



BSI Standards Publication

Radiological protection — X and gamma reference radiation for calibrating dosimeters and doserate meters and for determining their response as a function of photon energy

Part 1: Radiation characteristics and production methods

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 4037-1:2021. It is identical to ISO 4037-1:2019. It supersedes BS ISO 4037-1:2019, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee NCE/2, Radiation protection and measurement.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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English Version

**Radiological protection - X and gamma reference radiation
for calibrating dosimeters and doserate meters and for
determining their response as a function of photon energy
- Part 1: Radiation characteristics and production methods
(ISO 4037-1:2019)**

Radioprotection - Rayonnements X et gamma de
référence pour l'étalonnage des dosimètres et des
débitmètres, et pour la détermination de leur réponse
en fonction de l'énergie des photons - Partie 1:
Caractéristiques des rayonnements et méthodes de
production (ISO 4037-1:2019)

Strahlenschutz - Röntgen- und Gamma-
Referenzstrahlungsfelder zur Kalibrierung von
Dosimetern und Dosisleistungsmessgeräten und zur
Bestimmung ihres Ansprechvermögens als Funktion
der Photonenenergie - Teil 1: Strahlungseigenschaften
und Erzeugungsmethoden (ISO 4037-1:2019)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 18 January 2021.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

European foreword

The text of ISO 4037-1:2019 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85 "Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies, and radiological protection" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 4037-1:2021 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 430 "Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies, and radiological protection" the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2021.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 4037-1:2019 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 4037-1:2021 without any modification.

Contents

Page

Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	3
3 Terms and definitions	3
4 Continuous reference filtered X radiation	7
4.1 General	7
4.1.1 Realisation of reference radiation fields	7
4.1.2 Basis of conversion coefficients	7
4.1.3 Radiation quality	8
4.1.4 Choice of reference radiation	8
4.2 Conditions and methods for producing reference X radiation	13
4.2.1 Characteristics of the high voltage generator	13
4.2.2 Tube potential and protective resistor	14
4.2.3 Filtration	15
4.2.4 Limitations concerning matched fields	19
4.2.5 X radiation shutter	20
4.2.6 Beam aperture	20
4.3 Field uniformity and scattered radiation	20
4.3.1 Field diameter	20
4.3.2 Field uniformity	20
4.3.3 Scattered radiation	20
4.4 Summary of the requirements for reference X radiation fields	21
4.5 Validation of reference X radiation	21
4.5.1 General	21
4.5.2 Criteria for validation by HVL determination	22
4.5.3 Apparatus for HVL measurement	23
4.5.4 HVL measurement procedure	24
4.5.5 Criteria for validation by dosimetry	24
4.5.6 Criteria for validation by spectrometry	24
5 Gamma radiation emitted by radionuclides	25
5.1 General	25
5.2 Radionuclides used for the production of gamma radiation	25
5.3 Specification of radiation sources	25
5.3.1 Sources	25
5.3.2 Encapsulation	26
5.4 Irradiation facility and influence of scattered radiation	26
5.4.1 General requirements	26
5.4.2 Collimated geometry installation	26
5.4.3 Variation of air kerma rate by means of lead attenuators	27
5.5 Checking installation conformity	27
6 Photon radiation with energies between 4 MeV and 9 MeV	28
6.1 General	28
6.2 Production of reference radiation	28
6.2.1 General	28
6.2.2 Photon reference radiation from de-excitation of ^{16}O in the $^{19}\text{F}(p, \alpha\gamma)^{16}\text{O}$ reaction	28
6.2.3 Photon reference radiation from de-excitation of ^{12}C	30
6.3 Beam diameter and uniformity of radiation field	31
6.4 Contamination of photon reference radiation	31
6.4.1 General	31

6.4.2	Contamination of reference radiation common to all methods of production of reference radiation.....	32
6.4.3	Additional contamination of accelerator produced reference radiation from de-excitation of ^{16}O	32
Annex A (informative) Fluorescence X radiation with not enough information for matched or characterized fields.....		33
Annex B (informative) Gamma radiation emitted by ^{241}Am radionuclide with not enough information for matched or characterized fields.....		40
Annex C (informative) Continuous filtered X radiation based on the quality index.....		42
Bibliography.....		45

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).

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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 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85, *Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies and radiological protection*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Radiological protection*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 4037-1:1996), which has been technically revised. The main changes are:

- introduction of two types of reference fields, matched reference fields and characterized reference fields;
- introduction of validation for matched reference fields;
- introduction of limits for the allowed deviation of parameters like high voltage, filter purity and filter thickness from their nominal values. These limits now depend on the definition depth of the phantom related quantity. This is done to achieve an overall uncertainty ($k = 2$) of about 6 % to 10 % for the phantom related operational quantities.

A list of all the parts in the ISO 4037 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This maintenance release of this document incorporates the improvements to high voltage generators from 1996 to 2017 (e.g., the use of high frequency switching supplies providing nearly constant potential), and the spectral measurements at irradiation facilities equipped with such generators (e.g., the catalogue of X-ray spectra by Ankerhold^[4]). It also incorporates all published information with the aim to adjust the requirements for the technical parameters of the reference fields to the targeted overall uncertainty of about 6 % to 10 % for the phantom related operational quantities of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU)^[5]. It does not change the general concept of the existing ISO 4037.

ISO 4037 focusing on photon reference radiation fields is divided into four parts. ISO 4037-1 gives the methods of production and characterization of reference radiation fields in terms of the quantities spectral photon fluence and air kerma free-in-air. ISO 4037-2 describes the dosimetry of the reference radiation qualities in terms of air kerma and in terms of the phantom related operational quantities of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU)^[5]. ISO 4037-3 describes the methods for calibrating and determining the response of dosimeters and doserate meters in terms of the phantom related operational quantities of the ICRU^[5]. ISO 4037-4 gives special considerations and additional requirements for calibration of area and personal dosimeters in low energy X reference radiation fields, which are reference fields with generating potential lower or equal to 30 kV.

The general procedures described in ISO 29661 are used as far as possible in this document. Also, the symbols used are in line with ISO 29661.

Radiological protection — X and gamma reference radiation for calibrating dosimeters and doserate meters and for determining their response as a function of photon energy —

Part 1: Radiation characteristics and production methods

1 Scope

This document specifies the characteristics and production methods of X and gamma reference radiation for calibrating protection-level dosimeters and doserate meters with respect to the phantom related operational quantities of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU)^[5]. The lowest air kerma rate for which this standard is applicable is $1 \mu\text{Gy h}^{-1}$. Below this air kerma rate the (natural) background radiation needs special consideration and this is not included in this document.

For the radiation qualities specified in [Clauses 4 to 6](#), sufficient published information is available to specify the requirements for all relevant parameters of the matched or characterized reference fields in order to achieve the targeted overall uncertainty ($k = 2$) of about 6 % to 10 % for the phantom related operational quantities. The X ray radiation fields described in the informative [Annexes A to C](#) are not designated as reference X-radiation fields.

NOTE The first edition of ISO 4037-1, issued in 1996, included some additional radiation qualities for which such published information is not available. These are fluorescent radiations, the gamma radiation of the radionuclide ^{241}Am , S-Am, and the high energy photon radiations R-Ti and R-Ni, which have been removed from the main part of this document. The most widely used radiations, the fluorescent radiations and the gamma radiation of the radionuclide ^{241}Am , S-Am, are included nearly unchanged in the informative [Annexes A and B](#). The informative [Annex C](#) gives additional X radiation fields, which are specified by the quality index.

The methods for producing a group of reference radiations for a particular photon-energy range are described in [Clauses 4 to 6](#), which define the characteristics of these radiations. The three groups of reference radiation are:

- a) in the energy range from about 8 keV to 330 keV, continuous filtered X radiation;
- b) in the energy range 600 keV to 1,3 MeV, gamma radiation emitted by radionuclides;
- c) in the energy range 4 MeV to 9 MeV, photon radiation produced by accelerators.

The reference radiation field most suitable for the intended application can be selected from [Table 1](#), which gives an overview of all reference radiation qualities specified in [Clauses 4 to 6](#). It does not include the radiations specified in the [Annexes A, B and C](#).

The requirements and methods given in [Clauses 4 to 6](#) are targeted at an overall uncertainty ($k = 2$) of the dose(rate) value of about 6 % to 10 % for the phantom related operational quantities in the reference fields. To achieve this, two production methods are proposed:

The first one is to produce “*matched reference fields*”, whose properties are sufficiently well-characterized so as to allow the use of the conversion coefficients recommended in ISO 4037-3. The existence of only a small difference in the spectral distribution of the “*matched reference field*” compared to the nominal reference field is validated by procedures, which are given and described in detail in ISO 4037-2. For matched reference radiation fields, recommended conversion coefficients are given in ISO 4037-3 only for specified distances between source and dosimeter, e.g., 1,0 m and 2,5 m.