
Cleanrooms and associated controlled environments —

Part 1:
Classification of air cleanliness

Salles propres et environnements maîtrisés apparentés —

Partie 1: Classification de la propreté de l'air



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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 nongovernmental, 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75% of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 14644-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 209, *Cleanrooms and associated controlled environments*.

ISO 14644 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Cleanrooms and associated controlled environments*:

- *Part 1: Classification of air cleanliness*
- *Part 2: Specifications for testing and monitoring to prove continued compliance with ISO 14644-1*
- *Part 3: Metrology and test methods*
- *Part 4: Design, construction and start-up*
- *Part 5: Operations*
- *Part 6: Terms and definitions*
- *Part 7: Enhanced clean devices*

Users should note that the titles listed for parts 2 to 7 are working titles at the time of the release of part 1. In the event that one or more of these parts are deleted from the work programme, the remaining parts may be renumbered.

Annexes B and C form an integral part of this part of ISO 14644. Annexes A, D, E, and F are for information only.

Introduction

Cleanrooms and associated controlled environments provide for the control of airborne particulate contamination to levels appropriate for accomplishing contamination-sensitive activities. Products and processes that benefit from the control of airborne contamination include those in such industries as aerospace, microelectronics, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, food, and healthcare.

This part of ISO 14644 assigns ISO classification levels to be used for the specification of air cleanliness in cleanrooms and associated controlled environments. It also prescribes the standard method of testing as well as the procedure for determining the concentration of airborne particles.

For classification purposes, this part of ISO 14644 is limited to a designated range of considered particle sizes for determination of particle concentration limits. This part of ISO 14644 also provides standard protocols for the determination and designation of cleanliness levels that are based on airborne concentrations of particles smaller or larger than the size range designated for classification.

This part of ISO 14644 is one of a series of standards concerned with cleanrooms and contamination control. Many factors besides airborne particulate cleanliness must be considered in the design, specification, operation, and control of cleanrooms and other controlled environments. These are covered in some detail in other parts of the International Standards prepared by ISO/TC 209.

In some circumstances, relevant regulatory agencies may impose supplementary policies or restrictions. In such situations, appropriate adaptations of the standard testing procedures may be required.

Cleanrooms and associated controlled environments —

Part 1: Classification of air cleanliness

1 Scope

This part of ISO 14644 covers the classification of air cleanliness in cleanrooms and associated controlled environments exclusively in terms of concentration of airborne particles. Only particle populations having cumulative distributions based on threshold (lower limit) sizes ranging from 0,1 μm to 5 μm are considered for classification purposes.

This part of ISO 14644 does not provide for classification of particle populations that are outside of the specified particle size range, 0,1 μm to 5 μm . Concentrations of ultrafine particles (particles smaller than 0,1 μm) and macroparticles (particles larger than 5 μm) may be used to quantify these populations in terms of U descriptors and M descriptors, respectively.

This part of ISO 14644 cannot be used to characterize the physical, chemical, radiological, or viable nature of airborne particles.

NOTE The actual distribution of particle concentrations within incremental size ranges normally is not predictable and typically is variable over time.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 14644, the following definitions apply.

2.1 General

2.1.1

cleanroom

room in which the concentration of airborne particles is controlled, and which is constructed and used in a manner to minimize the introduction, generation, and retention of parti-

cles inside the room, and in which other relevant parameters, e.g. temperature, humidity, and pressure, are controlled as necessary

2.1.2

clean zone

dedicated space in which the concentration of airborne particles is controlled, and which is constructed and used in a manner to minimize the introduction, generation, and retention of particles inside the zone, and in which other relevant parameters, e.g. temperature, humidity, and pressure, are controlled as necessary

NOTE This zone may be open or enclosed and may or may not be located within a cleanroom.

2.1.3

installation

cleanroom or one or more clean zones, together with all associated structures, air-treatment systems, services, and utilities

2.1.4

classification

level (or the process of specifying or determining the level) of airborne particulate cleanliness applicable to a cleanroom or clean zone, expressed in terms of an ISO Class *N*, which represents maximum allowable concentrations (in particles per cubic metre of air) for considered sizes of particles

NOTE 1 The concentrations are determined by using equation (1) in 3.2.

NOTE 2 Classification in accordance with this International Standard is limited to the range extending from ISO Class 1 through ISO Class 9.

NOTE 3 The considered particle sizes (lower threshold values) applicable for classification in accordance with this International