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Particle size analysis — Dynamic light scattering (DLS)

Analyse granulométrique — Dispersion lumineuse dynamique (DLD)

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 24, *Particle characterization including sieving*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Particle characterization*.

This second edition of ISO 22412 cancels and replaces ISO 22412:2008 and ISO 13321:1996.

Introduction

Particle size analysis in the submicrometre size range is performed on a routine basis using the dynamic light scattering (DLS) method, which probes the hydrodynamic mobility of the particles. The success of the technique is mainly based on the fact that it provides estimates of the average particle size and size distribution within a few minutes, and that user-friendly commercial instruments are available. Nevertheless, proper use of the instrument and interpretation of the result require certain precautions.

Several methods have been developed for DLS. These methods can be classified in several ways:

a) by the difference in raw data acquisition (autocorrelation, cross-correlation and frequency analysis);

b) by the difference in optical setup (homodyne versus heterodyne mode);

c) by the angle of observation.

In addition, instruments show differences with respect to the type of laser source and often allow application of different data analysis algorithms (e.g. cumulants, NNLS, CONTIN, etc.).