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FINAL VERSION

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Magnetic materials –
Part 15: Methods for the determination of the relative magnetic permeability of feebly magnetic materials

Matériaux magnétiques –
Partie 15: Méthodes de détermination de la perméabilité magnétique relative des matériaux faiblement magnétiques

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MAGNETIC MATERIALS –

Part 15: Methods for the determination of the relative magnetic permeability of feebly magnetic materials

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This Consolidated version of IEC 60404-15 bears the edition number 1.1. It consists of the first edition (2012-09) [documents 68/442/FDIS and 68/443/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2016-12) [documents 68/531/CDV and 68/544/RVC]. The technical content is identical to the base edition and its amendment.

This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.

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International Standard IEC 60404-15 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 68: Magnetic alloys and steels.

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

A list of all the parts in the IEC 60404 series, under the general title *Magnetic materials*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
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INTRODUCTION

The determination of the relative magnetic permeability of feebly magnetic materials is often required to assess their effect on the ambient magnetic field. Typical feebly magnetic materials are austenitic stainless steels and "non-magnetic" brass.

The relative magnetic permeability of some of these materials can vary significantly with the applied magnetic field strength. In the majority of cases, these materials find application in the ambient earth's magnetic field. This field in Europe is 35 A/m to 40 A/m, in the far East, it is 25 A/m to 35 A/m and in North America, it is 25 A/m to 35 A/m. However, at present, methods of measurement are not available to determine the relative magnetic permeability of feebly magnetic materials at such a low value of magnetic field strength.

Studies of the properties of feebly magnetic materials have been carried out, primarily with a view to the production of improved reference materials. These studies have shown [11][1] that it is possible to produce reference materials which have a substantially constant relative magnetic permeability over the range from the earth's magnetic field to at least a magnetic field strength of 100 kA/m.

Since conventional metallic materials can also be used as reference materials their relative magnetic permeability can be determined using the reference method. It is important that the magnetic field strength used during the determination of the relative magnetic permeability is stated for all materials but in particular for conventional materials since the changes with applied magnetic field can be large. This behaviour also needs to be considered when using reference materials made from conventional materials to calibrate comparator methods. This is because these methods use magnetic fields that vary through the volume of the material being tested and this makes it difficult to know the relative magnetic permeability to use for the calibration.

Where the effect of a feebly magnetic material on the ambient earth's magnetic field is critical, the direct measurement of this effect using a sensitive magnetometer should be considered.

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1 Figures in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

MAGNETIC MATERIALS –

Part 15: Methods for the determination of the relative magnetic permeability of feebly magnetic materials

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60404 specifies a solenoid method, a magnetic moment method, a magnetic balance method and a permeability meter method for the determination of the relative magnetic permeability of feebly magnetic materials (including austenitic stainless steel). The magnetic balance and permeability meter methods are both comparison methods calibrated using reference materials to determine the value of the relative magnetic permeability of the test specimen. The relative magnetic permeability range for each of these methods is shown in Table 1. The methods given are for applied magnetic field strengths of between 5 kA/m and 100 kA/m.

Table 1 – Relative magnetic permeability ranges for the methods described

Measurement method	Relative magnetic permeability range
Solenoid	1,003 to 2
Magnetic moment	1,003 to 1,2
Magnetic balance	1,003 to 5
Permeability meter	1,003 to 2

NOTE 1 The relative magnetic permeability range given for the magnetic balance method covers the inserts provided with a typical instrument. These can only be assessed at values for which calibrated reference materials exist.

NOTE 2 For a relative magnetic permeability larger than 2, a reference material cannot be calibrated using this written standard. A note of this is given in the test report explaining that the values measured using the magnetic balance are for indication only.

The solenoid method is the reference method. The magnetic moment method described is used mainly for the measurement of the relative magnetic permeability of mass standards.

Two comparator methods used by industry are described. These can be calibrated using reference materials for which the relative magnetic permeability has been determined using the reference method. When suitable, the magnetic moment method can also be used. The dimensions of the reference material need to be given careful consideration when determining the uncertainty in the calibration value due to self-demagnetization effects. See Annex A for more information on correcting for self-demagnetization.

2 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.

IEC 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org/)

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