



SLOVENSKI STANDARD

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**Fluidna tehnika - Hidravlika - Postopki za samodejno štetje delcev v tekočinah
med pogonom - Metode kalibriranja in validacije**

Hydraulic fluid power -- Online automatic particle-counting systems for liquids -- Methods
of calibration and validation

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Transmissions hydrauliques -- Systèmes de comptage automatique en ligne de
particules en suspension dans les liquides -- Méthode d'étalonnage et de validation

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Filters, seals and
contamination of fluids

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO
11943**

Second edition
2018-05

Hydraulic fluid power — Online automatic particle-counting systems for liquids — Methods of calibration and validation

*Transmissions hydrauliques — Systèmes de comptage automatique
en ligne de particules en suspension dans les liquides — Méthode
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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).

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 11943:1999) which has been technically revised.

This edition includes the following significant changes:

- the new SRM2806b has been taken into account for expression of μm sizes;
- there is no more intent to prepare and monitor the particle size distribution of secondary calibration suspension;
- the different validation relationships has been updated to be more severe and to make more confident the calibration of APCs;
- the round robin study is summarized in [Annex C](#).

Introduction

In hydraulic fluid power systems, power is transmitted, and controlled, through a fluid under pressure within an enclosed circuit. The fluid is both a lubricant and a power-transmitting medium.

Reliable system performance requires control of the fluid medium. Qualitative and quantitative determination of particulate contaminant, in the fluid medium, requires precision in obtaining the sample and determining the size and distribution of contaminants.

Automatic Particle Counters (APC) are an accepted means for determining the size and size distribution of particulate contamination in fluids. Individual instrument accuracy is established through calibration performed with reference primary calibration suspensions or with secondary calibration suspensions.

APCs are being utilized online to eliminate the need for sample containers, to provide increased accuracy, and to provide for a more rapid access to particle count information. A major application of online particle counting is for evaluating filtration efficiency of hydraulic filter elements during a multipass test as defined in ISO 16889. Depending upon the type of filter tested and the capabilities of the APC used, it might be necessary to dilute the samples before flowing through the sensor.

This document establishes procedures for validation of equipment for preparation of secondary calibration suspensions and for online counting of particles with or without dilution circuits, and the online calibration of APCs. It defines a procedure to match two or more particle counters that will improve the accuracy of particulate filtration efficiency as shown, for example in ISO 16889.

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Hydraulic fluid power — Online automatic particle-counting systems for liquids — Methods of calibration and validation

1 Scope

This document establishes methods to:

- validate equipment used to prepare secondary calibration suspensions for automatic particle counters;
- perform online secondary calibration of automatic particle counters;
- match two or more online particle counters, i.e. to count the same number of particles at a given size by two APCs associated on line;
- validate online particle counting systems with and without online dilution as used, for example, to measure the filtration efficiency of a hydraulic filter as described in the multipass filter test in ISO 16889.

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.

ISO 4021, *Hydraulic fluid power — Particulate contamination analysis — Extraction of fluid samples from lines of an operating system*

ISO 5598, *Fluid power systems and components — Vocabulary*

ISO 11171:2016, *Hydraulic fluid power — Calibration of automatic particle counters for liquids*

ISO 12103-1, *Road vehicles — Test contaminants for filter evaluation — Part 1: Arizona test dust*

ISO 16889, *Hydraulic fluid power — Filters — Multi-pass method for evaluating filtration performance of a filter element*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 5598 and ISO 11171 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

4 Units of measurements

The international system of units (SI) is used in accordance with ISO 80000-1.

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Throughout this document, the use of μm , [or $\mu\text{m}(\text{b})$ or $\mu\text{m}(\text{c})$] means that particle size measurements are carried out using an automatic particle counter that has been calibrated in accordance with either ISO 11171 or this document and particle size reported as defined in ISO 11171.

5 Test equipment

5.1 Liquid automatic particle counters, requiring either calibration or verification, or a particle counter with two independent sensors.

5.2 A reference particle counter, calibrated with a reference material in accordance with ISO 11171.

5.3 ISO Medium Test Dust (ISO MTD) concentrate, in accordance with ISO 12103-1, category A3, dried at 110 °C to 150 °C for at least 1 h and for use in the test system, mixed in the test fluid, mechanically agitated, then dispersed ultrasonically with a power density of 3 000 W/m² to 10 000 W/m².

NOTE This standard test dust is used for filter test purposes in ISO 16889.

5.4 Test fluid, as specified in ISO 16889.

5.5 Hydraulic equipment, comprising:

- a) a reservoir, pump, liquid temperature control system and instrumentation which are capable of meeting the validation requirements of [Clause 8](#);
- b) a clean-up filter capable of providing an initial fluid contamination level less than 50 particles/mL at the smallest particle size that will be validated or less than 2 % of the expected number of counts;
- c) a configuration which does not alter the contaminant distribution over the anticipated test duration (refer to ISO 16889); <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/68b67a95-ab47-40a2-b81d-71fed7599f3c/sist-iso-11943-2021>
- d) fluid sampling sections in accordance with ISO 4021;
- e) a configuration which will supply contaminated liquid to the particle counters under constant flow and temperature within the limits of [Table 1](#).

NOTE 1 A multipass test rig (see ISO 16889) can be used provided it has been validated in accordance with [Clause 8](#) of this procedure.

NOTE 2 An alternative typical configuration which has proved to be satisfactory is given in [Annex A](#).

5.6 Hydraulic circuit, containing dilution equipment, if required, for online counter adaptation to a filter multipass test stand.

For typical hydraulic circuit configurations, which have proven to be satisfactory, refer to [Annex B](#).

6 Accuracy of measuring equipment and test conditions

6.1 Utilize measuring equipment with an accuracy within the limits in [Table 1](#).

Table 1 — Accuracy of measuring equipment and test conditions

Test conditions	SI unit	Instrument accuracy (± of reading)	Allowed test condition variations
Flow	L/min	0,5 %	2 %
Kinematic viscosity	mm ² /s	1 %	2 mm ² /s
Pressure	kPa	1 %	2 %
Temperature	°C	0,5 °C	1 °C
Time	s	0,05 s	0,1 s
Volume	L	1 %	
Mass	g	0,1 mg	2 %

CAUTION — Maintaining the accuracy of test conditions, within the limits of [Table 1](#), does not imply that by doing so the validation limits are satisfied. It has been proven that the most useful way in attaining the validation requirements, is by maintaining the accuracy of test conditions given in [Table 1](#), along with using the proper particle counting procedures and correctly designed equipment.

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7 Off-line APC calibration procedure (standards.iteh.ai)

7.1 Conduct a sizing calibration on a particle counter when new or after major service as suggested by the particle counter manufacturer in accordance with ISO 11171.

NOTE The calibration is a primary calibration if the calibration suspension is NIST SRM 2806x where “x” is the SRM 2806 batch identification letter of the primary calibration samples. The APC then is called a ‘Reference APC’.

7.2 Use the procedures specified in ISO 11171 to determine particle coincidence error limits of the particle counter and sensor, or use the manufacturer's stated levels, provided that it has been obtained in a similar manner.

8 Validation of online hydraulic equipment

8.1 This procedure of validation demonstrates whether:

- Particle size distribution of the suspension circulating within the equipment is stable within stated limits over time.
- The sampling or bottle filling ports gives representative samples. The complete and following procedure is given in [Figure 1](#).

8.2 Connect a single particle counter with a valid calibration as defined in [Clause 7](#) and set it to the cumulative mode with at least six different threshold settings over the particle size range of interest. Sizes outside of this range cannot be reported as being in accordance with this document.

NOTE Since this procedure only aims at verifying the stability of particle counts over time, the use of a reference APC with primary calibration is not necessary.

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8.3 Adjust the total fluid volume, expressed in L, in the suspension preparation equipment to the maximum volume it is designed to prepare and measure it within ± 1 %. Maintain fluid viscosity at $(15 \pm 1,0)$ mm²/s.

8.4 Circulate the fluid at a flow rate through the clean-up filter until the fluid contamination level is < 5 particles > 5 μ m per mL.

8.5 Determine the mass of ISO MTD to be introduced in the system to achieve a concentration of 3 mg/L ($\pm 0,3$). Record the ISO MTD lot number.

NOTE Any other concentration can be used provided it does not produce a particle count at the lowest size that is in excess of 75 % of the particle concentration limit of the instrument determined in 7.2.

8.6 Prepare the test dust concentrate in accordance with 5.3. By-pass the clean-up filter element and add the required quantity of ISO MTD into the reservoir and allow it to circulate for approximately 15 min.

8.7 Start the test by conducting online automatic particle counts on samples with a minimum volume of 10 mL at least at 2-min intervals for 1 h, or, at least 30 intervals spaced evenly throughout the longest period of time that the system is to be used.

8.8 Complete Table 2 by filling in the required data. For each particle-size setting, calculate the mean \bar{x} , also the standard deviation " σ " of all the counts using the following formula:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i^2) - (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)^2}{n(n-1)}} \quad (1)$$

where

x_i is the particles per mL for each threshold setting for sample i ;
 n is the total number of particle counts recorded.

8.9 Calculate the acceptable standard deviation for each particle size by using the following formula:

$$\sigma_{\text{Acceptable}} = \sqrt{\bar{x} + 0,0004\bar{x}^2} \quad (2)$$

NOTE This acceptable standard deviation is based upon the average standard deviation obtained in the round robin study discussed in Annex C.

8.10 Accept the validation if the standard deviation for each particle size is less than or equal to the acceptable standard deviation for that size.

8.11 If the standard deviation for a given particle size exceeds the acceptable standard deviation, then re-evaluate the hydraulic equipment and procedures, the flow rates through the APC sensor and dilution system, and particle count volumes for the online particle counting equipment. Take appropriate action and repeat the procedure from 8.3 to 8.10. If these actions do not improve the standard deviation to an acceptable level, then the APC sensor may require a service.