



Designation: F3278 – 17

Standard Performance Specification for Hand-Held Metal Detectors Used in Safety and Security¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3278; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This performance specification applies to all hand-held metal detectors (HHMDs) used to find metal contraband concealed or hidden on people or other objects with accessible surfaces. This performance specification describes baseline performance requirements, which includes metal object detection performance, safety (electrical, mechanical, fire), electromagnetic compatibility, environmental conditions and ranges, and mechanical durability. The requirements for metal detection performance are unique and, therefore, test methods for these parameters are provided, including the design of test objects. An agency or organization using this performance specification is encouraged to add their unique operationally-based requirements to those requirements listed in this baseline performance specification.

1.2 This performance specification describes the use of spherical test objects, instead of actual threat objects or exemplars of threat objects, to test the detection performance of hand-held metal detectors. Spherical test objects are used because the detectability of spherical test objects is not orientation dependent, whereas this is not true for non-spherical test objects. This orientation-dependent detectability of non-spherical test objects may allow a HHMD to be incorrectly attributed a higher performance capability than that HHMD is capable of providing. To aid agencies wishing to add specific threat objects to their detection performance requirements, included in **Annex A1** is the analysis of the probability of detection for different orientations of agency-specific threat objects.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the*

Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ISO Standards:²

ISO 17025:2005 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories

ISO 10012:2003 Measurement Management Systems – Requirements for Measurement Processes and Measuring Equipment

ISO 14117:2012 Active Implantable Medical Devices – Electromagnetic Compatibility – EMC Test Protocols for Implantable Cardiac Pacemakers, Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators, and Cardiac Resynchronization Devices

ISO 14708-1:2000 Implants for Surgery – Active Implantable Medical Devices – Part 1: General Requirements for Safety, Marking and for Information to be Provided by the Manufacturer

ISO 14708-2:2012 Implants for Surgery – Active Implantable Medical Devices – Part 2: Cardiac Pacemakers

ISO 14708-3:2008 Implants for Surgery – Active Implantable Medical Devices – Part 3: Implantable Neurostimulators

ISO 14708-4:2008 Implants for Surgery – Active Implantable Medical Devices – Part 4: Implantable Infusion Pumps

ISO 14708-5:2010 Implants for Surgery – Active Implantable Medical Devices – Part 5: Circulatory Support Devices

ISO 14708-6:2010 Implants for Surgery – Active Implantable Medical Devices – Part 6: Particular Requirements for Active Implantable Medical Devices Intended to Treat Tachyarrhythmia (Including Implantable Defibrillators)

ISO 14708-7:2013 Implants for Surgery – Active Implantable Medical Devices – Part 7: Particular Requirements for Cochlear Implant Systems

¹ This performance specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F12 on Security Systems and Equipment and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F12.60 on Controlled Access Security, Search, and Screening Equipment.

Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2017. Published October 2017. DOI: 10.1520/F3278-17.

² Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, BIBC II, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.

2.2 IEC Standards:³

IEC 61010-1 Safety Requirements for Electrical Equipment for Measurement, Control, and Laboratory Use – Part 1: General Requirements

IEC 61000-6-1 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Part 6: Generic Standards – Section 1: Immunity for Residential, Commercial, and Light-industrial Environments

IEC 61000-4-2 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Part 4: Testing and Measurement Techniques – Section 2: Electrostatic Discharge Immunity Test

IEC 61000-4-3 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Part 4: Testing and Measurement Techniques – Section 3: Radiated, Radio-frequency, Electromagnetic Field Immunity Test

IEC 61000-4-8 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Part 4: Testing and Measurement Techniques – Section 8: Power Frequency Magnetic Field Immunity Test

IEC 60529 2001-2 Degrees of Protection Provided by Enclosures (IP Code)

IEC 60068-2-27:2008-2 Environmental Testing – Part 2-27: Tests – Test Ea and Guidance: Shock

IEC 60068-2-31:2008-05 Environmental Testing – Part 2:31: Tests – Test Ec: Rough Handling Shocks, Primarily for Equipment-type Specimens

CISPR 22 Information Technology Equipment – Radio Disturbance Characteristics – Limits and Methods of Measurement, Class B, Radiated Disturbance

2.3 IEEE Standards:⁴

IEEE C95.1 IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz

IEEE Std 181-2011 IEEE Standard for Transitions, Pulses, and Related Waveforms

2.4 Military Standards:⁵

MIL-STD-810G Method 501.5 Test Method Standard for Environmental Engineering Considerations and Laboratory Tests, Method 501.5, High Temperature

MIL-STD-810G Method 502.5 Test Method Standard for Environmental Engineering Considerations and Laboratory Tests, Method 502.5 Low Temperature

MIL-STD-810G Method 507.5 Test Method Standard for Environmental Engineering Considerations and Laboratory Tests, Method 507.5, Humidity

2.5 ANSI Standards:⁶

ANSI S1.4-1983 Specification for Sound Level Meters

2.6 CIE Standards:⁷

CIE Standard S 014-1/E:2006 Colorimetry – Part 1: CIE Standard Colorimetric Observers

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *alarm*—an indication (which may be audible, visual, or vibratory, or combinations thereof) that informs the operator of an event, such as metal detection or a detector (HHMD) status change.

3.1.2 *body simulant*—a material engineered to simulate the average electrical conductivity and magnetic permeability of the human body. The average electrical conductivity is $0.8 \text{ S/m} \pm 0.2 \text{ S/m}$ and the average magnetic permeability is $1.26 \times 10^{-6} \text{ H/m} \pm 5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ H/m}$.

3.1.3 *detector*—the hand-held metal detector (HHMD) that is held in one hand and is used for finding metal objects concealed on a person or other object.

3.1.4 *detector axis*—an imaginary line passing through and perpendicular to the detector plane that is located within the detector plane such that the magnetic field around the detector axis has the maximum symmetry. The detector axis is labeled as the “z” axis. The location of the detector axis relative to the HHMD shape and geometry is specified by the manufacturer. The detector axis is the reference for positioning in the detection performance tests. See Fig. 1.

3.1.5 *detector holder*—a device used to hold the HHMD in place during testing. The detector holder is constructed of non-ferromagnetic and non-electrically conductive materials.

3.1.6 *detector plane*—an imaginary plane (two-dimensional surface) that is tangential to the plane, line, or point on the HHMD surface that is closest to the object being scanned under typical HHMD use. The detector plane contains two orthogonal axes labeled as the “x” axis and as the “y” axis. See Fig. 1.

3.1.7 *detection sensitivity setting*—an adjustment that can be made to the HHMD that affects its ability to sense metal objects.

3.1.8 *measurement coordinate system*—a mutually orthogonal three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system referenced to the detector axis and the detector plane. The three axes are labeled “x,” “y,” and “z,” where the z axis is parallel to the detector axis and the x axis and the y axis are in the detector plane. The orientation of the test objects is referenced to the measurement coordinate system. See Fig. 2.

3.1.9 *measurement plane*—an imaginary two-dimensional surface over which the HHMDs are tested. There may be more than one measurement plane. The measurement plane(s) is (are) referenced from the detector plane. See Fig. 2. There is a measurement plane for each size class of the HHMD, as shown in Table 1.

3.1.10 *size class*—a classification method based on grouping exemplars of commonly encountered objects that may be

³ Available from International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), 3, rue de Varembe, 1st Floor, P.O. Box 131, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iec.ch>.

⁴ Available from Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), 445 Hoes Ln., Piscataway, NJ 08854-4141, <http://www.ieee.org>.

⁵ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC 20401-0001, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

⁶ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁷ Available from U.S. National Committee of the CIE (International Commission on Illumination), C/o Alan Laird Lewis, 282 E. Riding, Carlisle, MA 01741, <http://www.cie-usnc.org>.

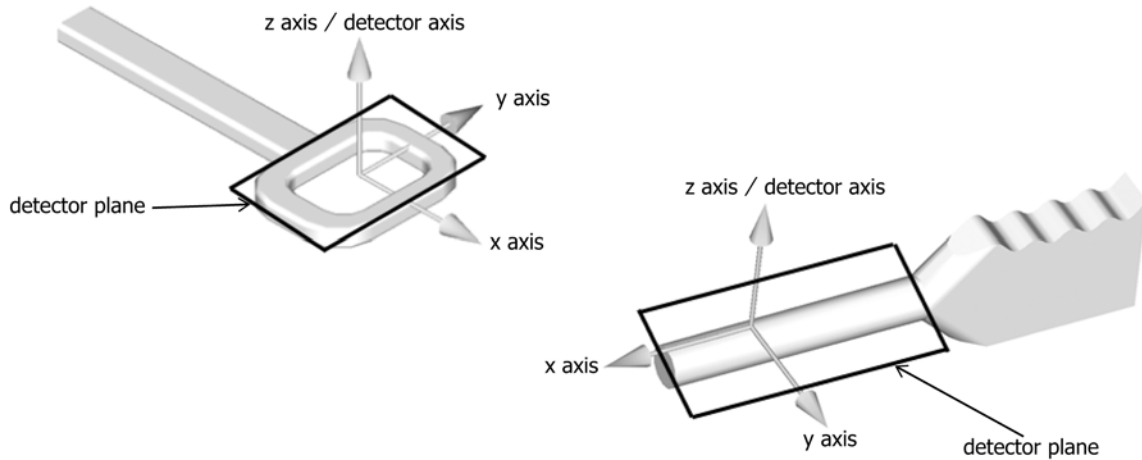


FIG. 1 Diagram of Hand-held Metal Detector Showing the Detector Plane (Labeled and Represented by a Rectangle) and the Detector Axis (Labeled z)

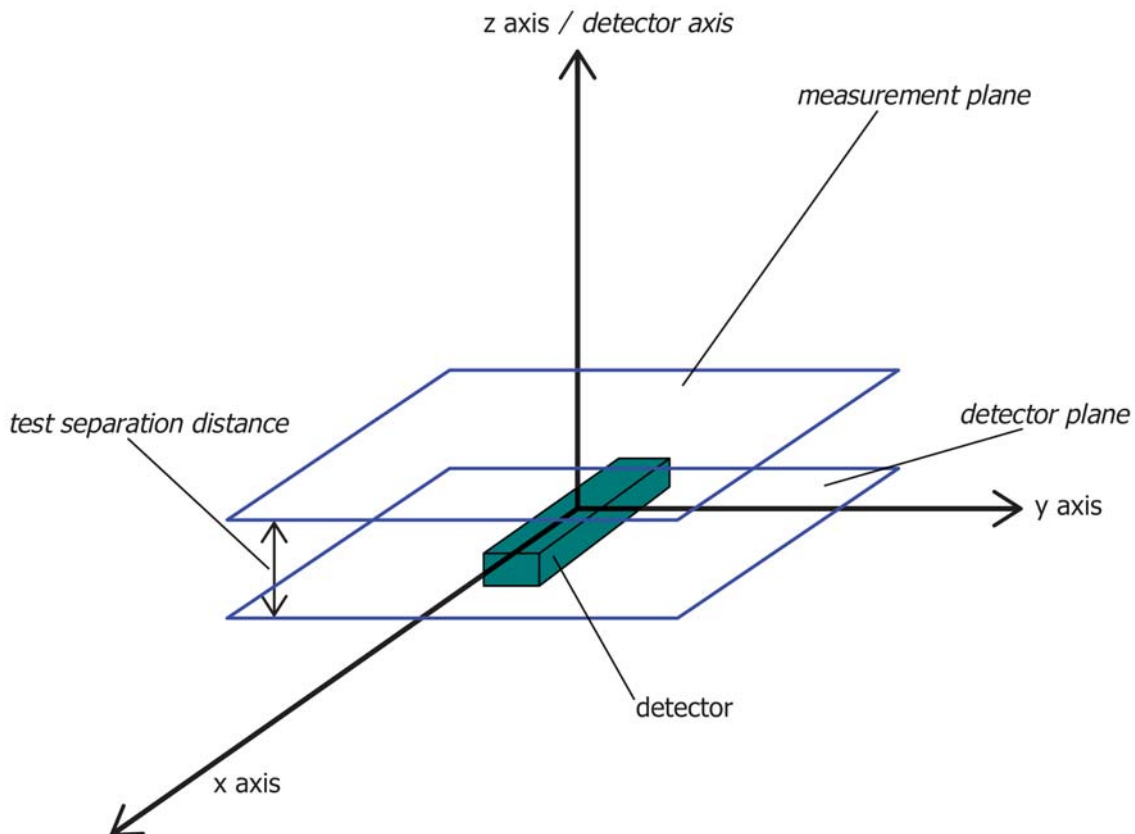


FIG. 2 A Diagram of the Measurement Coordinate System Showing the Measurement Coordinate System Axes, One Measurement Plane, and the Detector Plane. The x axis Points Along the User's Arm

either commercially available or readily fabricated from available materials and that are related to customer applications and object sizes. A HHMD may meet the requirements for one or all size classes, as defined below.

3.1.10.1 *large*—represents threat items such as handguns, and similarly sized objects, or larger, constructed of ferromagnetic or nonferromagnetic metal, or both.

3.1.10.2 *medium*—represents threat items such as knives having blade lengths exceeding 7.5 cm, and similarly sized

TABLE 1 Distance Between Measurement Plane and Detector Plane for the Different HHMD Size Classes

Size Class	Distance Between Measurement Plane and Detector Plane (cm)
Large	8.0 – 0/+ 0.2
Medium	4.0 – 0/+ 0.2
Small	2.0 – 0/+ 0.2
Very Small	0.5 – 0/+ 0.2

objects, up to the size of a large object, constructed of ferromagnetic or nonferromagnetic metal, or both.

3.1.10.3 *small*—represents threat items such as, but not limited to, knives having blade lengths less than or equal to 7.5 cm, handcuff keys, handgun rounds, and similarly sized objects, up to the size of a medium object, constructed of ferromagnetic or nonferromagnetic metal, or both.

3.1.10.4 *very small*—represents threat items such as t razor blades, hypodermic needles and similarly sized objects, up to the size of a small object, constructed of ferromagnetic or nonferromagnetic metals, or both.

3.1.11 *test object*—an item that is used to test the HHMD detection performance. Test objects accurately simulate the electromagnetic properties of an actual threat or contraband item, such as a weapon or an item that can be used to defeat security devices. The test objects are described in Section 6.

3.1.12 *test object axis*—the imaginary line passing through the center of the test object that is referenced to and has a one-to-one correspondence with the axes of the measurement coordinate system.

3.1.13 *x-axis scan range*—the segment of line along the x axis of the measurement coordinate system that is centered on the detector axis that extends equally on either side of the detector axis.

4. Requirements for Acceptance

NOTE 1—The HHMD shall meet or exceed the requirements and specifications stated in this section.

4.1 General Test Conditions and Requirements:

4.1.1 *Testing and Calibration Laboratories*—Laboratories performing testing and calibration of the HHMD or its components, or both, shall meet the requirements of ISO 17025, as amended.

4.1.2 *Measurement Equipment and Processes*—All measurement equipment and processes shall be certified to ISO 10012, as amended.

4.2 Safety Specifications and Requirements:

4.2.1 *Electrical*—The HHMD shall comply with IEC 61010-1, Section 6, “Protection Against Electrical Shock,” as amended.

4.2.2 *Mechanical*—The HHMD shall meet the requirements of IEC 61010-1 Section 7, “Protection Against Mechanical Hazards,” as amended.

4.2.3 *Thermal*—The HHMD shall meet the requirements of IEC 61010-1 Section 10, “Equipment Temperature Limits and Resistance to Heat,” as amended.

4.2.4 Human Exposure:

4.2.4.1 *General*—The magnitude of the electromagnetic field generated by the HHMD at a distance of approximately 5 mm from any surface of the HHMD shall be less than the

exposure limits specified for general public exposure in the ICNIRP⁸ guideline and IEEE C95.1.

4.2.4.2 *Active Implanted and Body-worn Medical Devices*—The magnitude of the electromagnetic field generated by the HHMD shall not cause an active implanted or body-worn medical electronic device to be adversely affected as described in ISO 14117:2012, ISO 14708-1, ISO 14708-2, ISO 14708-3, ISO 14708-4, ISO 14708-5, ISO 14708-6, and ISO 14708-7 and tested in accordance with the same. If adherence to the requirement in 4.2.4.2 has not been demonstrated, the manufacturer shall provide a warning with the HHMD instructions that states “This device has not been demonstrated as being safe for use on people with active implanted or body-worn medical devices, or both.”

4.3 Power Requirement:

4.3.1 *Battery Life*—The HHMD shall operate for at least 10 h as tested in accordance with 5.5 and while using a battery of the type and model recommended by the manufacturer.

4.4 *Detection Performance Specifications*—The ability of the HHMD to sense the presence of a test object will vary with the material and geometry of the test object and the distance between the test object and the HHMD. In this performance specification, the test objects are spherical to avoid the possibility of incorrectly attributing a higher performance capability to a HHMD than that HHMD is capable of providing. The test objects are grouped according to their size class and the HHMDs are tested for their ability to detect test objects from within these different size classes. The detection performance specifications shall be tested using the detection sensitivity setting, if applicable, that is specified by the manufacturer to be appropriate for each test object size class. All the tests of 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4 requirements shall be performed within an 8 h $\pm$ 0.5 h period without adjusting the detector sensitivity setting between tests. The detector sensitivity setting shall not be readjusted during testing, or after changing the battery. The test objects are given in Section 6.

4.4.1 *Detection Sensitivity*—The HHMD shall exhibit an average probability of detection, $p_{d,sens}$, $\geq$ 0.95 with an average confidence level of 0.95 for the test objects in each size class, when each object in the size class is positioned in the appropriate measurement plane (see Table 1) over the appropriate x-axis scan range (see Table 2) with the test object moving at a speed of 0.5 m/s $\pm$ 0.05 m/s and tested in accordance with 5.2.2. This requirement is met when $p_{LB} \geq p_{d,sens}$ as computed per 5.2.2.

4.4.2 *Detection Speed*—The HHMD shall exhibit an average probability of detection, $p_{d,sp-sens}$, $\geq$ 0.95 with an average confidence level of 0.95 for the test objects in each size class, when each object in the size class is positioned in the appropriate measurement plane (see Table 1) over the appropriate x-axis scan range (see Table 2) for each required orientation (see Table 2) of the test object axes with respect to the measurement coordinate system, with the test object

TABLE 2 X-axis Scan Range for the Different HHMD Size Classes

Size Class	X-axis Scan Range	
	lower limit (cm)	upper limit (cm)
Large	-7.5 $\pm$ 0.1	7.5 $\pm$ 0.1
Medium	-6.0 $\pm$ 0.1	6.0 $\pm$ 0.1
Small	-5.7 $\pm$ 0.1	5.7 $\pm$ 0.1
Very small	-5.4 $\pm$ 0.1	5.4 $\pm$ 0.1

⁸ ICNIRP “Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electromagnetic Fields (up to 300 GHz),” International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), *Health Physics*, April 1998, Volume 74, No. 4, pp. 494–522.