (or specified) conditions of distribution, storage, display and usage

## 17 Methods for zeta potential determination

### 17.1

#### electric double layer

##### EDL

spatial distribution of electric charges that appears on and at the vicinity of the surface of an object when it is placed in contact with a liquid

#### 17.1.1

##### Debye-Hückel approximation

model assuming small electric potentials in the electric double layer

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.1.]

#### 17.1.2

##### Debye length

$\kappa^{-1}$

characteristic length of the electric double layer in an electrolyte solution

Note 1 to entry: The Debye length is expressed in nanometres.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.2.]

#### 17.1.3

##### diffusion coefficient

$D$

mean squared displacement of a particle per unit time

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.3.]

#### 17.1.4

##### Dukhin number

$Du$

dimensionless number which characterizes contribution of the surface conductivity in electrokinetic and electroacoustic phenomena, as well as in conductivity and dielectric permittivity of heterogeneous systems

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.4.]

#### 17.1.5

##### dynamic viscosity

$\eta$

ratio between the applied shear stress and the rate of shear of a liquid

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this part of ISO 13099, dynamic viscosity is used as a measure of the resistance of a fluid which is being deformed by shear stress.

Note 2 to entry: Dynamic viscosity determines the dynamics of an incompressible Newtonian fluid.

Note 3 to entry: Dynamic viscosity is expressed in pascal seconds.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.5.]

#### 17.1.6

##### electric surface charge density

$\sigma$

charges on an interface per area due to specific adsorption of ions from the liquid bulk, or due to dissociation of the surface groups

Note 1 to entry: Electric surface charge density is expressed in coulombs per square metre.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.6.]

**17.1.7**

**electric surface potential**

$\psi^s$

difference in electric potential between the surface and the bulk liquid

Note 1 to entry: Electric surface potential is expressed in volts.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.7.]

**17.1.8**

**zeta-potential**

**electrokinetic potential**

**$\zeta$ -potential**

$\zeta$

difference in electric potential between that at the slipping plane and that of the bulk liquid

Note 1 to entry: Electrokinetic potential is expressed in volts.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.8.]

**17.1.9**

**Gouy-Chapman-Stern model**

model describing the electric double layer

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.9.]

**17.1.10**

**isoelectric point**

condition of liquid medium, usually the value of pH, that corresponds to zero zeta-potential of dispersed particles

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.10.]

**17.1.11**

**slipping plane**

**shear plane**

abstract plane in the vicinity of the liquid/solid interface where liquid starts to slide relative to the surface under influence of a shear stress

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.11.]

**17.1.12**

**Stern potential**

$\psi^d$

electric potential on the external boundary of the layer of specifically adsorbed ions

Note 1 to entry: Stern potential is expressed in volts.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.1.12.]

**17.1.13**

**Brownian motion**

random movement of particles suspended in a liquid caused by thermal movement of medium molecules

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-2:2012, 3.1.1.]

**17.1.14**

**Doppler shift**

change in frequency and wavelength of a wave for an observer moving relative to the source of the wave

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-2:2012, 3.1.2.]

**17.1.15****electroosmosis**

motion of liquid through or past a charged surface, e.g. an immobilized set of particles, a porous plug, a capillary or a membrane, in response to an applied electric field, which is the result of the force exerted by the applied field on the countercharge ions in the liquid

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.1.]

**17.1.16****electroosmotic velocity**

$v_{eo}$

uniform velocity of the liquid far from the charged interface

Note 1 to entry: Electroosmotic velocity is expressed in metres per second.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-2:2012, 3.1.6.]

**17.1.17****electrophoretic mobility**

$\mu_e$

electrophoretic velocity per electric field strength

Note 1 to entry: Electrophoretic mobility is positive if the particles move toward lower potential (negative electrode) and negative in the opposite case.

Note 2 to entry: Electrophoretic mobility is expressed in metres squared per volt second.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.5.]

**17.1.18****electrophoretic velocity**

$v_e$

particle velocity during electrophoresis

Note 1 to entry: Electrophoretic velocity is expressed in metres per second.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.3.]

**17.2 Electrokinetic phenomena**

NOTE Electrokinetic phenomena are associated with tangential liquid motion adjacent to a charged surface.

**17.2.1****electroosmotic counter-pressure**

$\Delta p_{eo}$

pressure difference that is applied across the system to stop the electroosmotic flow

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.2.]

**17.2.2****electrophoresis**

movement of charged colloidal particles or polyelectrolytes, immersed in a liquid, under the influence of an external electric field

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.4.]

### 17.2.3

#### **sedimentation potential**

$U_{\text{sed}}$

potential difference sensed by two electrodes placed some vertical distance apart in a suspension in which particles are sedimenting under the effect of gravity

Note 1 to entry: When the sedimentation is produced by a centrifugal field, the phenomenon is called centrifugation potential.

Note 2 to entry: Sedimentation potential is expressed in volts.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.1.]

### 17.2.4

#### **streaming current**

$I_{\text{str}}$

current through a porous body resulting from the motion of fluid under an applied pressure gradient

Note 1 to entry: Streaming current is expressed in amperes.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.1.]

### 17.2.5

#### **streaming current density**

$J_{\text{str}}$

streaming current per area

Note 1 to entry: Streaming current density is expressed in coulombs per square metre.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.1.]

### 17.2.6

#### **streaming potential**

$U_{\text{str}}$

potential difference at zero electric current, caused by the flow of liquid under a pressure gradient through a capillary, plug, diaphragm or membrane

Note 1 to entry: Streaming potentials are created by charge accumulation caused by the flow of countercharges inside capillaries or pores.

Note 2 to entry: Streaming potential is expressed in volts.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.1.]

### 17.2.7

#### **surface conductivity**

$K^{\sigma}$

excess electrical conduction tangential to a charged surface

Note 1 to entry: Surface conductivity is expressed in siemens.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.2.1.]

## 17.3 Electroacoustic phenomena

NOTE Electroacoustic phenomena arise from the coupling between the ultrasound field and electric field in a liquid that contains ions. Either of these fields can be primary driving force. Liquid might be a simple Newtonian liquid or complex heterogeneous dispersion, emulsion or even a porous body. There are several different electroacoustic effects, depending on the nature of the liquid and type of the driving force.

**17.3.1****colloid vibration current****CVI** $I_{CVI}$ 

a.c. current generated between two electrodes, placed in a dispersion, if the latter is subjected to an ultrasonic field

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.3.1.]

**17.3.2****colloid vibration potential****CVU**

a.c. potential difference generated between two electrodes, placed in a dispersion, if the latter is subjected to an ultrasonic field

Note 1 to entry: Colloid vibration potential is expressed in volts.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.3.1.]

**17.3.3****electrokinetic sonic amplitude****ESA** $A_{ESA}$ 

amplitude is created by an a.c. electric field in a dispersion with electric field strength, E; it is the counterpart of the colloid vibration potential method

Note 1 to entry: Electrokinetic sonic amplitude is expressed in pascals.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.3.1.]

**17.3.4****ion vibration current****IVI**

a.c. electric current created from different displacement amplitudes in an ultrasound wave due to the difference in the effective mass or friction coefficient between anion and cation

Note 1 to entry: Ion vibration current is expressed in amperes.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.3.1.]

**17.3.5****streaming vibration current****SVI**

streaming current that arises in a porous body when ultrasound wave propagates through it

Note 1 to entry: A similar effect can be observed at a non-porous surface, when sound is bounced off at an oblique angle.

Note 2 to entry: Streaming vibration current is expressed in amperes.

[SOURCE: ISO 13099-1:2012, 2.3.1.]

**17.3.6****seismoelectric effect****SEI**

non-isochoric streaming current that arises in a porous body when an ultrasound wave propagates through

Note 1 to entry: A similar effect can be observed at a non-porous surface, when sound is bounced off at an oblique angle.

Note 2 to entry: Seismoelectric effect is expressed in amperes.

**17.3.7**

**electroseismic effect**

**ESI**

non-isochoric electroosmotic pressure wave that arises in a porous body under influence of high frequency electric field

Note 1 to entry: Electroseismic effect is expressed in pascals.

**17.3.8**

**dynamic electrophoretic mobility**

$\mu_d$

the electrophoretic velocity per unit electric field strength in high frequency (MHz) electric field

Note 1 to entry: Traditional electrophoretic mobility is low frequency asymptotic of the dynamic electrophoretic mobility.

Note 2 to entry: Electrophoretic mobility is expressed in metres squared per volt second.

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