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Lasers and laser-related equipment — Test methods for laser beam parameters — Polarization

*Lasers et équipements associés aux lasers — Méthodes d'essai des
paramètres du faisceau laser — Polarisation*



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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Test method for state of polarization	3
4.1 Principle of measurement.....	3
4.2 Equipment arrangement.....	4
4.2.1 General.....	4
4.2.2 Special arrangement for the testing of beams with large divergence angles.....	4
4.2.3 Special arrangement for the testing of beams with large apertures.....	5
4.3 Components.....	5
4.3.1 Radiation detector.....	5
4.3.2 Linear polarizer.....	6
4.3.3 Quarter-wave plate.....	6
4.3.4 Optical attenuator.....	6
4.4 Test procedure.....	6
4.4.1 General.....	6
4.4.2 Measurement 1.....	6
4.4.3 Measurement 2.....	7
4.5 Analysis of the results.....	7
5 Test report	9
Annex A (informative) Complete description of the polarization status of a monochromatic laser beam	12
Bibliography	15

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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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 172, *Optics and Photonics*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Laser and electro-optical systems*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 123, *Lasers and photonics*, in accordance with the agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 12005:2003), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Description errors in [4.5](#) (Analysis of the results) were corrected.
- Definitions of the “degree of polarization” and the “degree of linear polarization” were made clear.
- Definition of extinction ratio was changed.
- Previous [3.3](#) (direction of polarization), [3.4](#) (plane of polarization), and [3.5](#) (ellipticity) were deleted, because these terms are confusing due to the different definitions, and they are not necessarily required for this document. Previous 3.11 (Stokes parameters) was deleted and moved to [Annex A](#), because they are not used in the measurement and analysis.

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.

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Introduction

This document deals with a method for determining the polarization state of a laser beam.

This document is applicable for well-polarized laser beams, including those emitted by lasers with a high divergence angle. However, if more completeness in the determination of the polarization status is required, the use of a more sophisticated analysing device is necessary. Although not within the scope of this document, the principle of operation of such devices is given in [Annex A](#), together with a description of the Stokes parameters which are needed in that case.