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Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machines — Thermography —

Part 1: General procedures

Surveillance et diagnostic de l'état des machines — Thermographie —

Partie 1: Procédures générales

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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

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ISO 18434-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 108, *Mechanical vibration, shock and condition monitoring*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machines*.

ISO 18434 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machines — Thermography*:

— *Part 1: General procedures*

Image interpretation and diagnostics is to form the subject of a future Part 2.

Introduction

This part of ISO 18434 provides guidance on the use of infrared thermography (IRT) as part of a programme for condition monitoring and diagnostics of machines. IRT can be used to identify and document anomalies for the purposes of condition monitoring of machines. These anomalies are usually caused by such mechanisms as operation, improper lubrication, misalignment, worn components or mechanical loading anomalies.

IRT is based on measuring the distribution of radiant thermal energy (heat) emitted from a target surface, and converting this to a map of radiation intensity differences (surface temperature map) or *thermogram*. The thermographer therefore requires an understanding of heat, temperature and the various types of heat transfer as essential prerequisites when undertaking an IR programme. Thermal energy is present with the operation of all machines. It can be in the form of friction or energy losses, as a property of the process media, produced by the actual process itself or any combination thereof. As a result, temperature can be a key parameter for monitoring the performance of machines, the condition of machines, and the diagnostics of machine problems. IRT is an ideal technology to do this temperature monitoring because it provides complete thermal images of a machine, or a machine component, with no physical attachments (non-intrusive), requires little set-up, and provides the results in a very short period of time.

An important advantage of radiation thermometers over contact thermometers is their speed of response. The measured energy travels from the target to the sensor at the speed of light. The response of the instrument can then be in milliseconds or even microseconds. Another advantage is the sensitivity of the instruments in that they can detect and display a thermal “picture” composed of the very subtle temperature differences of the target.

Although extremely useful, IRT has a limitation in that radiometric sensing is susceptible to unacceptable error when used on most low emissivity surfaces.