

# TECHNICAL REPORT

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**Guidance for the interpretation of OTDR backscattering traces for single-mode fibres**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	3
INTRODUCTION .....	5
1 Scope .....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms .....	6
3.1 Terms and definitions .....	6
3.2 Abbreviated terms .....	6
4 Backscattering phenomenon .....	6
4.1 Rayleigh scattering .....	6
4.2 Fresnel reflections and dead zone fibres .....	7
5 Measurement of the backscattered power (OTDR) .....	7
5.1 General .....	7
5.2 Representation of the backscattered power .....	8
5.3 Noise and perturbations .....	8
6 Interpretation of a backscattering trace .....	9
6.1 General .....	9
6.2 Launch cord .....	9
6.3 Tail cord .....	9
6.4 Unidirectional trace .....	10
6.4.1 General .....	10
6.4.2 Slope as the attenuation coefficient of a fibre .....	10
6.4.3 Impurity and discontinuity .....	11
6.4.4 Pulse width .....	11
6.4.5 Polarization effects .....	11
6.5 Bi-directional trace .....	12
6.5.1 General .....	12
6.5.2 Attenuation uniformity .....	14
6.5.3 MFD uniformity .....	15
6.6 Splice loss evaluation .....	16
6.6.1 General .....	16
6.6.2 Event measurement methods .....	16
6.6.3 Apparent losers and gainers .....	18
6.6.4 Example of apparent splice loss evaluation for uni-directional OTDR measurements .....	21
7 Uncertainties, deviation and resolution .....	23
7.1 General .....	23
7.2 Attenuation coefficient measurements .....	23
7.3 Fault locations .....	23
Bibliography .....	26
Figure 1 – Unidirectional OTDR trace showing splice and/or macrobend loss .....	9
Figure 2 – Idealized unidirectional OTDR traces corresponding to a non-reflective splice between two fibres .....	16
Figure 3 – OTDR traces for similar or different fibre types with either different MFD or different backscatter properties, or both .....	18

Figure 4 – Loss in unidirectional OTDR measurements as function of the MFD difference between two spliced fibres .....	19
Figure 5 – Theoretical power through splice loss due to MFD difference (with $\Omega_1 = 9 \mu\text{m}$ ) .....	20
Figure 6 – Apparent cumulative unidirectional backscattering mismatch distribution for six splice combinations of B-652 and B-657 reported in Table 1.....	22
Figure 7 – Schematic drawing of a fibre with two consecutive defects 1 and 2 .....	24
Table 1 – Summary for six fibre splice combinations of B-652 and B-657 based on popular 1 310 nm MFD fibre distributions.....	21

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IEC TR 62316 has been prepared by subcommittee 86A: Fibres and cables, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics. It is a Technical Report.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2017. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) update of the fibre types;
- b) addition of information as regards attenuation uniformity.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
86A/2621/DTR	86A/2643/RVDTR

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 Technical Report 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](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

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- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

## INTRODUCTION

This document is a guide for the interpretation of OTDR backscattering traces for single mode fibres. It does not provide any normative reference, but adequate measurement and test procedures for attenuation (see IEC 60793-1-40 [1]<sup>1</sup> and IEC 61280-4-2 [2]), connector inspection (see IEC 61300-3-35 [3]), as well as for calibration of single mode fibre OTDRs (see IEC 61746-1 [4]) that are applied to ensure the validity of such measurements.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography

## **1 Scope**

This document provides guidance on the interpretation of backscattering traces, as obtained by traditional optical time domain reflectometers (OTDRs) for single-mode fibres.

This document does not cover Polarization OTDRs.

Also, backscattered power effects are discussed in case of unidirectional trace.

Full description of the test measurement procedure can be found in Annex C of IEC 60793-1-40:2024 [1].

## **2 Normative references**

There are no normative references in this document.