



BSI Standards Publication

Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments

Part 6: Rotating lasers

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of [ISO 17123-6:2022](#).

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CPW/172, Optics and Photonics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2022

ISBN 978 0 539 04436 2

ICS 17.180.30

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 September 2022.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
17123-6

Third edition
2022-05-09

Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments

Part 6: Rotating lasers

*Optique et instruments d'optique — Méthodes d'essai sur site des
instruments géodésiques et d'observation —*

Partie 6: Lasers rotatifs



Reference number
ISO 17123-6:2022(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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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 Technical Committee ISO/TC 172, *Optics and photonics*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Geodetic and surveying instruments*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 17123-6:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- more flexible configuration of the test line and updating of the mathematical model;
- harmonization of terminology and symbols;
- correction of errors.

A list of all parts in the ISO 17123 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.

Introduction

This document specifies field procedures for adoption when determining and evaluating the uncertainty of measurement results obtained by geodetic instruments and their ancillary equipment, when used in building and surveying measuring tasks. Primarily, these tests are intended to be field verifications of suitability of a particular instrument for the immediate task. They are not proposed as tests for acceptance or performance evaluations that are more comprehensive in nature.

The definition and concept of uncertainty as a quantitative attribute to the final result of measurement was developed mainly in the last two decades, even though error analysis has already long been a part of all measurement sciences. After several stages, the CIPM (Comité International des Poids et Mesures) referred the task of developing a detailed guide to ISO. Under the responsibility of the ISO Technical Advisory Group on Metrology (TAG 4), and in conjunction with six worldwide metrology organizations, a guidance document on the expression of measurement uncertainty was compiled with the objective of providing rules for use within standardization, calibration, laboratory, accreditation and metrology services. ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 was first published as the Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) in 1995.

With the introduction of uncertainty in measurement in ISO 17123 (all parts), it is intended to finally provide a uniform, quantitative expression of measurement uncertainty in geodetic metrology with the aim of meeting the requirements of customers.

ISO 17123 (all parts) provides not only a means of evaluating the precision (experimental standard deviation) of an instrument, but also a tool for defining an uncertainty budget, which allows for the summation of all uncertainty components, whether they are random or systematic, to a representative measure of accuracy, i.e. the combined standard uncertainty.

ISO 17123 (all parts) therefore provides, for each instrument investigated by the procedures, a proposal for additional, typical influence quantities, which can be expected during practical use. The customer can estimate, for a specific application, the relevant standard uncertainty components in order to derive and state the uncertainty of the measuring result.

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Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments —

Part 6: Rotating lasers

1 Scope

This document specifies field procedures to be adopted when determining and evaluating the precision (repeatability) of rotating lasers and their ancillary equipment when used in building and surveying measurements for levelling tasks. Primarily, these tests are intended to be field verifications of the suitability of a particular instrument for the immediate task at hand and to satisfy the requirements of other standards. They are not proposed as tests for acceptance or performance evaluations that are more comprehensive in nature.

This document can be considered as one of the first steps in the process of evaluating the uncertainty of a measurement (more specifically a measurand). The uncertainty of a result of a measurement is dependent on a number of parameters. Therefore this document differentiates between different measures of accuracy and objectives in testing, like repeatability and reproducibility (between-day repeatability), and of course gives a thorough assessment of all possible error sources, as prescribed by ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 and ISO 17123-1.

These field procedures have been developed specifically for in situ applications without the need for special ancillary equipment and are purposefully designed to minimize atmospheric influences.

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 3534-1](#), *Statistics — Vocabulary and symbols — Part 1: General statistical terms and terms used in probability*

[ISO 4463-1](#), *Measurement methods for building — Setting-out and measurement — Part 1: Planning and organization, measuring procedures, acceptance criteria*

ISO 7077, *Measuring methods for building — General principles and procedures for the verification of dimensional compliance*

[ISO 7078](#), *Buildings and civil engineering works — Procedures for setting out, measurement and surveying — Vocabulary*

[ISO 9849](#), *Optics and optical instruments — Geodetic and surveying instruments — Vocabulary*

ISO 17123-1, *Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments — Part 1: Theory*

ISO 17123-2, *Optics and optical instruments — Field procedures for testing geodetic and surveying instruments — Part 2: Levels*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, *Uncertainty of measurement — Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

ISO/IEC Guide 99, *International vocabulary of metrology — Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in [ISO 3534-1](#), [ISO 4463-1](#), ISO 7077, [ISO 7078](#), [ISO 9849](#), ISO 17123-1, ISO 17123-2, ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 and ISO/IEC Guide 99 apply.

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 Symbols and abbreviated terms

4.1 Symbols

Symbol	Quantity	Unit
A	design matrix	—
a	deflective deviation	m
b	deviation of the rotating axis	m
D	horizontal distance	m
$\bar{D}$	mean horizontal distance	m
$\tilde{d}$	height difference between target points	m
$\bar{d}$	vector of mean height difference of target points	m
$\tilde{d}$	vector of height differences of target points	m
h	height difference of levelling staff B and A	m
F	F (Fisher) distribution	—
f	number of target point	—
i	series of measurement	—
j	set of measurement	—
n	set of readings	—
P	weight matrix of the observations	—
p	single weight factor	—
Q	Q matrix is the inverse of the weight matrix P	—
r	residual vector of the height differences	m
r	residual	m
$s, \tilde{s}$	experimental standard deviation	m
t	t -distribution	—
u	standard uncertainty	m
x	measured reading at levelling staff	m
x	observation vector of height differences	m
$\tilde{y}$	vector of unknown parameters	m
$\bar{y}$	mean vector of unknown parameters	m
ν	degrees of freedom	—
α	significance level	%

Symbol	Quantity	Unit
σ	theoretical standard deviation	m
χ^2	chi-squared distribution	—
Ω	sum of residual squares	m

4.2 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
A	levelling point A
Ang	Angle
B	levelling point B
ISO-ROLAS	ISO specific for rotation lasers
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
S	instrument station
x, y, z	cartesian coordinate

5 General

5.1 Requirements

Before commencing surveying, it is important that the operator investigates that the precision in use of the measuring equipment is appropriate to the intended measuring task.

The rotating laser and its ancillary equipment shall be in known and acceptable states of permanent adjustment according to the methods specified in the manufacturer's handbook, and used with tripods and levelling staffs as recommended by the manufacturer.

The results of these tests are influenced by meteorological conditions, especially by the temperature gradient. An overcast sky and low wind speed guarantee the most favourable weather conditions. The particular conditions to be taken into account may vary depending on the location where the tasks are to be undertaken. Note should also be taken of the actual weather conditions at the time of measurements and the type of surface above which the measurements are performed. The conditions chosen for the tests should match those expected when the intended measuring task is actually carried out (see ISO 7077 and [ISO 7078](#)).

This document describes two different field procedures as given in [Clauses 6](#) and [7](#). The operator shall choose the procedure which is most relevant to the project's particular requirements.

5.2 Procedure 1: simplified test procedure

The simplified test procedure provides an estimate as to whether the precision of a given item of rotating-laser equipment is within the specified permitted deviation, according to [ISO 4463-1](#).

This test procedure is normally intended for checking the precision (see ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.15) of a rotating laser to be used for area levelling applications, for tasks where measurements with unequal site lengths are common practice, e.g. building construction sites.

The simplified test procedure is based on a limited number of measurements. Therefore, a significant standard deviation and the standard uncertainty (Type A), respectively, cannot be obtained. If a more precise assessment of the rotating laser under field conditions is required, it is recommended to adopt the more rigorous full test procedure as given in [Clause 7](#).

This test procedure relies on having a test field with height differences which are accepted as true values. If such a test field is not available, it is necessary to determine the unknown height differences