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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Evaluation and routine testing in medical imaging departments

Part 3.6: Acceptance and constancy tests — Imaging performance of mammographic X-ray equipment used in a mammographic tomosynthesis mode of operation



AS/NZS IEC 61223.3.6:2022

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee HE-003, Medical Electrical Equipment.

The objective of this document is to specify requirements for the performance of mammographic X-Ray equipment when used in mammographic tomosynthesis modes of operation, with respect to image quality and dose.

Excluded from the scope of this document are the following:

- (a) Mammographic X-Ray equipment modes of operation other than mammographic tomosynthesis.
- (b) 2D images synthesized from the tomosynthesis images.
- (c) Reconstructive tomography other than mammographic tomosynthesis.
- (d) CT scanners covered by AS/NZS IEC 61223.3.5.

This document defines the following:

- (i) The essential parameters which describe the acceptability criteria of mammographic tomosynthesis modes of operation of mammographic X-Ray equipment with regard to image quality and dose.
- (ii) The methods of testing whether measured quantities related to those parameters comply with specified tolerances.
- (iii) Constancy test frequency when required.

This document is intended to be applied along with the acceptability criteria included in AS/NZS IEC 61223.3.2 or equivalent protocol for 2D mammography which are also relevant for mammographic tomosynthesis modes of operation.

This document is identical with, and has been reproduced from, IEC 61223-3-6:2020, *Evaluation and routine testing in medical imaging departments — Part 3-6: Acceptance and constancy tests — Imaging performance of mammographic X-ray equipment used in a mammographic tomosynthesis mode of operation*

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NOTES

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	6
INTRODUCTION.....	8
1 Scope and object.....	9
2 Normative references	9
3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms.....	10
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	10
3.2 Symbols and abbreviated terms	13
4 General aspects of the ACCEPTANCE TEST.....	13
4.1 Levels of requirements.....	13
4.1.1 Local regulatory.....	13
4.1.2 Contractual.....	13
4.1.3 General	13
4.2 General conditions in test procedures	13
4.3 Documents and data for the tests.....	14
4.4 Test conditions	14
4.5 Scope of tests.....	15
4.6 Test equipment.....	15
4.6.1 General	15
4.6.2 Analysis software	16
4.6.3 DOSIMETER.....	16
4.7 Evaluating the test results.....	16
5 General aspects of CONSTANCY TESTS	17
5.1 Establishment of BASELINE VALUES.....	17
5.2 Frequency of CONSTANCY TESTS	17
6 Summary of tests for MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS equipment	17
7 Inventory and initial tests for MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS equipment	18
7.1 Requirements	18
7.2 Test method.....	19
7.3 CONSTANCY TESTING	19
7.3.1 Test method	19
7.3.2 Frequency of testing	19
7.4 Action to be taken	19
8 Alignment and collimation checks	19
8.1 Requirements	19
8.2 Test method.....	19
8.3 CONSTANCY TESTING	20
8.3.1 Test method	20
8.3.2 Frequency of testing	20
8.4 Equipment	20
8.5 Action to be taken.....	20
9 AEC-system.....	20
9.1 General.....	20
9.2 Short term reproducibility	21
9.2.1 Requirements	21
9.2.2 Test method	21
9.2.3 CONSTANCY TESTING	21

9.2.4	Equipment	21
9.2.5	Action to be taken.....	21
9.3	Long term reproducibility.....	21
9.3.1	Requirements	21
9.3.2	Test method	22
9.3.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	22
9.3.4	Action to be taken.....	22
9.4	AEC performance	22
9.4.1	Requirements	22
9.4.2	Test method	22
9.4.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	25
9.4.4	Equipment	25
9.4.5	Action to be taken.....	25
10	Image receptor	25
10.1	Response function	25
10.1.1	General	25
10.1.2	Requirements	26
10.1.3	Test method	26
10.1.4	CONSTANCY TESTING	26
10.1.5	Action to be taken.....	26
10.2	Detector element failure.....	27
10.2.1	Requirements	27
10.2.2	Test method	27
10.2.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	27
10.2.4	Equipment	27
10.2.5	Action to be taken.....	27
10.3	Uncorrected DEFECTIVE DETECTOR ELEMENTS.....	27
10.3.1	General	27
10.3.2	Requirements	27
10.3.3	Test method	27
10.3.4	CONSTANCY TESTING	28
10.3.5	Equipment	28
10.3.6	Action to be taken.....	28
10.4	System PROJECTION MTF.....	28
10.4.1	General	28
10.4.2	Requirements	28
10.4.3	Test method	29
10.4.4	CONSTANCY TESTING	29
10.4.5	Equipment	29
10.4.6	Action to be taken.....	29
11	Image quality of the reconstructed image	29
11.1	PHANTOM testing	29
11.1.1	General	29
11.1.2	Requirements	29
11.1.3	Test method	30
11.1.4	CONSTANCY TESTING	30
11.1.5	Action to be taken.....	30
11.2	z-resolution (ARTEFACT spread function).....	30
11.2.1	Requirements	30

11.2.2	Test method	30
11.2.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	32
11.2.4	Equipment	32
11.2.5	Action to be taken.....	32
12	Missed tissue	32
12.1	General.....	32
12.2	Missed tissue at chest wall side in the reconstructed tomosynthesis volume	33
12.2.1	Requirements	33
12.2.2	Test method	33
12.2.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	33
12.2.4	Equipment	33
12.2.5	Action to be taken.....	33
12.3	Missed tissue at the top and bottom of the reconstructed tomosynthesis volume.....	33
12.3.1	Requirements	33
12.3.2	Test method	33
12.3.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	34
12.3.4	Equipment	35
12.3.5	Action to be taken.....	35
13	ARTEFACTS in the tomosynthesis data sets.....	35
13.1	General.....	35
13.2	ARTEFACT evaluation.....	35
13.2.1	Requirements	35
13.2.2	Test method	35
13.2.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	35
13.2.4	Equipment	35
13.2.5	Action to be taken.....	35
13.3	GEOMETRIC DISTORTION.....	35
13.3.1	Requirements	35
13.3.2	Test method	36
13.3.3	Equipment	37
13.3.4	Action to be taken.....	37
14	Dosimetry for digital breast tomosynthesis.....	37
14.1	Requirements	37
14.2	Test method.....	38
14.3	CONSTANCY TESTING	39
14.3.1	Test method	39
14.3.2	Frequency of testing	39
14.4	Equipment	39
14.5	Action to be taken.....	39
Annex A (informative)	Tables for dosimetry calculation in digital breast tomosynthesis	40
Annex B (normative)	Guidance on action to be taken	44
B.1	Failing the ESTABLISHED CRITERIA at first measurement	44
B.2	Failing the ESTABLISHED CRITERIA at multiple measurements	44
B.3	Marginally failing the ESTABLISHED CRITERIA	44
B.4	History of repeatedly failing the ESTABLISHED CRITERIA.....	44
B.5	Substantially failing the ESTABLISHED CRITERIA	45
B.6	Cases not covered by Clauses B.1 to B.5	45

Annex C (informative) Image quality evaluation	46
Annex D (informative) ARTEFACTS	47
Bibliography	48
Index of defined terms	52

Figure 1 – Set-up for measuring the alignment between the reconstructed and the irradiated volume at the chest wall edge of the PATIENT SUPPORT	20
Figure 2 – Top and 3D view of setup for the AEC performance measurements	23
Figure 3 – Placement of ROI for the AEC performance measurement	24
Figure 4 – Top and 3D view of setup for the evaluation of z-resolution	31
Figure 5 – Front and side view of setup for the evaluation of z-resolution	32
Figure 6 – Configuration for the determination of missed tissue for curved paddles	34
Figure 7 – Top and 3D view of setup for the evaluation of GEOMETRIC DISTORTION	36
Figure 8 – Front and side view of setup for the evaluation of GEOMETRIC DISTORTION	37
Figure 9 – Top and 3D view of position of DOSIMETER to determine the incident AIR KERMA for dose estimation	39
Table 1 – Tests, test frequencies, and test objects used in this document	17
Table 2 – Height of the compression paddle when using different PMMA thicknesses	24
Table 3 – Limits for AGD versus the thickness of the PMMA and the height of the compression paddle	38
Table A.1 – <i>g</i> factors for breasts simulated with PMMA	40
Table A.2 – <i>c</i> factors for breasts simulated with PMMA	40
Table A.3 – Typical HVL measurements for different tube voltage and TARGET FILTER combinations	41
Table A.4 – <i>s</i> factors for clinically used spectra	41
Table A.5 – <i>s</i> factors for clinically used spectra with W TARGET material	41
Table A.6 – <i>s</i> factors for a tungsten TARGET filtered by 0,5 mm aluminium	42
Table A.7 – <i>s</i> factors for a tungsten TARGET filtered by 0,7 mm aluminium	42
Table A.8 – <i>T</i> factors vs. PMMA thickness for a variety of scan angles	43

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**EVALUATION AND ROUTINE TESTING
IN MEDICAL IMAGING DEPARTMENTS –****Part 3-6: Acceptance and constancy tests –
Imaging performance of mammographic X-ray equipment used in a
mammographic tomosynthesis mode of operation**

FOREWORD

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62B/1127/CDV	62B/1148/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

In this document, the following print types are used:

- requirements, compliance with which can be tested, and definitions: in roman type.
- explanations, advice, notes, general statements, exceptions and references: in smaller type;
- TERMS USED THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT THAT HAVE BEEN LISTED IN THE INDEX OF DEFINED TERMS AND DEFINED IN CLAUSE 3, OR IN OTHER STANDARDS: IN SMALL CAPITALS.

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INTRODUCTION

IEC 61223 (all parts) gives methods for ACCEPTANCE TESTS and CONSTANCY TESTS for diagnostic X-RAY EQUIPMENT.

This part of IEC 61223 describes test methods for the ACCEPTANCE and CONSTANCY TESTS of MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT used in a MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS MODE OF OPERATION.

EVALUATION AND ROUTINE TESTING IN MEDICAL IMAGING DEPARTMENTS –

Part 3-6: Acceptance and constancy tests – Imaging performance of mammographic X-ray equipment used in a mammographic tomosynthesis mode of operation

1 Scope and object

This part of IEC 61223 applies to the performance of MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT when used in MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS modes of operation, with respect to image quality and dose.

Excluded from the scope of this document are:

- MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT modes of operation other than MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS;
- 2D images synthesised from the tomosynthesis images;
- reconstructive TOMOGRAPHY other than MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS;
- CT SCANNERS covered by IEC 61223-3-5.

This document defines:

- a) the essential parameters which describe the acceptability criteria of MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS modes of operation of MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT with regard to image quality and dose,
- b) the methods of testing whether measured quantities related to those parameters comply with specified tolerances, and
- c) CONSTANCY TEST frequency when required.

This document is intended to be applied along with the acceptability criteria included in IEC 61223-3-2 or equivalent protocol for 2D mammography which are also relevant for MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS modes of operation.

These methods mainly rely on non-invasive measurements that use appropriate test equipment and are performed during or after the installation. Signed statements covering steps in the installation procedure can be used as part of the ACCEPTANCE TEST. Tests required by a higher level of compliance take precedence over similar tests with a lower level of compliance.

When the results of the ACCEPTANCE TEST are in compliance with the expected values, the BASELINE VALUES for the subsequent CONSTANCY TESTS are established.

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.

IEC 60601-2-45:2011, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2-45: Particular requirements for basic safety and essential performance of mammographic X-ray equipment and mammographic stereotactic devices*
IEC 60601-2-45:2011/AMD1:2015

IEC 61223-3-2:2007, *Evaluation and routine testing in medical imaging departments – Part 3-2: Acceptance tests – Imaging performance of mammographic X-ray equipment*

IEC 61674:2012, *Medical electrical equipment – Dosimeters with ionization chambers and/or semiconductor detectors as used in X-ray diagnostic imaging*

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60601-2-45, IEC 61223-3-2 and the following apply.

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

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

3.1.1

ACCEPTANCE TEST

test carried out after new equipment has been installed, or major modifications have been made to existing equipment, in order to verify compliance with contractual specifications

[SOURCE: IEC TR 61223-1:1993, 3.2.4]

3.1.2

ARTEFACT

apparent structure, visible in the image, which does not represent a structure within the object

[SOURCE: IEC 61223-3-4:2000, 3.3.1]

3.1.3

AUTOMATIC EXPOSURE CONTROL

AEC

MODE OF OPERATION, in a radiological equipment, in which, in reaction to the properties of the object, one or more of the LOADING FACTORS or IRRADIATION conditions are controlled automatically in order to obtain a specified quantity of RADIATION of a desired quality

Note 1 to entry: Examples of such properties of the object are: thickness, composition, or X-ray TRANSMISSION. Examples for IRRADIATION conditions are anode materials of the X-RAY TUBE and ADDED FILTERS.

Note 2 to entry: This note applies to the French language only.

3.1.4

AVERAGE GLANDULAR DOSE

AGD

X-ray mammography average ABSORBED DOSE in the glandular tissue (excluding skin) in a uniformly compressed breast of known tissue composition, using a specified calculation method

[SOURCE: IEC 61223-3-2:2007, 3.7]

3.1.5

BASELINE VALUE

reference value of functional parameter, which is either:

- the value obtained for this parameter in the initial CONSTANCY TEST immediately following a STATUS TEST, or
- where described in a corresponding particular standard, the mean value of values obtained in a series of initial CONSTANCY TESTS, immediately following a STATUS TEST

3.1.6**CONSTANCY TEST****CONSTANCY TESTING**

each of a series of tests, carried out:

- to ensure that the functional performance of the equipment meets ESTABLISHED CRITERIA; or
- to enable the early recognition of changes in the properties of components of the equipment

Note 1 to entry: May use a subset of the ACCEPTANCE TEST.

[SOURCE: IEC TR 61223-1:1993, 3.2.6, modified – Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.1.7**DIAGNOSTIC DOSIMETER****DOSIMETER**

equipment which uses IONIZATION CHAMBERS and/or semiconductor detectors for the measurement of AIR KERMA, AIR KERMA length and/or AIR KERMA RATE in the beam of an X-ray machine used for diagnostic medical radiological examinations

Note 1 to entry: A DIAGNOSTIC DOSIMETER contains the following components:

- one or more detector assemblies which may or may not be an integral part of the measuring assembly;
- a measuring assembly; and/or
- one or more stability check devices.

[SOURCE: IEC 61674:2012, 3.1, modified – Note 1 to entry has been rephrased.]

3.1.8**ESTABLISHED CRITERIA**

acceptable variations, in a QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME, in results of a CONSTANCY TEST which signal satisfactory functional performance of the equipment tested

3.1.9**FOCAL SPOT**

perpendicular PROJECTION of the actual FOCAL SPOT on the reference plane

Note 1 to entry: The shortened term "FOCAL SPOT" refers to the effective FOCAL SPOT (IEC 60806 [1]¹).

3.1.10**LINEARIZED DATA**

ORIGINAL DATA to which the inverse CONVERSION FUNCTION has been applied

Note 1 to entry: The LINEARIZED DATA are directly proportional to the AIR KERMA.

Note 2 to entry: For practical reasons, AIR KERMA proportional data can be generated by applying the inverse response function (see 10.1.3).

[SOURCE: IEC 62220-1-2:2007, 3.7, modified – Note 2 to entry has been added.]

3.1.11**MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS****DBT**

technique using MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT to produce multiple tomographic images reconstructed from multiple PROJECTIONS acquired over a total angular range of less than 180°

Note 1 to entry: This note applies to the French language only.

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-2-45:2011 and IEC 60601-2-45:2011/AMD1:2015, 201.3.210, modified – The abbreviated term "DBT" has been added, as well as Note 1 to entry.]

¹ Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

3.1.12**MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY**

non-negative parameter characterizing the dispersion of the quantity values being attributed to a measurand, based on the information used

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.26, modified – The notes to entry have been deleted.]

3.1.13**ORIGINAL DATA**

RAW DATA to which the corrections as in normal clinical use have been applied

Note 1 to entry: Some detectors execute linear image processing due to their physical concept. As long as this image processing is linear and image-independent, these operations are allowed as an exception.

Note 2 to entry: See IEC 60601-2-45:2011, 201.3.208.

3.1.14**QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME**

detailed instruction for carrying out actions of quality assurance for individual items of equipment, systems of equipment or facilities, including quality administrative elements and QUALITY CONTROL techniques

3.1.15**RAW DATA**

PIXEL values read directly after the analogue-digital-conversion from the DIGITAL X-RAY IMAGING DEVICE or counts from photon counting systems without any corrections

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-2-45:2011, 201.3.209, modified – The word "software" has been deleted in "software corrections".]

3.1.16**REFERENCE ROI**

REGION OF INTEREST (size 5 mm x 5 mm) in the PROJECTION

Note 1 to entry: The centre of the ROI is positioned 60 mm perpendicular to the chest edge of the PATIENT SUPPORT and centred laterally.

Note 2 to entry: This note applies to the French language only.

3.1.17**SIGNAL DIFFERENCE TO NOISE RATIO****SDNR**

ratio, in a digital image, of the difference of mean PIXEL values of the contrast object and image background and the standard deviation of the image background PIXEL value

Note 1 to entry: This note applies to the French language only.

3.1.18**SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO****SNR**

measure of signal strength versus the background NOISE, defined as the ratio of mean PIXEL values of an area of interest in an image to the standard deviation of the PIXEL value of the area of interest

Note 1 to entry: This note applies to the French language only.

3.1.19**STATUS TEST**

test carried out to establish the functional status of equipment at a given time

3.1.20**ZERO DEGREE ANGLE STATIONARY MODE**

MODE OF OPERATION of the tomosynthesis equipment identical to a tomosynthesis mode, without the tomosynthesis movement of the X-RAY BEAM with the PATIENT SUPPORT surface positioned horizontally and the beam axis as close as possible perpendicular to it

3.2 Symbols and abbreviated terms

Symbol/abbreviated term	Physical quantity/Description	Unit
K_E	ENTRANCE SURFACE AIR KERMA	mGy
FWHM	full width at half maximum	mm
MTF	MODULATION TRANSFER FUNCTION	-
PMMA	polymethylmethacrylate	-
ROI	region of interest	-

4 General aspects of the ACCEPTANCE TEST**4.1 Levels of requirements****4.1.1 Local regulatory**

Local regulatory requirements, including test procedures and acceptable values, shall take precedence over similar contractual requirements or corresponding items in this document.

4.1.2 Contractual

Individual contractual requirements, including test procedures and acceptable values, shall take precedence over similar corresponding items in this document.

Requirements for STATUS TESTS should be included in the contractual requirements.

4.1.3 General

In the absence of specific regulatory or contractual requirements, the test procedures in this document shall be applicable.

Values and acceptable tolerances shall be in accordance with the MANUFACTURER's specifications for the equipment.

The aim of the ACCEPTANCE TEST is to demonstrate that the specified characteristics of the equipment lie within specified tolerances. These tolerances are determined by regulatory or contractual requirements.

4.2 General conditions in test procedures

Prior to the ACCEPTANCE TEST procedures, an inventory of the equipment shall be established.

The X-RAY EQUIPMENT and its components shall be unambiguously identified, for example with respect to type and SERIAL NUMBER, and checked against the order contract. The check shall also encompass ascertaining that the ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS, records and acceptance criteria according to this document are complete, that delivery is complete, and that the documents relate to the equipment delivered.

Ensure that the configuration of the equipment under this test allows accessing the different PROJECTIONS as ORIGINAL DATA.

When digital images are quantitatively assessed, LINEARIZED DATA shall be used (see 10.1.3), and acquired with a RADIATION BEAM quality specified by the MANUFACTURER.

Quantitative image analysis in the PROJECTION space shall be performed using the ORIGINAL DATA.

The IMAGE DISPLAY DEVICES involved in the ACCEPTANCE TEST shall be tested prior to the ACCEPTANCE TEST of the MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT. It has to be assured that the IMAGE DISPLAY DEVICES perform in the specified way, for example with respect to contrast and absence of ARTEFACTS.

Non-invasive measurements are preferred for the ACCEPTANCE TEST. Whenever invasive tests are part of the programme, it shall be shown that the equipment has been restored to its original condition.

The MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS system should be completely calibrated according to the MANUFACTURER'S specifications prior to performing the tests in this document.

When performing visual assessment of PHANTOM images, use window/level settings as when reviewing clinical tomosynthesis images.

4.3 Documents and data for the tests

Together with the MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT used for MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS, the following documentation is required:

- list of equipment/parts of equipment ordered and actual delivery list;
- list of applicable tests and acceptance criteria according to this document as agreed upon between the USER and the supplier of the equipment;
- results from tests performed by the MANUFACTURER on the equipment delivered as contracted;
- instructions for use;
- reports on previous quality assurance tests where applicable;
- documentation of technical changes performed on the equipment since previous testing.

4.4 Test conditions

Different categories of tests can be identified:

- visual inspection;
- functional tests; and
- system performance.

The tests shall yield information reasonably necessary for a demonstration of performance over the full range of OPERATOR accessible variables.

All relevant data, such as the identification of the MAMMOGRAPHIC X-RAY EQUIPMENT used for MAMMOGRAPHIC TOMOSYNTHESIS tested, identification of the test equipment used, geometrical set-up, operating characteristics, correction factors and test results of the ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT shall be recorded with the test results. The record shall include the location, the date and the names of the persons performing the tests.

If not specified otherwise, in all tests where a TEST DEVICE is required, it shall be placed directly on the PATIENT SUPPORT. The TEST DEVICE shall be centred laterally on the PATIENT SUPPORT, and the chest wall edges of the TEST DEVICE and the PATIENT SUPPORT shall be in line.