



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO RECOMMENDATION

R 689

MICROCOPIES
LEGIBILITY TESTS

DESCRIPTION AND USE OF THE ISO MICROMIRE (ISO micro test object)
FOR CHECKING A READING APPARATUS

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BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 689, *Microcopies – Legibility tests – Description and use of the ISO micromire (ISO micro test object) for checking a reading apparatus*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Documentation*, the Secretariat of which is held by the Deutscher Normenausschuss (DNA).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1951 and led, in 1963, to the adoption of a Draft ISO Recommendation.

In April 1964, this Draft ISO Recommendation (No. 648) was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies :

Argentina	France	Norway
Australia	Germany	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Canada	India	Romania
Chile	Ireland	Spain
Colombia	Italy	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Japan	United Kingdom
Denmark	Korea, Rep. of	U.S.A.
Finland	New Zealand	U.S.S.R.

No Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft.

The Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council which decided, in March 1968, to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

MICROCOPIES LEGIBILITY TESTS

DESCRIPTION AND USE OF THE ISO MICROMIRE (ISO micro test object) FOR CHECKING A READING APPARATUS

SCOPE

This ISO Recommendation describes the characteristics and use of the ISO micromire (ISO micro test object), referred to in clause 4.3.3 of ISO Recommendation R 435, *ISO Conventional typographical character for legibility tests (ISO character)*.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ISO MICROMIRE (ISO MICRO TEST OBJECT)

1.1 Micromire element

An ISO micromire element is essentially a 1/10 scale reduction of ISO mires as defined in ISO Recommendation R 446, *Microcopies – Legibility tests – Description of the ISO mire (ISO test object) and its use in photographic document reproduction*.

1.1.1 The ISO mires, before 1/10 scale reduction, are arranged as shown in Figure 1, page 4.

1.1.2 The adopted radiant and diagonal arrangement has the advantage of permitting the study of legibility as a function of the distance from the centre.

1.1.3 The numbers identifying the face sizes are in thousandths of a millimetre.

1.1.4 The background of the micromire (micro test object) is squared and referenced to permit positioning, if required.

1.2 Micromire (micro test object)

A micromire (micro test object) consists of two micromire elements arranged side by side on a 35 mm microfilm strip of 230 mm length, as shown in Figure 2, page 5.

1.2.1 A micromire (micro test object) is either positive or negative with, in both cases, the following silver image densities, (measured under white directional light, 2900 to 3000 °K) :

negative	blacks	: 1.6 ± 0.3
	whites	: 0.05 ± 0.02
positive	blacks	: 1.6 ± 0.3
	whites	: 0.05 ± 0.02

1.2.2 A micromire (micro test object) may be described as an *ISO micromire* (ISO micro test object) only if it complies in every respect with this ISO Recommendation and if a qualified laboratory has verified that it provides in every respect a correct reproduction of the ISO mire test *characters*.

1.2.3 The strip with the micromire (micro test object) should show reference marks of the laboratory that made it.