# IEC 61744

Edition 3.0 2023-04

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

## Calibration of fibre optic chromatic dispersion test sets

## Étalonnage des ensembles d'essai de la dispersion chromatique fibronique

IEC 61744:2023-04(en-fr)

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# CALIBRATION OF FIBRE OPTIC CHROMATIC DISPERSION TEST SETS

## FOREWORD

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IEC 61744 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics. It is an International Standard.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2005. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) updated terms and definitions;
b) the use of a reference fibre standard for calibration is now allowed and at the same level as the other calibration method;
c) Annex B was split into a new Annex B (on calibration uncertainty, still normative) and a new Annex C (on uncertainty at operating conditions, informative);
d) removed former C.3.4 on interferometric method since this method is no longer supported in IEC 60793-1-42;
e) removed Annex D and other references in text to calibration compensation to align with other calibration documents;

f) removed Annex E and other references in text to use of air wavelength since it is not used in the fibre domain.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

| Draft | Report on voting |
|---|---|
| 86/615/FDIS | 86/617/RVD |

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

# 0 Introduction

## 0.1 Chromatic dispersion in optical fibres

Chromatic dispersion is the variation with optical light wavelength of the light propagation delay time in a length of fibre. This variation can cause bandwidth limitation in the fibre when used to transmit communication signals. For a more detailed explanation, refer to Annex D and IEC 60793-1-42.

## 0.2 Chromatic dispersion (CD) test sets

CD test sets are used to measure the chromatic dispersion properties of optical fibres and typically comprise an optical source of known wavelength(s), a fibre light input coupling and output coupling means, optical detection means, and electronic or optical means of determining the optical delay or dispersion at the source wavelength. There are several variants each requiring slightly different calibration techniques. Refer to Annex D for further details.

In general, all CD test sets produce an output of fibre delay or dispersion versus the light wavelength, typically in graphical form.

In essence, all CD test sets operate with wavelength as a programmed (independent) variable, usually the abscissa (x-axis) and dispersion or time delay as the ordinate (y-axis) as a measured (dependent) variable. By their nature, fibre chromatic dispersion measurements require multiple wavelengths to be programmed. Even in the case of a single dispersion point obtained using the differential phase shift method, two separate wavelength values are used. It is also typical to expect a wide range of dispersion values over a range of wavelengths to be measured.

## 0.3 Overview of calibration procedures described in this document

The requirement to calibrate the CD test set, traceable to known standards, is essential for quality control in fibre optic production, fibre research and similar activities. This document describes the detailed procedures used to establish calibration of a CD test set.

Calibration of a CD test set is established by applying known artefacts or standards (themselves calibrated to reference standards) to the CD test set and measuring its response.

Primarily, the artefacts or standards used are as follows.

a) Wavelength artefact(s) or traceable wavelength measuring instruments used to calibrate the light source wavelength(s) used by the CD test set. This is to establish the correct excitation wavelength for the system (the "x-axis").

b) Delay or dispersion artefact(s) used to calibrate the delay or dispersion response of the CD test set (the "y-axis").

c) Traceable chromatic dispersion reference fibre used to calibrate the CD test set. This method allows a simultaneous calibration of the whole CD test set, including the measurement of the delay or dispersion response of the CD test set as a function of wavelength and also the internal data processing part. A proper selection of the type of reference fibre is important, especially for an accurate calibration of the zero dipersion wavelength.

Calibration can only be carried out using these artefacts; the use of a known standard fibre (reference fibre described in c)) whose chromatic dispersion is known is recommended as the fibre forms a stable source of known dispersion and may be used as a simple dispersion artefact.

If it is found that the CD test set measurement results have changed significantly compared to the user requirements (i.e. the test set has drifted by more than the repeatability), then adjustment may be carried out depending on the need.

In this document, the reference medium for wavelength and the velocity of light is assumed to be in vacuum, and hence define the refractive index = 1,000 000 0.

# CALIBRATION OF FIBRE OPTIC CHROMATIC DISPERSION TEST SETS

## 1 Scope

This document provides standard procedures for the calibration of optical fibre chromatic dispersion (CD) test sets.

This document is applicable to all types of CD test sets, with the exception that measurements on multimode optical fibres are excluded.

The purpose of this document is to define a standard procedure for calibrating optical fibre chromatic dispersion (CD) test sets. The detailed calibration steps used vary according to the measurement technique used in the CD test set.

Whilst it is acknowledged that chromatic dispersion also occurs in multimode fibre and this fibre can be measured on many CD test sets, this document will restrict discussion to single mode fibre measurements applications only.

The purpose of the procedures outlined in this document is to focus manufacturers and users of CD test sets toward the reduction of measurement uncertainty in chromatic dispersion determination in optical fibres under all applicable conditions. The procedures apply to calibration laboratories and to the manufacturers or users of CD test sets for the purpose of

a) calibrating CD test sets, and

b) evaluating the level of performance of the instrument.

Use of the procedures also allows correct evaluation of CD test set uncertainty, relative and traceable to appropriate (for example, national) standards.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050-731, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 731: Optical fibre communication*, available at www.electropedia.org

IEC 62129-1, *Calibration of wavelength/optical frequency measurement instruments – Part 1: Optical spectrum analyzers*

IEC 62129-2, *Calibration of wavelength/optical frequency measurement instruments – Part 2: Michelson interferometer single wavelength meters*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, *Uncertainty of measurement – Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*