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**Microscopes — Imaging distances  
related to mechanical reference  
planes —**

Part 2:  
**Infinity-corrected optical systems**

*Microscopes — Tirages mécaniques en fonction des plans mécaniques  
de référence —*

*Partie 2: Systèmes d'optique corrigés à l'infini*



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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](http://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](http://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 on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 172, *Optics and photonics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Microscopes and endoscopes*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9345-2:2003), which has been technically revised.

ISO 9345 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Microscopes — Imaging distances related to mechanical reference planes*:

- Part 1: *Tube length 160 mm*
- Part 2: *Infinity-corrected optical systems*

# Microscopes — Imaging distances related to mechanical reference planes —

## Part 2: Infinity-corrected optical systems

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 9345 specifies the imaging distances of objectives, eyepieces and the focal length of “normal” tube lenses of microscopes with infinity-corrected optical systems.

NOTE A specific combination of eyepiece, objective, and tube lens is frequently used to correct aberrations. Therefore the combination of an objective from one manufacturer and the tube lens or eyepiece from another manufacturer, although conforming to this part of ISO 9345, can cause errors in magnification and/or in optical performance.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 9345-1, *Microscopes — Imaging distances related to mechanical reference planes — Part 1: Tube length 160 mm*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### parfocalizing distance of the objective

$l_1$

distance in air between the object plane (i.e. the uncovered surface of the object) and the locating flange of the objective, when the microscope is in its working position

Note 1 to entry: The parfocalizing distance of the objective is one of the optical interfacing dimensions.

[SOURCE: ISO 10934-1:2002, 2.80.2.4]

Note 2 to entry: See [Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#) and footnote b in [Table 1](#).

#### 3.2

##### image distance of the objective

$l_2$

distance in air between the objective locating surface and the primary image plane

Note 1 to entry: An infinity-corrected objective alone produces a primary image at infinity. In combination with an infinity-corrected tube lens, the primary image is produced in the back focal plane of this tube lens (see [Figure 1](#)).

**3.3**  
**parfocalizing distance of the eyepiece**

$l_3$   
distance between the locating flange of the eyepiece and the plane upon which the eyepiece is focused

Note 1 to entry: The plane upon which the eyepiece is focused is coincident with the plane of the final real image of the microscope when the eyepiece is mounted in the viewing tube. The parfocalizing distance of the eyepiece is one of the optical interfacing dimensions, and is commonly 10 mm.

[SOURCE: ISO 10934-1:2002, 2.80.2.3]

Note 2 to entry: This plane is coincident with the primary image plane of the microscope when the eyepiece is mounted in the viewing tube (see [Figure 1](#)).

**3.4**  
**focal length of the “normal” tube lens**

$f_{\text{NTL}}$   
focal length related to the magnification and the focal length of the objectives which are designed to operate with this tube lens

**4 Requirements**

**4.1 Nominal dimensions and tolerances**

The nominal dimensions shall be as given in [Table 1](#) and as illustrated in [Figure 1](#).

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Table 1 — Nominal dimensions and tolerances

Feature	Symbol	Nominal values/range mm	Numerical aperture	Tolerance mm
Parfocalizing distance of objective <sup>a,b</sup>	$l_1$	45 + 15 $k$ ( $k = -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ )	$\leq 0,1$	$\pm 0,2^c$
			$> 0,1$ to $\leq 0,25$	$\pm 0,06$
			$> 0,25$ to $\leq 0,45$	$\pm 0,03$
			$> 0,45$	$\pm 0,01$
Image distance of objective <sup>d</sup>	$l_2$	$\infty$		
Parfocalizing distance of eyepiece	$l_3$	10		$\pm 0,2$
Focal length of "normal" tube lens <sup>e</sup>	$f_{\text{NTL}}$	$150 \leq f_{\text{NTL}} \leq 250$		

<sup>a</sup> The choice of a parfocalizing distance for an objective depends on the design concept of the microscope as a whole. The parfocalizing distance,  $l_1 = 45$  mm of objectives, has become the standard value for microscopes with tube length 160 mm (see ISO 9345-1) and has been adopted for various existing infinity-corrected microscope systems. Examples of common values in use are given in [Annex A](#).

<sup>b</sup> The parfocalizing distance,  $l_1$ , shown in [Figure 1](#) and [Table 1](#), is intended to apply to objectives when used with uncovered objects (specimens). Objectives for use with objects covered by a cover glass shall have the following parfocalizing distance, to allow for the virtual displacement of the object by the cover glass (see also [Figure 2](#)):

$$l_1 + t \frac{n-1}{n} \text{ mm}$$

where:

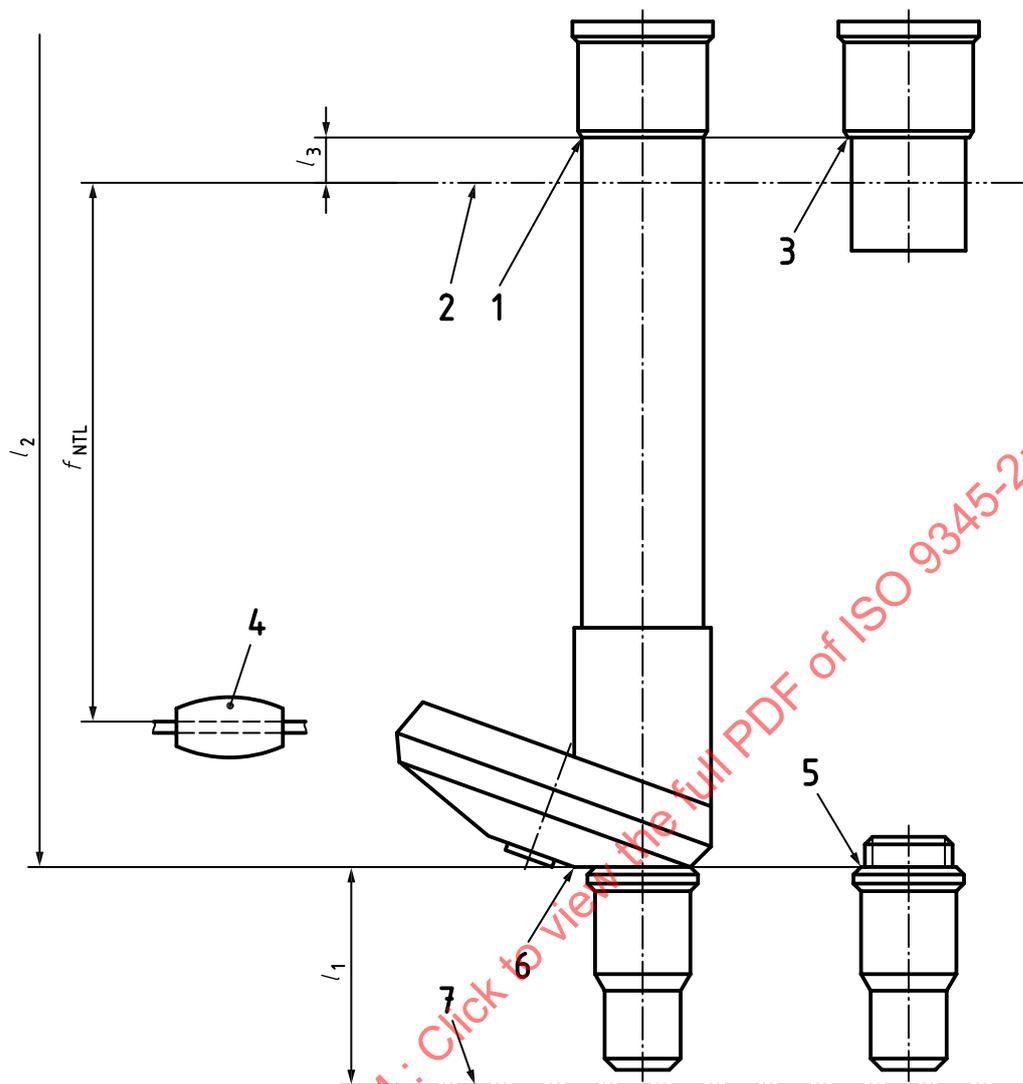
$t$  is the thickness of cover glass;

$n$  is the refractive index of the cover glass.

<sup>c</sup> The tolerance  $\pm 0,2$  mm for the parfocalizing distance of objectives with numerical aperture  $\leq 0,1$  does not necessarily apply to objectives with magnifications lower than  $4\times$ .

<sup>d</sup> In infinity-corrected optical systems, the primary image is always produced by the objective in combination with a tube lens. The distance between the locating flange of the objective and the tube lens depends on the design of the microscope. The microscope shall have such a design that, in combination with objectives and tube lenses in accordance with this part of ISO 9345, the primary image is produced 10 mm below the eyepiece-locating surface of the viewing tube.

<sup>e</sup> The choice of focal length for a "normal" tube lens depends on the design concept of the microscope system. Its value shall be in the range of  $150 \text{ mm} \leq f_{\text{NTL}} \leq 250 \text{ mm}$ . Examples of common values in use are given in [Annex A](#).



**Key**

- 1 eyepiece-locating surface of the viewing tube
- 2 primary image plane
- 3 locating flange of the eyepiece
- 4 tube lens
- 5 locating flange of the objective
- 6 objective-locating surface (of the nosepiece)
- 7 object plane

**Figure 1 — Locating surfaces, reference planes, and imaging distances**

## 4.2 Examples

Figure 2 illustrates the influence of different cover glass thicknesses on the parfocalizing distance.

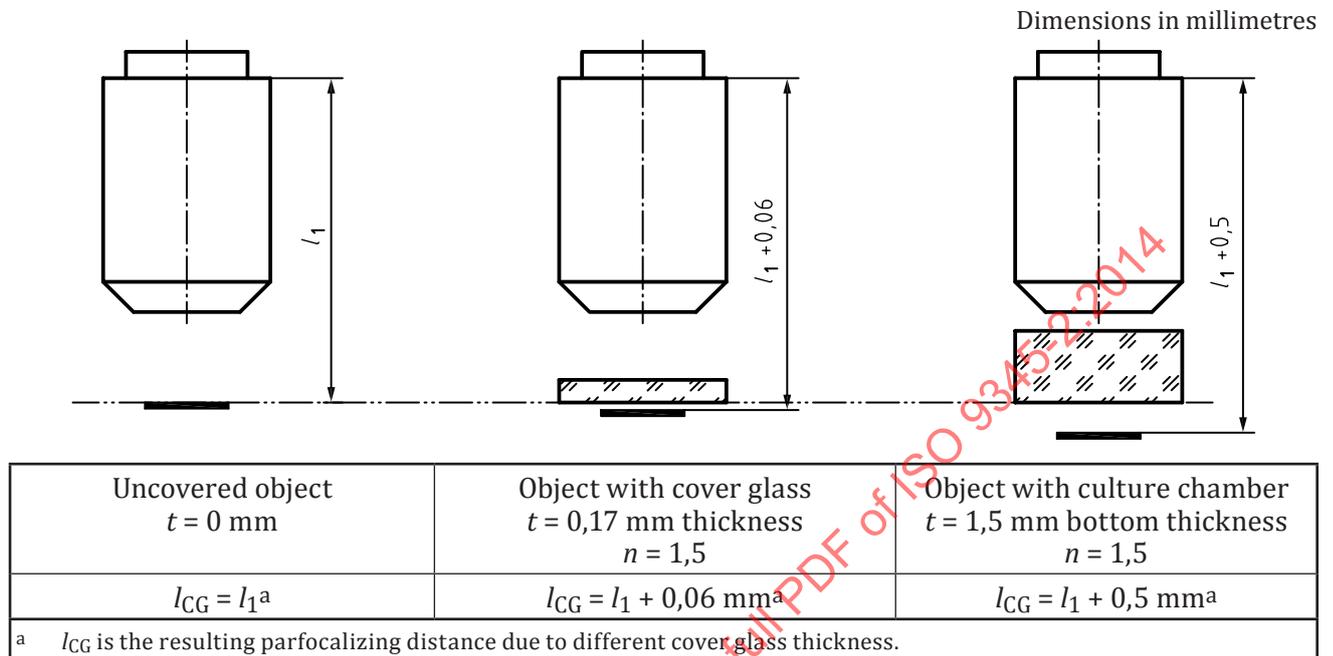


Figure 2 — Examples of parfocalizing distances as function of cover glass thickness

## 5 Marking

If the magnification of the primary image is changed by built-in optical systems, the tube factor shall be marked on the magnification changing component (stand, tube, etc.); e.g. 1,25 ×.

## Annex A (informative)

### Examples of dimensions in use

[Table A.1](#) shows the nominal values  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$ ,  $l_3$ , and  $f_{\text{NTL}}$  used by the main microscope manufacturers (in alphabetical order) at the time of publication of this part of ISO 9345.

**Table A.1 — Examples of dimensions  $l_1$ ,  $l_2$ ,  $l_3$  and  $f_{\text{NTL}}$  in use**

Dimensions in millimetres

Feature	Leica	Nikon	Olympus	Zeiss
Parfocalizing distance of objective, $l_1$	45	45/60	45	45
Image distance of objective, $l_2$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
Parfocalizing distance of eyepiece, $l_3$	10	10	10	10
Focal length of “normal” tube lens, $f_{\text{NTL}}$	200	200	180	160

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## Annex B (informative)

### Requirements and recommendations for OEM-use of objectives and tube lenses

#### B.1 General

In case of adaptation of infinity-corrected objectives and tube lenses to instruments and equipment other than the microscopes of the manufacturer, the user of these components needs additional dimensional information from the manufacturer for proper assembly.

This annex contains recommendations for the minimum information that should be transferred to the OEM.

**NOTE** A specific combination of eyepiece, objective, and tube lens is frequently used to correct aberrations. Therefore, the combination of an objective from one manufacturer and the tube lens or eyepiece from another manufacturer, although conforming to this part of ISO 9345, can cause errors in magnification and/or in optical performance.

#### B.2 Terms and definitions

##### B.2.1

##### **image distance of the tube lens**

$l_{\text{NTL}}$

distance between the primary image plane and the locating flange of the tube lens

Note 1 to entry: It depends on the optical and mechanical design concept and is an important dimension for OEM use.

##### B.2.2

##### **distance between objective and tube lens**

$d_{\infty}$

distance between the locating flange of the objective and the locating flange of the tube lens

Note 1 to entry: It depends on the optical and mechanical design concept. To ensure correct optical performance for OEM the indication of the minimum and maximum value is recommended.