



BSI Standards Publication

# Hydraulic fluid power — Monitoring the level of particulate contamination in the fluid

Part 4: Use of the light extinction technique

**National foreword**

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# Hydraulic fluid power — Monitoring the level of particulate contamination in the fluid —

## Part 4: Use of the light extinction technique

*Transmissions hydrauliques — Surveillance du niveau de pollution  
particulaire des fluides —*

*Partie 4: Technique d'absorption de lumière*





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

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For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 131, *Fluid power systems*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Contamination control*.

ISO 21018 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Hydraulic fluid power — Monitoring the level of particulate contamination of the fluid*:

- *Part 1: General principles*
- *Part 3: Use of the filter blockage technique*
- *Part 4: Use of the light extinction technique*

## Introduction

In hydraulic fluid power systems, power is transmitted through a liquid under pressure within a closed circuit. The liquid is both a lubricant and a power-transmitting medium. The presence of solid contaminant particles in the liquid interferes with the ability of the hydraulic liquid to lubricate and causes wear. The extent of contamination in the liquid has a direct bearing on the performance and reliability of the system and should be controlled to an appropriate level.

Quantitative determination of particulate contamination requires precision both in obtaining a representative sample of the liquid and the measurement of the contamination. The awareness of the benefits of cleanliness monitoring has led to the development of instruments that operate online (i.e. directly connected to a system) in an attempt to reduce measurement errors that are inherent with bottle samples. Automatic particle counters (APC) and monitors have been developed and are extensively used.

Instruments using this technique have become widely used in the industry and an International Standard is required in order to standardize operating procedures. This part of ISO 21018 defines procedures for the use of light extinction instruments in evaluating the cleanliness level of a hydraulic liquid. It also includes procedures for calibrating and verifying that the instruments are operating correctly to ensure consistent results.