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# **Metallic materials — Rockwell hardness test —**

## **Part 2: Verification and calibration of testing machines and indenters**

*Matériaux métalliques — Essai de dureté Rockwell —*

*Partie 2: Vérification et étalonnage des machines d'essai et des  
pénétrateurs*



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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 document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 164, *Mechanical testing of metals*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Hardness testing*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 459, *ECISS - European Committee for Iron and Steel Standardization*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 6508-2:2015), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- removed all statements of requirements, permissions, and recommendations from the Scope of the document ([Clause 1](#));
- addition of [Clause 3](#), Terms and definitions;
- modification of the requirements for the calibration and verification of the force and depth measuring systems ([Clause 4](#));
- added a requirement for the hardness of the indenter ball holder ([Clause 6](#));
- changed the layout of [Table 8](#) ([Clause 6](#));
- modified the requirements for direct and indirect calibration and verification ([Clause 7](#));
- modified the information related to the determination of uncertainty of measurement ([Annex B](#)).

A list of all parts in the ISO 6508 series can be found on the ISO website.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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# Metallic materials — Rockwell hardness test —

## Part 2: Verification and calibration of testing machines and indenters

### 1 Scope

This document specifies two separate methods of verification of testing machines (direct and indirect) for determining Rockwell hardness in accordance with ISO 6508-1, together with a method for verifying Rockwell hardness indenters.

The direct verification method is used to determine whether the main parameters associated with the machine function, such as applied force, depth measurement, and testing cycle timing, fall within specified tolerances. The indirect verification method uses a number of calibrated reference hardness blocks to determine how well the machine can measure a material of known hardness.

This document is applicable to stationary and portable hardness testing machines.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the use of tungsten carbide composite for ball indenters is considered to be the standard type of Rockwell indenter ball.

### 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 376, *Metallic materials — Calibration of force-proving instruments used for the verification of uniaxial testing machines*

ISO 6507-1, *Metallic materials — Vickers hardness test — Part 1: Test method*

ISO 6508-1, *Metallic materials — Rockwell hardness test — Part 1: Test method*

ISO 6508-3, *Metallic materials — Rockwell hardness test — Part 3: Calibration of reference blocks*

### 3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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

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

### 4 General conditions

Before a Rockwell hardness testing machine is verified, the machine shall be checked to ensure that it is properly set up and operating in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.