Fourth edition
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Hydraulic fluid power — Calibration of automatic particle counters for liquids

Transmissions hydrauliques — Étalonnage des compteurs automatiques de particules en suspension dans les liquides

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Foreword

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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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For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 131 *Fluid power systems*, SC 6, *Contamination control*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 11171:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— Clause 1 and 4.4: SRM 2806b are not used for sizing calibration purposes with this document;

— 3.1: the definition of an automatic particle counter (APC) is clarified;

— 3.8 (Note 1 to entry): the particle size distribution for primary calibration suspension samples is found in Table 3 of the SRM 2806x Certificate of Analysis;

— 4.6: ISO medium test dust (MTD) or other test dust conforming to ISO 12103-1 for secondary calibration suspension is permitted;

— 4.8: APC are required to have a minimum of 8 channels that can be set instead of only 6;

— 6.1: latex spheres are required for primary calibration at particle sizes greater than 30 µm(c);

— 6.1: secondary calibration suspensions can be used for secondary calibration at particle sizes greater than 30 µm(c);

— 6.2: both reference and certified data from the SRM 2806x particle size distribution are used for primary sizing calibration;

— 6.2: data from at least 16 different particle sizes taken from the certified particle size distribution are used to create the APC calibration curve;

— 6.3: data obtained from at least 12 different APC threshold voltage settings are used to relate particle concentrations to threshold settings;

- 6.6: the data acceptance criteria are based upon the mean number of particles counted rather than particle concentration;
- 6.6: dilution of calibration suspensions is permitted to allow the calibration of APCs at sizes that would otherwise be in coincidence error for calibration suspensions;
- 6.9: the constrained cubic spline method of interpolation is specified and a tool for its use to relate threshold voltage setting to particle size is provided;
- 6.9: the standard uncertainty in particle concentration at each threshold setting is calculated and reported;
- 6.11 – 6.14: the modified differential half-count method for relating particle size and threshold setting using latex spheres is specified for primary calibration of particle sizes greater than 30 µm(c);
- 6.15: the constrained cubic spline method of interpolation is specified for relating threshold voltage setting to particle size and a tool for its use to relate threshold voltage setting to particle size and to construct an APC calibration curve is provided;
- Clause 7: the only acceptable way of reporting particle size using this document is using the unit of µm(c);
- Table A.1: the median, upper and lower acceptable particle concentration limits have been updated based on the results of interlaboratory testing using RM 8632a test dust and calculated based upon the logarithm of the observed particle counts and 98 % confidence level;
- Table C.2: acceptable values for D_Q are based upon the mean number of particles counted rather than particle concentration;
- F.2: use of NIST RM 8631x, ISO MTD, or other test dust conforming to ISO 12103-1 for secondary calibration suspensions is permitted and the maximum allowable concentration for secondary suspensions is increased from 75 % to 100 times the coincidence error limit of the sensor;
- F.4 and F.7: data are obtained from at least 16 different particle sizes and reported in the certificate of analysis for the resultant secondary calibration suspensions;
- Annex G: this new annex specifies the method of dilution for calibration suspension samples for use in 6.6 for samples that would otherwise be in coincidence error;
- Annex H, Sample calculations, from ISO 11171:2016: deleted. Replaced by Annex H, Verification of particle size distribution of calibration samples.

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

In hydraulic fluid power systems, power is transmitted and controlled through a liquid under pressure within an enclosed circuit. The fluid is both a lubricant and a power-transmitting medium. Reliable system performance requires control of the contaminants in the fluid. Qualitative and quantitative determination of the particulate contaminants in the fluid medium requires precision in obtaining the sample and in determining the contaminant particle size distribution and concentration. Liquid automatic particle counters (APC) are an accepted means of determining the concentration and size distribution of the contaminant particles. Individual APC accuracy is established through calibration.

This document is a standard calibration procedure for APC that are used for determining particle sizes and counts. The primary particle-sizing calibration is conducted using NIST SRM 2806x suspensions with particle size distribution certified by the United States National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for particle sizes 30 µm(c) and smaller, and using polystyrene latex spheres at larger sizes.

A secondary calibration method uses suspensions of NIST RM 8631x, ISO MTD, or other test dust conforming to ISO 12103-1, which are independently analysed using an APC calibrated by the primary method. Minimum performance specifications are established for the APC coefficient of variation (CV) of sample volume, CV of flow rate, resolution and particle counting accuracy. The operating limits of an APC, including its threshold noise level, coincidence error limit and flow rate limits are determined.