
**Information technology — Biometric
sample quality —**

**Part 6:
Iris image data**

*Technologies de l'information — Qualité d'échantillon biométrique —
Partie 6: Image d'iris*



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Contents

	Page
Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Conformance	1
3 Normative references	2
4 Terms and definitions	2
5 Acronyms and abbreviated terms	3
6 Iris image quality metrics	3
6.1 General	3
6.2 Required iris image quality metrics computed from a single image	4
6.2.1 Usable iris area	4
6.2.2 Iris-sclera contrast	5
6.2.3 Iris-pupil contrast	6
6.2.4 Pupil boundary circularity	7
6.2.5 Grey scale utilisation	8
6.2.6 Iris radius	8
6.2.7 Pupil dilation	9
6.2.8 Iris pupil concentricity	9
6.2.9 Margin adequacy	10
6.2.10 Sharpness	12
6.3 Recommended iris image quality metrics computed from a single image	13
6.3.1 Frontal gaze-elevation	13
6.3.2 Frontal gaze-azimuth	13
6.3.3 Motion blur	15
6.4 Iris image quality metrics computed from two images	15
6.4.1 Common usable iris area	15
6.4.2 Dilation constancy	15
6.4.3 Illumination similarity	16
6.5 Unified (overall) quality score	16
6.5.1 General	16
6.5.2 Computational method	16
7 Iris acquisition quality	17
7.1 General	17
7.2 Dedicated illumination	17
7.2.1 Description	17
7.2.2 Units of measure	17
7.2.3 Computational method	18
7.2.4 Value range/threshold	18
7.3 Modulation transfer function	18
7.3.1 Description	18
7.3.2 Units of measure	18
7.3.3 Computational method	18
7.3.4 Value range/threshold	18
7.4 Spatial sampling rate	18
7.4.1 Description	18
7.4.2 Units of measure	19
7.4.3 Computational method	19
7.4.4 Value range/threshold	19
7.5 Optical distortion	19
7.6 Pixel aspect ratio	19
7.6.1 Description	19
7.6.2 Units of measure	19

7.6.3	Computational method.....	19
7.6.4	Value range/threshold.....	19
7.7	Sensor signal-to-noise ratio.....	19
7.7.1	Description.....	19
7.7.2	Units of measure.....	19
7.7.3	Computational method.....	20
7.7.4	Value range/threshold.....	20
8	Iris image quality data record	20
8.1	Binary encoding.....	20
8.2	XML encoding.....	22
Annex A (normative) Conformance test assertions.....		24
Annex B (informative) Iris image quality		25
Bibliography		29

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, SC 37, *Biometrics*.

ISO/IEC 29794 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Biometric sample quality*:

- *Part 1: Framework*
- *Part 4: Finger image data*
- *Part 5: Face image data* (Technical Report)
- *Part 6: Iris image data*

ISO/IEC 29794 will be prepared to accommodate new, additional parts that address other modalities specified by ISO/IEC 19794, with part numbers and titles aligning appropriately.

Introduction

The assessment of biometric sample quality through the calculation of quality metrics can be used to predict the resulting identification accuracy in the framework of a given biometric system. With proper use, quality metrics can enhance the functionality of a biometric system. For example they can provide feedback regarding the integrity of collected biometric data during the enrolment or identification process.

The purpose of this part of ISO/IEC 29794 is to define terms and quantitative methodologies relevant to characterizing the quality of iris images and to assess their potential for high confidence biometric match decisions.

ISO/IEC 19784-1 and ISO/IEC 19785-1 standards allocate a quality field and specify a quality score range applicable to iris images with a qualitative foundation. ISO/IEC 19794-6 includes an informative annex covering the subject of iris image capture and provides image quality guidelines. However, these International Standards do not contain specific content to guide the quantitative formation of iris image quality metrics or the interpretations of such metrics. This part of ISO/IEC 29794 establishes required ranges of covariate values where definitive empirical data exists to justify such ranges. In other cases, ranges of covariate values are specified as non-normative recommendations.

This part of ISO/IEC 29794 is structured as follows. The first five Clauses state Scope, Conformance, Normative references, Terms and definitions, and Acronyms. [Clause 6](#) specifies a set of quality metrics for assessing the quality of iris images. Some of the metrics are declared as normative, as their impacts on recognition rates have been quantified, while others are only informative, allowing their use as they may provide valuable information for further stages in the biometric system. Some of the metrics in [Clause 6](#) are applicable to the analysis of single images, while others are applicable to assessing the utility of a given pair of images for mutual comparison.

[Clause 7](#) is dedicated to provide guidance to acquisition device manufacturers by defining quality parameters that shall be considered for generating conformant iris images.

[Clause 8](#) establishes encoding of the iris image quality data record.

Information technology — Biometric sample quality —

Part 6: Iris image data

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 29794 establishes

- methods used to quantify the quality of iris images,
- normative requirements on software and hardware producing iris images,
- normative requirements on software and hardware measuring the utility of iris images,
- terms and definitions for quantifying iris image quality, and
- standardized encoding of iris image quality.

Outside the scope is

- performance evaluation of specific iris quality assessment algorithms.

2 Conformance

An iris image shall be of sufficient utility if the measurements required by 6.2.X.3 satisfy the valid range/thresholds specified in 6.2.X.4.

A pair of images of an iris shall be of sufficient utility if the pair conforms to the requirements of 6.4. Specifically, they shall satisfy valid range/thresholds specified in 6.4.X.4 using computation method specified in 6.4.X.3.

An iris image quality record shall conform to this part of ISO/IEC 29794 if its structure and data values conform to the formatting requirements of [Clause 8](#) (Iris image quality data record) and its quality values are computed using the methods specified in 6.2.X.3. Conformance to the normative requirements of [Clause 8](#) fulfils Level 1 and Level 2 conformance as specified in ISO/IEC 19794-1:2011, Annex A. Conformance to the normative requirements of [Clause 6.2.X.3](#) is Level 3 conformance as specified in ISO/IEC 19794-1:2011, Annex A.

An iris acquisition device shall conform to this part of ISO/IEC 29794 if it conforms to the normative requirements of [Clause 7](#).

Computation of the utility of an iris image shall conform to the requirements of [6.2](#), specifically the computation methods described in 6.2.X.3. Computation of the utility of the pair of images shall be assessed per normative requirements of [6.4](#), specifically the computation methods described in 6.4.X.3.

If an implementation of the metrics in this part of ISO/IEC 29794 reports an unacceptable (low) quality value for one or more quality metrics, another image of the subject should be re-captured. This should be repeated until

- a fully conformant image has been acquired, or
- it is determined that repeated acquisitions will not yield a sufficient quality (e.g., correct enrolment) within the application time constraint. In this case, one unacceptable image is chosen and retained as the best possible candidate.

3 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 19794-1:2011, *Information technology — Biometric data interchange formats — Part 1: Framework*

ISO/IEC 19794-6:2011, *Information technology — Biometric data interchange formats — Part 6: Iris image data*

ISO/IEC 29794-1, *Information technology — Biometric sample quality—Part 1: Framework*