
International Standard



7829

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Photography — Black-and-white aerial camera films — Determination of ISO speed and average gradient

*Photographie — Films noir et blanc pour photographie aérienne — Détermination de la sensibilité et du contraste moyen ISO
«Aviation»*

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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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 7829 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 42, *Photography*.

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.

Photography — Black-and-white aerial camera films — Determination of ISO speed and average gradient

0 Introduction

ISO was requested to develop a method for measuring speed and average gradient of black-and-white negative camera film-process combinations used in aerial photography because of the incompatibility of various existing standards; the aim being to create an International Standard that would incorporate the most important features of these standards.

Changes in aerial photography over the last 10 years, particularly those related to the increased use of mechanized processing, has made it necessary to eliminate the processing restrictions present in some of the existing standards in order to provide the user with realistic ISO speed and average gradient values.

Assigning speed values to aerial films presents problems. Aerial films are required to record or even amplify the small variations in luminance that exist when the earth is viewed from altitudes of several kilometres or as low as 20 to 30 m where the luminance range may be of the same order as that of ordinary ground photography. In the first case, the films are developed to a high average gradient or contrast; and in the second case, to a very low average gradient. In addition to the factor of elevation (slant range), the luminance range of the subject matter may be further modified by aerial haze, solar altitude, and contrast (ratio of sunlight to skylight). Modifying the processing of a given aerial film, or the selection of film emulsions having certain preferred gradation characteristics, are methods commonly used for obtaining optimum information.

Since there is no ideal, "gamma", "average gradient", or any other characteristics that can be ascribed to an aerial film for all applications, no single contrast or degree of development as a measure of film contrast is specified in this International Standard for determining film speed. Therefore, it is possible for a film to have several speed and average gradient values assigned to it depending on the processing conditions.

At the present time, there are a number of processing methods that can be used for aerial films. Some of them are difficult to define or may not be representative of all conditions under which aerial films will be processed. Most standards for determining the speed of aerial films specify a single process for determining speed, but the values obtained are of limited use and are seldom used due to lack of correlation with practical applications.

In recognition of these factors, this International Standard does not specify the processing conditions, but provides a method for measuring the speed of various film-process combinations; this means that a description of both the film and process used shall be given when quoting ISO speed values. Therefore, a single film product may have several speed values associated with it depending not only on the extent of development in a particular process, but also on the type of developer, machine, etc., used. The density at which the speed is calculated is 0,30 above base plus fog which is considered a compromise between minimizing the influence of contrast variations on speed and the minimum density to which aerial films are exposed.

A method for determining the ISO aerial average gradient is also described in this International Standard. Since ISO aerial speed is dependent on the extent of development, it is suggested the ISO average gradient values be provided whenever ISO speed is given, for example, ISO A640/ $\bar{G}$ 1.6. It should however, be recognized that other characteristics such as fog, image quality, etc. may also be affected by the extent of development.

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies the method for determining the ISO aerial speed and ISO aerial average gradient of black-and-white negative camera film-process combinations used in aerial photography.

This International Standard does not apply to infrared aerial films.

2 References

ISO 5, *Photography — Density measurements*

- Part 2 : *Geometric conditions for transmission density.*
- Part 3 : *Spectral conditions.*

ISO 554, *Standard atmospheres for conditioning and/or testing — Specifications.*

CIE Publication No. 15 (E-1.3.1.) 1971, *Colorimetry*

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard the following definitions apply.

3.1 exposure, *H* : The time integral of illuminance on the film measured in lux seconds and designated by the symbol *H*.

NOTE — Exposure is often expressed in log₁₀*H* units.

3.2 speed : A quantitative measure of the response of the photographic film-process combination to radiant energy for the specified conditions of exposure, processing, and image measurement.

3.3 average gradient : The slope of the straight line joining two points on a sensitometric curve.

4 Sampling and storage

In determining the ISO speed of a product, it is important that the samples evaluated yield the average results obtained by users. This will require evaluating several different batches periodically under the conditions specified in this International Standard. Prior to evaluation, the samples shall be stored according to the manufacturers' recommendations for a length of time to simulate the average age at which the product is normally used. Several independent evaluations shall be made to ensure the proper calibration of equipment and processes. The basic objective in selecting and storing samples as described above is to ensure the film characteristics are representative of those obtained by a photographer at the time of use.

5 Method of test

5.1 Principle

Samples are exposed and processed as specified below. Density measurements are obtained from the resultant image to

produce a sensitometric curve from which values are taken and used to determine ISO aerial speed and ISO aerial average gradient values.

5.2 Safelights

To eliminate the possibility of safelight illumination affecting the sensitometric results, all films shall be handled in complete darkness during exposing and processing.

5.3 Exposure

5.3.1 Sample condition

During exposure, the samples shall be at a temperature of 23 ± 2°C and a relative humidity of 50 ± 5 %. This is the recommended atmosphere and normal tolerances specified in ISO 554 for test results.

5.3.2 Type of sensitometer

The sensitometer shall be a non-intermittent, illuminance-scale type.

5.3.3 Radiant energy quality

5.3.3.1 Relative spectral power distribution

The relative spectral power distribution of the illuminant shall be as specified in table 1. These values were derived by multiplying the relative spectral power distribution values for *D*₆₀ by the transmittance values, *τ*, of an ISO standard aerial camera lens.

5.3.3.2 Filters

ISO speed shall be specified for use without a filter in front of the camera lens. If film is used with a colour filter in front of the camera lens, an "equivalent" speed number can be used to

Table 1 — Relative spectral power distribution of ISO sensitometric aerial daylight

Wavelength, <i>λ</i>	Relative spectral power distribution of aerial photographic daylight	Relative lens transmittance	International standard sensitometric aerial photographic daylight illuminant	
(nm)	<i>D</i> ₆₀ *	<i>τ</i>	Relative** power	Tolerances
350	35	0	0	0 to +2
400	71	26	18	16 to 22
450	106	70	74	69 to 83
500	103	89	92	85 to 103
550	102	98	100	0
600	90	99	89	83 to 98
650	82	99	81	74 to 90
700	75	98	74	67 to 82
750	66	96	63	58 to 71

* This is the CIE Standard illuminant representing a phase of daylight with a correlated colour temperature of 6 003 K normalized to 102 at 550 nm.

** This relative power distribution may be approximated by the use of a 2 854 K tungsten source, an appropriate daylight conversion filter (for example Corning filter 5900 or equivalent) and a heat absorbing filter.