

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**Fibre optic sensors -
Part 1-4: Strain measurement - Distributed sensing based on Rayleigh scattering**



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED
Copyright © 2025 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

IEC Secretariat
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

IEC publications search -

webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee, ...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

IEC Customer Service Centre - webstore.iec.ch/csc

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: sales@iec.ch.

IEC Products & Services Portal - products.iec.ch

Discover our powerful search engine and read freely all the publications previews, graphical symbols and the glossary. With a subscription you will always have access to up to date content tailored to your needs.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 500 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 25 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	5
1 Scope	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms, definitions, abbreviated terms, and symbols	6
3.1 Terms and definitions	6
3.2 Abbreviated terms	10
3.3 Symbols	11
4 General test setup for measurement of performance parameters	11
4.1 General and test setup requirements	11
4.2 General documentation requirements	15
5 Measurement procedures for performance parameters	16
5.1 Strain measurement error	16
5.1.1 Test procedure and conditions	16
5.1.2 Parameter calculation and reporting	16
5.2 Spatial resolution	16
5.2.1 Test procedure and conditions	16
5.2.2 Parameter calculation and reporting	17
5.3 Strain repeatability	18
5.3.1 Test procedure and conditions	18
5.3.2 Parameter calculation and reporting	18
5.4 Spatial strain uncertainty	19
5.4.1 Test procedure and conditions	19
5.4.2 Parameter calculation and reporting	19
5.5 Warm-up time	19
5.5.1 Test procedure and conditions	19
5.5.2 Parameter calculation and reporting	20
5.6 System performance with altered attenuation	20
5.6.1 General	20
5.6.2 Long distance measurement	21
5.6.3 Short distance measurement with high loss	22
Annex A (informative) Application area of Rayleigh-based distributed strain measurements	24
Annex B (informative) Strain measurement using cross correlation of Rayleigh scattering	25
Bibliography	27
Figure 1 – Optical fibre strain profile and related strain sample points	8
Figure 2 – General test setup for a single-ended configuration	12
Figure 3 – Measured versus applied strain (typical curve)	14
Figure 4 – Rayleigh frequency shift as a function of elongation of a single-mode fibre	14
Figure 5 – Illustration of spatial resolution test results	17

Figure 6 – Performance evaluation at distance measurement range.....	21
Figure 7 – Performance evaluation at short distance with high loss.....	22
Figure B.1 – Strain measurement obtained from two Rayleigh scattering spectra measured with the OTDR technique.....	25

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**Fibre optic sensors -
Part 1-4: Strain measurement -
Distributed sensing based on Rayleigh scattering**

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s), which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at <https://patents.iec.ch>. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

IEC 61757-1-4 has been prepared by subcommittee 86C: Fibre optic systems, sensing and active devices, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics. It is an International Standard.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
86C/1972/CDV	86C/1995/RVC

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

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61757 series, published under the general title *Fibre optic sensors*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

INTRODUCTION

This document is part of the IEC 61757 series, which is dedicated to fibre optic sensors. Generic specifications for fibre optic sensors are defined in IEC 61757.

The individual parts of the IEC 61757 series are numbered as IEC 61757- M - T , where M denotes the measurand and T the technology of the fibre optic sensor. The IEC 61757-1- T series is concerned with strain measurements.

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61757 defines the terminology, structure, and measurement methods of distributed fibre optic sensors for absolute strain measurements based on spectral correlation analysis of Rayleigh backscattering signatures in single-mode fibres, where the fibre is the distributed strain measurement element in a measurement range from about 10 m to tens of km. This document also applies to hybrid sensor systems that combine the advantages of Brillouin and Rayleigh backscattering effects to obtain optimal measurement quality.

This document also specifies the most important features and performance parameters of these distributed fibre optic strain sensors and defines procedures for measuring these features and parameters.

This part of IEC 61757 does not apply to point measurements or to dynamic strain measurements. Distributed strain measurements using Brillouin scattering in single-mode fibres are covered in IEC 61757-1-2.

The most relevant applications of this strain measurement technique are listed in Annex A, while Annex B provides a short description of the underlying measurement principle.

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.

IEC 61757, *Fibre optic sensors - Generic specification*

IEC 61757-1-2:2023, *Fibre optic sensors - Part 1-2: Strain measurement - Distributed sensing based on Brillouin scattering*.

IEC 61757-2-2, *Fibre optic sensors - Part 2-2: Temperature measurement - Distributed sensing*

IEC 61757-3-2, *Fibre optic sensors - Part 3-2: Acoustic sensing and vibration measurement - Distributed sensing*

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

Bibliography

IEC 60869-1, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components - Fibre optic passive power control devices - Part 1: Generic specification*

IEC 60793-2-50, *Optical fibres - Part 2-50: Product specifications - Sectional specification for class B single-mode fibres*
