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Edition 2.0 2003-01

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Expression of performance of electrochemical analyzers – Part 1: General

Expression des qualités de fonctionnement des analyseurs électrochimiques – Partie 1: Généralités

IEC 60746-1:2003

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD 3
INTRODUCTION 5

1 Scope 6
2 Normative references 6
3 Terms and definitions 7
4 Comparison of IEC Standards for Specification and Evaluation 11
5 Procedure for specification 12
5.1 Specification of values and ranges 12
5.2 General 12
5.3 Performance characteristics requiring statements of rated values 13
5.4 Uncertainty limits to be stated for each specified range 13
5.5 Other performance characteristics 14
6 Verification of values 14
6.1 General 14
6.2 Test procedures 16
6.2.1 Intrinsic uncertainty 16
6.2.2 Linearity uncertainty 16
6.2.3 Repeatability 16
6.2.4 Output fluctuation 16
6.2.5 Drift 16
6.2.6 Delay (T_{10}) and 90 % (T_{90}) response times 17
6.2.7 Warm-up time 17
6.2.8 Variations 17
6.2.9 Primary influence quantities 18
6.2.10 Other influence quantities 18

Annex A (informative) Recommended standard values of influence – Quantities affecting performance from IEC 60359 20

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EXPRESSION OF PERFORMANCE OF ELECTROCHEMICAL ANALYZERS –

Part 1: General

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60746-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 65D: Analysing equipment, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement and control.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1982 and constitutes a technical revision.

This bilingual version (2012-12) corresponds to the monolingual English version, published in 2003-01.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
65D/89A/FDIS	65D/93/RVD

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

The French version of this standard has not been voted upon.

For this second edition, the text has been changed to reflect revision and introduction of International Standards since 1982. An Informative Annex A has been introduced.

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

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The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2007. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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INTRODUCTION

This standard specifies the statements which manufacturers should make to describe analyzers so that users may compare the performance characteristics of any analyzer to their requirements. It includes the terminology and definitions of the terms to be used in such statements. It describes the tests that are applicable to all types of electrochemical analyzers, which may be used to determine these performance characteristics by either the manufacturer or the user.

This standard is applicable to electrochemical analyzers used for the determination of certain properties of (generally aqueous) solutions such as pH value, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen content, the concentration of specified ions and redox potential. Other standards in this series describe those aspects that are particular to specific types of analyzer, for example IEC 60746-2. It is in accordance with the general principles set out in IEC 60359 and takes into account documents specifying methods for evaluating performance, IEC 60770 and IEC 61298.

This standard is applicable to analyzers specified for installation in any location and to analyzers having either flow-through or immersible type sensors. It is applicable to the complete analyzer when supplied by one manufacturer as an integral unit comprised of all mechanical, electrical and electronic portions. It also applies to sensor units alone and electronic units alone when supplied separately or by different manufacturers. For the purposes of this standard, any regulator for mains-supplied power or any non-mains power supply, provided with the analyzer or specified by the manufacturer, is considered part of the analyzer whether it is integral with the analyzer or housed separately.

It does not apply to accessories used in conjunction with the analyzers, such as chart recorders or data acquisition systems. However, when multiple analyzers are combined and sold with a single electronic unit for measurements of several properties in parallel, that read-out unit is considered to be part of the analyzer. Similarly, e.m.f.-to-current or e.m.f.-to-pressure converters that are not an integral part of the analyzer are not included.

Safety requirements are dealt with in IEC 61010.

Standard ranges of analogue d.c. current and pneumatic signals used in process control systems are dealt within IEC 60381-1, and IEC 60382.

Specifications for values of influence quantities for the testing of performance characteristics can be found in IEC 60654-1 and methods of testing in IEC 60068.

Requirements for documentation to be supplied with instruments are dealt with in some National Standards and also IEC 61187.

General principles concerning quantities, units and symbols are dealt with in ISO 1000. See also ISO 31, Parts 0 to 13.

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EXPRESSION OF PERFORMANCE OF ELECTROCHEMICAL ANALYZERS –

Part 1: General

1 Scope

This standard is intended:

– to specify the terminology and definitions of terms related to the performance characteristics of electrochemical analyzers used for the continuous determination of certain aspects of (generally aqueous) solutions;

– to specify uniform methods to be used in making statements on the performance characteristics of such analyzers;

– to specify general test procedures to determine and verify the performance characteristics of electrochemical analyzers, taking into account the differences of approach in IEC documents specifying test methods (IEC 60359, IEC 60770, IEC 61298);

– to provide basic documents to support the application of standards of quality assurance: ISO 9001, ISO 9002 and ISO 9003.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60068-1, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60359:2001, *Electrical and electronic measurement equipment – Expression of performance*

IEC 60381-1, *Analogue signals for process control systems – Part 1: Direct current signals*

IEC 60382, *Analogue pneumatic signal for process control systems*

IEC 60654-1, *Industrial-process measurement and control equipment – Operating conditions – Part 1: Climatic conditions*

IEC 60770-1, *Transmitters for use in industrial-process control systems – Part 1: Methods for performance evaluation*

IEC 61298, *(all parts): Process measurement and control devices – General methods and procedures for evaluating performance*

ISO 9001, *Quality management systems – Requirements*

ISO 9002, *Quality systems – Model for quality assurance in production, installation and servicing*

ISO 9003, *Quality systems – Model for quality assurance in final inspection and test*

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3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply. These definitions are based on those in IEC 60359. Additional definitions from IEC 60770 are included for performance characteristics appropriate to electrochemical analyzers. The definitions have, in some cases, been clarified and directed towards relevance to electrochemical analyzers. The reconciliation of the quantities used to define performance characteristics in this document with those referred to in IEC 60359, IEC 60770 and IEC 61298 is discussed in clause 4.

3.1
electrochemical analyzer
measuring instrument that provides an indication of a specific property of a medium by use of a sensor which responds to ions from electrolytes (or ions generated from reactions with non-electrolytes) in that medium

NOTE The analyzer may comprise of separate parts, see below.

3.2
sensor
that part of the electrochemical analyzer (which may be a separate unit) which is in contact with the medium in which the property is to be measured

NOTE In general an electrical output related to that property of the sample which is to be measured is derived from this part of the analyzer. Examples of electrochemical sensors are: pH, ion-sensitive and redox potentiometric cells, dissolved oxygen cells, conductance cells.

3.3
electronic unit
device converting the electrical signal from the sensor to a defined, scaled, output signal

3.4
simulator
device which provides well-defined electrical properties similar to a specific type of sensor

NOTE It may therefore be used to determine the performance characteristics of the electronic unit alone. It must exhibit uncertainties that are negligible in comparison with the specifications of performance characteristics to be determined.

3.5
calibration solution
solution of known value of the property being measured, used for periodic calibration and for various performance tests.

NOTE 1 The value should be expressed in SI units compatible with ISO 31.

NOTE 2 For the purposes of this Standard, the value of this solution represents the conventional true value (see 3.8) against which the indicated value is compared.

NOTE 3 The values of calibration solutions should be traceable to reference material according to international or national standards, or agreed upon by the manufacturer and the user, and the uncertainty of the conventional true values shall be stated.

3.6
test solution
solution of approximately known value of the property being measured, which is stable in value over an extended period of time

3.7
true value
value of a quantity which is defined with no uncertainty.

NOTE The true value of a quantity is an ideal concept and, in general, cannot be known exactly.

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3.8
conventional true value
value approximating to the true value of a quantity such that, for the purpose for which that value is used, the difference between the two will be regarded as negligible

NOTE 1 Since the "true value" cannot be known exactly, for the sake of simplicity and where no ambiguity exists, the term "true value" may be used where the term "conventional true value" is meant.

NOTE 2 See 3.1.13 of IEC 60359.

3.9
performance characteristic
one of the quantities assigned to an apparatus in order to define its performance by values, tolerances, ranges, etc.

3.10
influence quantity
any quantity, which is not the subject of the measurement but which influences the indication of the measuring equipment

NOTE Influence quantities may interact in their effect on the measuring equipment.

3.11
variation
difference between the values indicated by an analyzer for the same value of the property being measured when a single influence quantity assumes successively two different values

3.12
rated value
value assigned to a performance characteristic of the analyzer by the manufacturer

NOTE See 3.3.8 of IEC 60359.

3.13
range
domain between the upper and lower limits of the quantity under consideration

NOTE 1 The term "range" is usually used with a modifier. It may apply to a performance characteristic or an influence quantity, etc. For example, the Rated Measuring Range is the set of values of the property to be measured, corresponding to the Output Signal Range of the analyzer (for example 4 mA - 20 mA, etc).

NOTE 2 See 3.3.2 of IE 60359.

3.14
span
difference between the upper and lower limits of the rated measuring range

3.15
performance
quality with which the intended functions of the equipment are accomplished

3.16
reference conditions
appropriate set of influence quantities, with reference values with their tolerances and reference ranges, with respect to which intrinsic uncertainty is specified

3.17
reference value
specified value of one of a set of reference conditions

NOTE A tolerance may be specified for a reference value.

3.18
reference range
specified range of values of one of a set of reference conditions

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3.19
specified operating range
range of values of a single influence quantity which forms part of the rated operating conditions

3.20
specified measuring range
set of values of the property to be measured for which the uncertainty of the analyzer is intended to lie within specified limits

NOTE 1 An instrument can have several specified measuring ranges.

NOTE 2 The specified measuring range can be smaller than the range of values which can be indicated, for example, on the scale.

NOTE 3 This term used to be known as “effective range”.

3.21
rated operating conditions
set of operating ranges for influence quantities and associated ranges of performance characteristics within which the variations of an analyzer are specified by the manufacturer

3.22
limit conditions of operation
extreme conditions which an operating instrument can withstand without resulting in damage or degradation of performance when it is afterwards operated under rated operating conditions

3.23
storage and transport conditions
extreme conditions which an non-operating instrument can withstand without resulting in damage or degradation of performance when it is afterwards operated under rated operating conditions

3.24
uncertainty (of measurement)
dispersion of values that may be attributed to the measured quantity

NOTE See 3.1.4 of IEC 60359.

3.25
intrinsic uncertainty
uncertainty when used under reference conditions (see 3.16)

NOTE See 3.1.10, 3.1.11, 3.1.12 of IEC 60359.

3.26
operating uncertainty
uncertainty when used under rated operating conditions (see 3.21)

NOTE See also 3.2.11 of IEC 60359.

3.27
relative uncertainty
ratio of the uncertainty to the conventional true value (when expressed in the same units)

NOTE See 3.3.4 of IEC 60359.

3.28
interference uncertainty
uncertainty caused by substances other than those affecting the measured property being present in the sample

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3.29
linearity uncertainty
maximum deviation between indicated values and a linear function of indicated value versus the true value of the property being measured, which includes indicated values near the upper and lower limits of the rated range

NOTE Linearity is a property of the electronic unit and may be verified with a simulator (see 3.4).

3.30
limits of uncertainty
maximum values of uncertainty assigned by the manufacturer to the indicated values of an analyzer operating under specified conditions

NOTE See 3.3.6 of IEC 60359.

3.31
repeatability
spread of the results of successive measurements at short intervals of time of identical test material, carried out by the same method, with the same measuring instruments, by the same observer, in the same laboratory, in unchanged environmental conditions and with no adjustments made by external means to the analyzer under test

NOTE 1 The spread of results should be included in the intrinsic uncertainty (see 3.25).

NOTE 2 A time interval equal to about ten times the 90 % response time of the analyzer may be considered a short interval between successive measurements.

3.32
hysteresis
difference in indicated values when the same value of the property being measured is applied but preceded by a lower then a higher value

NOTE If repeatability is specified or measured using approaches from both upscale and downscale direction, it may include an amount due to hysteresis, i.e., which is not a truly random event. However, the contribution may be considered to be random when the analyzer is to be applied to applications where the indicated value may be approached from either direction with equal probability.

3.33
drift
change of indication of an analyzer, for a given value of the property being measured, over a stated period of time, under reference conditions which remain constant and without any adjustment to the analyzer by external means

NOTE The rate of change of uncertainty with time should be derived by linear regression.

3.34
output fluctuation
peak-to-peak deviations of the output measured with constant input and constant influence quantities

3.35
minimum detectable change
change in value of the property to be measured equivalent to twice the output fluctuation

3.36
delay time, T_{10}
time interval from the instant a step change in the value of the property being measured occurs to the instant when the change in the indicated value passes (and remains beyond) 10 % of its steady-state amplitude difference. For cases where the rising delay time and falling delay time differ, the different delay times should be specified.

3.37
rise (fall) time, T_r, T_f
difference between the 90 % response time and delay time

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3.38
90 % response time, T_{90}
time interval from the instant a step change occurs in the value of the property being measured to the instant when the change in the indicated value passes (and remains beyond) 90 % of its steady-state amplitude difference, i.e., $T_{90} = T_{10} + T_r$(or T_f). For cases where the rising and falling response times differ, the different response times should be specified.

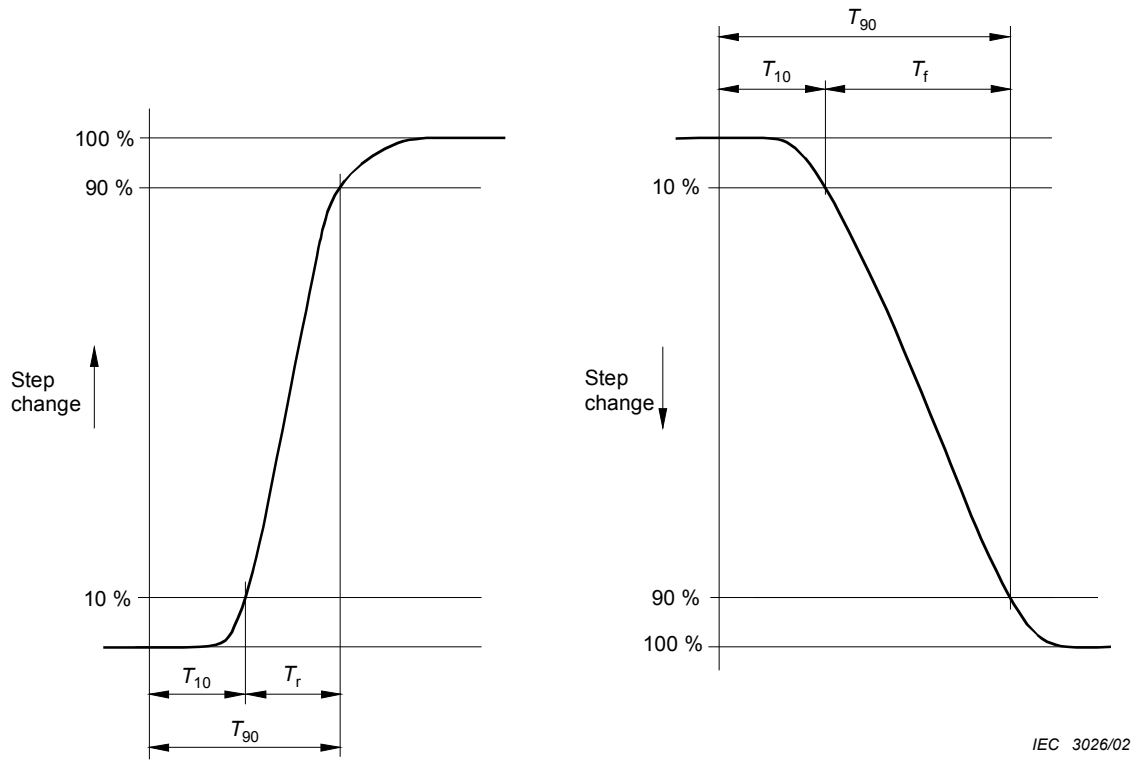

Figure 1 – Relationship between T_{10}, T_r, (T_f) and T_{90}

3.39
warm-up time
time interval after switching on the power, under reference conditions, necessary for a unit or analyzer to comply with and remain within specified limits of uncertainty

NOTE The limits of uncertainty may appropriately be specified equal to the rated intrinsic uncertainty.

4 Comparison of IEC Standards for Specification and Evaluation

The methods for specification of analyzer performance characteristics used by manufacturers should be compatible with methods for specification of performance requirements by users. For accurate comparison of manufacturers' specifications and users' requirements, the parameters used to define the performance characteristics of the equipment must be selected and defined identically.

An electrochemical sensor has particular characteristics primarily determined by chemical properties, and these can only be slightly modified by constructional techniques. Moreover, the sensor is directly exposed to a working fluid which can exert a range of influence factors on the sensor system. This is in contrast to the operation of the purely electrical measuring devices considered in many other related standards, where the signal is injected electrically into the instrument's circuits and the sensing of that signal is entirely internal. The approach to the determination and statement of performance characteristics used in 6.4.2 of IEC 60359 entitled *Limits of intrinsic instrumental uncertainty with variations for a single influence quantity* was selected as the best basis for defining the performance of electrochemical type analyzers. Therefore, requirements for statements in this document are generally given in

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accordance with that document, with some performance parameters and test methods based on IEC 60770.

Alternative approaches adopted in other IEC documents are summarized below, for comparison:

IEC 61298, Subclause 3.9: Maximum measured uncertainty

A non-statistical test of instrument conformity, where the maximum and minimum uncertainties are reported from a series of tests. This is particularly appropriate to batch tests where a limited series of tests should yield individual results within the limits of uncertainty specified for the rated operating conditions.

IEC 60770, Evaluating the performance of transmitters for use in industrial-process control systems

Procedures defined in this standard are closely aligned with those in IEC 60359. Both IEC 60359 and IEC 60770 are primarily directed to the evaluation of purely electrical (or pneumatic) systems. Procedures defined in the following clauses are from these two documents but take into account the chemical nature of the sensor. Definitions of terms have all been based on these documents.

5 Procedure for specification

5.1 Specification of values and ranges

Manufacturers specifying the performance of complete analyzers, sensor units or electronic units, shall give statements covering all quantities considered to be applicable performance characteristics.

These statements shall cover the aspects which will be described in the following subclauses.

5.2 General

5.2.1 The reference value (or range) and rated range of use for all influence quantities shall be stated. These should be selected from only one of the usage groups I, II or III in IEC 60359 (see Annex A) or may be from usage groups in IEC 60654-1. Any exceptions to the values given there shall be explicitly and clearly stated by the manufacturer with an indication that they are exceptions.

NOTE 1 The analyzers or electronic units may correspond to one group of rated ranges of use for environmental conditions and to another group for mains supply conditions, but this should be clearly stated by the manufacturer.

NOTE 2 When the sensor and electronic units are separate, the rated range for climatic conditions for the individual units may be different.

NOTE 3 Electrochemical analyzers frequently employ sensors containing or used to measure aqueous solutions, in which case the ambient temperature class I of IEC 60359 will be appropriate to prevent freezing in the sensor and sample lines.

5.2.2 Rated ranges of use shall be stated for sample conditions at the analyzer inlet for an on-line analyzer, or at the sensor unit for an insertion sensor type analyzer. These shall include flow rate (if appropriate), pressure and temperature, as well as the rated maximum rate of change for sample temperature.

5.2.3 The limit conditions of operation shall be stated such that the analyzer, while functioning, will show no damage or degradation of performance when any number of performance characteristics and/or influence quantities assume any value within the limit conditions of operation during a specified time, or, if not specified, for an unlimited time.

NOTE Absence of degradation of performance means that, after re-establishing reference conditions or rated operating conditions, the analyzer again satisfies the requirements concerning its performance.

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5.2.4 The limit conditions for storage or transport shall be stated such that the analyzer, while inoperative, will show no permanent damage or degradation of performance, when it has been subjected to conditions where any number of influence quantities assume any value within their storage or transport conditions during a specified time, or, if not specified, for an unlimited time.

NOTE Absence of degradation of performance means that, after re-establishing reference conditions or rated operating conditions, the analyzer again satisfies the requirements concerning its performance.

5.2.5 Constructional materials in contact with the sample shall be stated.

5.2.6 Unless the analyzer system is specified as a complete unit, the manufacturer shall state the values of parameters which are required to make any type of sensor unit(s) compatible with the electronic unit and type of electronics unit(s) compatible with the sensor unit[1]. The steps required to restore accurate operation within the original performance specification when replacing either the sensor unit or electronic unit shall be stated[2].

5.3 Performance characteristics requiring statements of rated values

5.3.1 The manufacturer shall state minimum and maximum rated values for the property to be measured (range or ranges).

5.3.2 Minimum and maximum rated values for output signals corresponding to the rated values as given in 5.3.1.

These signals shall be stated in units of voltage, current or pressure. If stated in units of voltage, the minimum allowable load, in ohms, shall be stated. If stated in units of current, the maximum allowable load, in ohms, shall be stated. If a capacitive or inductive load will influence the output signal, this shall be specified.

Where the analyzer or electronic unit has multiple outputs, the statements above should be made for all outputs.

If the output signal is an electrical current, see also IEC 60381-1; if it is pneumatic, see also IEC 60382.

5.4 Uncertainty limits to be stated for each specified range

These should be in accordance with 6.4.2 in IEC 60359. Wherever appropriate, statements shall be made of the uncertainty limits near the lower and upper ends of each analyzer range.

5.4.1 Limits of intrinsic uncertainty shall be stated for use under reference conditions in a manner which allows them to be inferred over the rated range.

For example:

"±*x* % of span"

"±0,1pH units"

"The greatest of ±*x* % of range or ±*y* % of true value"

"±1 display digit ±*y* % of true value"

5.4.2 For an analyzer or electronic unit, the linearity uncertainty shall be stated separately. Where a non-linear output is provided, the manufacturer shall accurately state the relationship between the output value and the measured parameter.

NOTE Deviation from linearity is strictly considered as an uncertainty only if a linear output is claimed. For analyzers having non-linear outputs, the term "conformity" may be used.

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1 For example: "sensor model XXX for use with electronics unit YYY".

2 For example: "when replacing the sensor unit, recalibrate the analyzer using calibration solutions ...", or "when replacing the electronics unit, enter the following parameters as data ...".

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5.4.3 The manufacturer shall state which possible sample components are known to have interference effects in the application under consideration, whether the interference is positive or negative and its magnitude. The choice of interfering components, their concentration levels and test methods may, where appropriate, be made by agreement between the manufacturer and the user except where other Parts of the IEC 60746 series state specific requirements.

5.4.4 The manufacturer shall state the repeatability and the basis on which it was calculated.

5.4.5 The drift shall be stated by the manufacturer for at least one time interval chosen from the list in 6.2.5. The time interval(s) chosen should be relevant to the intended application (see note of 6.2.5). The warm-up time is always excluded from the time interval.

5.5 Other performance characteristics

Although no statements of uncertainty limits are required for the performance characteristics listed below, the manufacturer shall state their values or ranges for each specified measuring range.

5.5.1 Output fluctuation.

5.5.2 Minimum detectable change.

5.5.3 Delay and 90 % response times for both upscale and downscale changes.

5.5.4 Warm-up time.

5.5.5 The quantitative effect on indicated value of the property to be measured produced by variation of the sample temperature.

NOTE This may be given as part of the statement of the rated operating conditions, in that at the limits of sample temperature, the specified maximum variation for this influence quantity has been reached.

5.5.6 The quantitative effects on indicated value of the property to be measured produced by changes in other influence quantities may not be known, but where there are reasons to believe simple coefficients exist, these should be stated for sample flow-rate, sample pressure and ambient temperature.

NOTE These may be given as part of the statement of the rated operating conditions, in that at the limits of the influence quantities, the specified maximum variations have been reached.

6 Verification of values

In order to determine or verify the rated values stated by the manufacturer, uniform test procedures are necessary. These will enable the statements made with respect to different analyzers for similar applications to be strictly comparable. It will also enable the user to demonstrate compliance of an analyzer with his performance requirements fairly and by similar means to those which the manufacturer used to determine its rated performance. This clause gives general test procedures to determine the values of the various performance characteristics defined. Later parts of the IEC 60746 series will give more specific procedures appropriate to particular types of analyzer. In the case of special circumstances, where these tests are not appropriate, additional test procedures may be agreed upon between manufacturer and user.

6.1 General

6.1.1 Tests shall be performed with the analyzer (including accessories) ready for use after warm-up time and after performing all necessary adjustments according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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6.1.2 Unless otherwise specified, the influence quantities shall be at reference conditions during the tests concerned and during the tests, the analyzer shall be supplied with its rated voltage and frequency.

6.1.3 The sensor shall be in optimal condition as specified by the manufacturer. The flow conditions and other relevant influence factors (sample flow-rate, pressure, temperature, etc.) at the sensor shall be according to the manufacturer's instructions.

6.1.4 When measuring the intrinsic uncertainty, the combination of values and/or ranges of influence quantities shall remain within the reference conditions which include relevant tolerances on reference values.

6.1.5 When measuring variation of a performance characteristic due to an influence quantity, all other quantities shall remain within reference conditions. The value of the property to be measured in the test solution applied and the range of the influence quantity may assume any value within their rated operating ranges.

6.1.6 During tests, adjustments by external means may be repeated at the intervals prescribed by the manufacturer or at any suitable interval, if such adjustment does not interfere with the uncertainty to be checked.

Adjustments shall also be performed when uncertainty values have expressly been quoted to be valid only after such adjustment. Measurements shall be made immediately after such adjustment so that any drift will not influence them.

6.1.7 In principle, the uncertainties in measurements made with test instruments should be negligible in comparison with the uncertainties to be determined. Refer to local standards defining quality assurance procedures and also 6.1.8.

6.1.8 When the uncertainty of any test instrument is not negligible, the following rule should apply:

If an analyzer is tested against a reference instrument which has a known uncertainty n and the uncertainty determined is n_1 the actual uncertainty e of the analyzer shall be stated as $e = n_1 - n$. If the performance of the analyzer is subsequently checked by another party using a test instrument with a known uncertainty m and the uncertainty determined is m_1, it may only legitimately be claimed that this indicates that the analyzer is not exhibiting its stated performance if $m_1 - m > e$.

NOTE The above represents a very simplistic treatment of uncertainty based on consideration of instrument systematic uncertainty only. In order to be completely rigorous in the treatment of claimed uncertainties and deviations from stated performance, strict statistical examination of the results would be necessary. This would probably require calculation of t or f test parameters and the use of statistical tables to demonstrate the significance of the claims.

6.1.9 Test equipment shall include all of the necessary test solutions (see 3.5, 3.6)

6.1.10 Test equipment shall also include appropriate simulators for testing electronic units in those cases where such units are supplied separately from sensor units. In these cases, 6.1.7 and 6.1.8 apply to the simulators. Specifications for appropriate simulators vary from one type of analyzer to another and are located in the other Parts of the IEC 60746 series dealing with specific analyzers

NOTE Sensor units supplied separately are tested with suitable calibration or test solutions (see 3.5, 3.6), using an appropriate electronic unit, which may be that of the considered analyzer, provided it has been previously tested.

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