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Part 302-1: Equipment – Inkjet – Imaging based measurement of jetting speed**

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	5
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Inkjet jetting speed measurement	7
4.1 General.....	7
4.2 Process for measurement of drop delivery speed (method 1)	7
4.3 Process for measuring instantaneous jetting speed using single flash mode (method 2)	8
4.4 Process for instantaneous jetting speed curve (method 3)	9
4.5 Process for measurement of instantaneous jetting speed using double flash (method 4)	9
Annex A (informative) Additional information on inkjet measurement methods	11
A.1 Vision-based measurement hardware	11
A.2 Flash imaging	11
A.2.1 General	11
A.2.2 Single event imaging	11
A.2.3 Multiple event imaging	11
A.3 Analysis method 2 (instantaneous jetting speed using single flash).....	12
A.4 Analysis method 3 (instantaneous jetting speed curve)	13
A.5 Analysis method 4 (instantaneous jetting speed using double flash)	15
A.6 Recorded operating parameters for drop speed measurements.....	16
Bibliography.....	18
Figure A.1 – Vision measurement method.....	11
Figure A.2 – Two different trigger delays for two images	12
Figure A.3 – Jetting speed measurements using two images	12
Figure A.4 – Droplet locations in a droplet image	13
Figure A.5 – Drop formation measurement.....	14
Figure A.6 – Double flash using single jetting trigger.....	15
Figure A.7 – Jetting speed measurement using double flash method	16

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

Inkjet technology uses micro nozzles to precisely eject droplets. For printing, these droplets are patterned on a substrate. Inkjet is a mature technology that has been used widely in home, commercial, and industrial applications. When using inkjet technology, the volume of a droplet can be controlled down to the tenth of a picoliter (pL). Furthermore, the droplet can be placed onto the substrate with an accuracy of micrometers (μm). Because of these features and others, inkjet technology has emerged as one of the most powerful tools for patterning electronic devices, medical dispensing, high precision industrial applications, and more. Inkjet patterning for electronics is an additive process wherein the addition of multiple layers of the pattern does not require the removal of any previously deposited material, unlike the conventional photolithography process. Inkjet also reduces waste when used in more traditional printing applications and when it is used for dispensing. As a result, inkjet technology significantly reduces waste of what are often very expensive materials and is also more environmentally friendly.

As applications for inkjet broaden, a wider variety of jetting materials should be dispensed precisely from inkjet heads. For both new and traditional applications, droplet behaviour from the inkjet head should be measured properly to evaluate and control jetting behaviour. Vision-based measurement techniques are widely used in inkjet-based manufacturing systems, since physical insight into jetting behaviour can be obtained from visual images. The droplet jetting speed and droplet volume are the most frequently measured jetting performance parameters obtained from droplet images.

Using information obtained from vision-based measurement systems about inkjet droplet formation and characteristics, developers can adjust ink formulations and jetting parameters, in order to improve performance.

Note, however, that the measured jet performance and evaluation may vary considerably according to the measurement method since there is no standard measurement procedure available. It may be difficult for process engineers to judge the data sheets of jet performance provided by ink and inkjet head manufacturers since there are no fair test methods, thus causing potentially untrustworthy results. Therefore, the purpose of this document is to provide a standard inkjet measurement method.

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1 Scope

This part of IEC 62899 specifies the method for determining inkjet drop speed based on visualized droplet images obtained by a drop analysis system. This measurement standardization is limited to drop-on-demand-type of inkjet and is not applicable to continuous inkjet. This document includes the test process, image processing software algorithm, and analysis of jetting behavior.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.