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First edition
2022-08

Colorimetry —

Part 2:
CIE standard illuminants

Colorimétrie —

Partie 2: Illuminants CIE normalisés

Reference number
ISO/CIE 11664-2:2022(E)

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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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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 the International Commission on Illumination (CIE) in cooperation with Technical Committee ISO/TC 274, *Light and lighting*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 139, *Paints and varnishes*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO 11664-2:2007/CIE S 014-2:2006, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— CIE illuminant D50 has been included as CIE standard illuminant because of its extensive use in the fields of graphic, arts and photography.

A list of all parts in the ISO/CIE 11664 series can be found on the CIE and ISO websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the CIE Central Bureau or 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

The illuminants defined in this document are as follows:

a) CIE standard illuminant A

CIE standard illuminant A is intended to represent typical tungsten-filament lighting. Its relative spectral power distribution is that of a Planckian radiator at a temperature of approximately 2 855,5 K. CIE standard illuminant A should be used in all applications of colorimetry involving the use of incandescent lighting, unless there are specific reasons for using a different illuminant. CIE standard illuminant A is used in photometry as primary reference spectrum for the calibration of photometric devices.

b) CIE standard illuminant D65

CIE standard illuminant D65 is intended to represent average daylight having a correlated colour temperature of approximately 6 500 K. CIE standard illuminant D65 should be used in all colorimetric calculations requiring representative outdoor daylight, unless there are specific reasons for using a different spectral power distribution. Variations in the relative spectral power distribution of daylight are known to occur, particularly in the ultraviolet spectral region, as a function of season, time of day and geographic location. However, CIE standard illuminant D65 is used pending the availability of additional information on these variations.

c) CIE standard illuminant D50

CIE standard illuminant D50 is intended to represent daylight with a correlated colour temperature of approximately 5 000 K. CIE standard illuminant D50 should be used in colorimetric calculations where the use of such a correlated colour temperature is intended.

Values for the relative spectral power distribution of CIE standard illuminants A, D65 and D50 are given in this document at 1-nm intervals from 300 nm to 830 nm.

The term “illuminant” refers to a defined spectral power distribution, not necessarily realizable or provided by an artificial source. Illuminants are used in colorimetry to compute the tristimulus values of reflected or transmitted object colours under specified conditions of illumination. The CIE has also defined other illuminants, such as illuminant C, other daylight illuminants, and illuminants for LED and other electric light sources. These illuminants are described in CIE 015, but they do not have the status of CIE standard illuminants. It is recommended that one of the three CIE standard illuminants defined in this document be used wherever possible. This will greatly facilitate the comparison of published results.

In most practical applications of colorimetry, it is sufficient to use the values of CIE standard illuminants A, D65 and D50 at less frequent wavelength intervals or in a narrower spectral region than specified in this document. Data and guidelines that facilitate such practice are provided in CIE 015, together with other recommended procedures for practical colorimetry.

The term “source” refers to a physical emitter of light, such as a lamp or the sun. In certain cases, the CIE recommends laboratory sources that approximate the spectral power distributions of CIE illuminants. In all cases, however, the definition of a CIE-recommended source is secondary to the definition of the corresponding CIE illuminant, because of the possibility that, from time to time, new developments will lead to improved sources that represent a particular illuminant more accurately or are more suitable for laboratory use.

CIE standard source A, the practical realization of CIE standard illuminant A, is described in this document. At present, there are no CIE-recommended sources representing CIE standard illuminants D65 and D50.

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