



**Technical Memorandum  
on Measurement  
Uncertainty for Lighting  
Equipment Calibration  
Using Integrating  
Spheres**

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**IES Technical Memorandum on Measurement  
Uncertainty for Lighting Equipment  
Calibration Using Integrating Spheres**

Publication of this Recommended Practice has been approved by the IES.  
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Prepared by:  
The Photometry of Light Sources Subcommittee  
of the Testing Procedures Committee

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## Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Normative References</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
3.1	array spectrometer	1
3.2	combined standard uncertainty	2
3.3	coverage factor	2
3.4	expanded uncertainty	2
3.5	photometer	2
3.6	primary standard (lamp)	2
3.7	relative uncertainty	2
3.8	secondary standard (lamp)	2
3.9	standard deviation (experimental)	3
3.10	standard uncertainty	3
3.11	uncertainty (of measurement)	3
3.12	working standard (lamp)	3
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM): A Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1	Introduction	3
4.2	Description of the model equation and input parameter estimation	4
4.3	Standard Uncertainty Evaluation	4
4.3.1	Type A Uncertainty Evaluation	4
4.3.2	Type B Uncertainty Evaluation	5
4.4	Sensitivity Coefficients and Combined Standard Uncertainty	5
4.5	Expanded Uncertainty and Degrees of Freedom	6
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Calibration of Integrating Spheres</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Calibration Using a Total Luminous Flux Standard Lamp	7
5.1.1	Model for an Integrating Sphere with Photometer	7
5.1.2	Additional Uncertainty Components	10
5.1.3	Integrating Sphere with Photometer Sensitivity Coefficients	11
5.1.4	Example Uncertainty Budget	12
5.1.5	Measurand and Combined Standard Uncertainty	12
5.1.6	Degrees of Freedom and Expanded Uncertainty	12
5.1.7	Model Modifications	13
5.1.8	Multiple Standard Lamps	13
5.1.9	Describing the Model Equation in Relative Terms	16
5.1.10	Integrating Sphere with Spectrometer Detector	18

<b>5.2 Calibration Using a Total Spectral Radiant Flux Standard Lamp</b> .....	<b>20</b>
5.2.1 Model for an Integrating Sphere with Spectrometer .....	20
5.2.2 Wavelength to Channel Data Conversion .....	23
5.2.3 Uncertainty in Spectral Radiance .....	23
5.2.4 Additional Uncertainty Components .....	26
5.2.5 Integrating Sphere with Spectroradiometer Sensitivity Coefficients .....	28
5.2.6 Example Uncertainty Budget .....	28
5.2.7 Measurand and Combined Standard Uncertainty .....	28
5.2.8 Degrees of Freedom and Expanded Uncertainty .....	28
5.2.9 Model Modifications .....	28
<b>6.0 Calibration of Working Standard Lamps Using an Integrating Sphere</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>6.1 Creating Total Luminous Flux Working Standard Lamps</b> .....	<b>30</b>
6.1.1 Model for an Integrating Sphere with Photometer .....	30
6.1.2 Additional Uncertainty Components .....	33
6.1.3 Integrating Sphere with Photometer Sensitivity Coefficients for Working Standard Lamps .....	34
6.1.5 Example Uncertainty Budget .....	34
6.1.6 Measurand and Combined Uncertainty .....	34
6.1.7 Degrees of Freedom and Expanded Uncertainty .....	34
6.1.8 Model Modifications .....	34
6.1.9 Integrating Sphere with an Array Spectrometer .....	38
<b>6.2 Creating Total Spectral Radiant Flux Working Standard Lamps</b> .....	<b>38</b>
6.2.1 Model for an Integrating Sphere with Array Spectrometer .....	38
6.2.2 Additional Uncertainty Components .....	42
6.2.3 Integrating Sphere with Array Spectrometer Sensitivity Coefficients for Working Standard Lamps .....	42
6.2.4 Example Uncertainty Budget .....	42
6.2.5 Measurand and Combined Uncertainty .....	42
6.2.6 Degrees of Freedom and Expanded Uncertainty .....	43
<b>6.3 Creating a Luminous Flux Working Standard Lamp from a Total Spectral Radiant Flux Standard Lamp</b> .....	<b>43</b>
6.3.1 SI Unit Traceability: Total Spectral Radiant and Luminous Flux Scales .....	43
6.3.2 Integrating-Sphere Transfer Model: Total Spectral Radiant Flux to Luminous Flux .....	45
6.3.3 Additional Uncertainty Components .....	49
6.3.4 Array Spectrometer Data Summation Uncertainty .....	49
6.3.5 Lumen Sensitivity Coefficients for Integrating Sphere with Array Spectrometer .....	50
6.3.6 Example Uncertainty Budget .....	51
6.3.7 Measurand and Combined Standard Uncertainty .....	51
6.3.8 Degrees of freedom and Expanded Uncertainty .....	51
<b>Annex A – Tolerance, Uncertainty, and Confidence Intervals</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>Annex B – Partial Derivatives</b> .....	<b>57</b>
<b>Annex C – Sensitivity Coefficients Calculated as Slopes</b> .....	<b>59</b>
<b>Annex D – Total Spectral Radiant Flux Data Measured with an Array Spectrometer and Integrating Sphere</b> .....	<b>60</b>
<b>Annex E – Total Spectral Radiant Flux Data and Signal for Working Standard Lamp Transfer</b> .....	<b>62</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>65</b>
<b>Informative References</b> .....	<b>65</b>

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## INTRODUCTION

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Uncertainty is inherent in every measurement. To truly understand the value of a measurement, the uncertainty of such should be analyzed. A critical step of this analysis is to know the uncertainty contributed by the instruments used to make the measurement. This Technical Memorandum provides a detailed and step-by-step method for determining uncertainty of certain calibration procedures common to instruments used in lumen measurement laboratories. This document uses the structure proposed in the Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) for its recommendations. For each calibration procedure presented in this document, a mathematical model is developed, estimates of each input quantity are discussed, and guidance is provided for the evaluation of the standard uncertainty of each input estimate. With this information the combined standard uncertainty is calculated, effective degrees of freedom are calculated, and finally, the expanded uncertainty is reported.

The intent of this document is to provide a common approach to the uncertainty analysis for calibration of lumen measuring equipment (integrating spheres) with standard incandescent lamps, including halogen, that have been assigned values of total luminous flux and/or total spectral radiant flux. In addition, uncertainty budget templates are provided for calibration of incandescent (including halogen) working standard lamps that are virtually identical to the standard lamps they are compared against. These templates are starting points for uncertainty analysis. A laboratory applying these templates is expected to estimate each input quantity and the standard uncertainty of each input quantity, except where industry standard values are specifically noted in this document. Additional input quantities may be required based on specific situations that arise in the uniqueness of each laboratory measurement system. Future documents will cover topics such as uncertainty determination for colorimetric calibrations, and photometric and colorimetric measurements for testing general lighting products.

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### 1.0 SCOPE

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This document provides templates for the analysis of measurement uncertainty for the photometric calibration of integrating sphere systems using standard incandescent lamps, as well as the creation of working standard lamps using integrating sphere systems that are effectively identical to the primary standard lamps. It does not provide templates for the analysis of measurement uncertainty for colorimetric calibration of working standard lamps or for the testing of general lighting products.

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### 2.0 INFORMATIVE REFERENCES

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JCGM 100-2008, *Evaluation of Measurement Data – Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement* (GUM). Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM); Sep 2008. Free download: [www.bipm.org/en/publications/guides/gum.html](http://www.bipm.org/en/publications/guides/gum.html)

ANSI/IES RP-16-17, *Nomenclature and Definitions for Illuminating Engineering*. New York: Illuminating Engineering Society; 2017. Free access from [www.ies.org/standards/ansi-ies-rp-16/](http://www.ies.org/standards/ansi-ies-rp-16/)

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### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

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#### 3.1 array spectrometer

In this document, an instrument that simultaneously detects and disperses light with respect to wavelength. The CIE S 017/E:2011 (ILV)<sup>1</sup> definition for *array detector* (17-57: “physical arrangement of detector elements that are able to sense the output e.g., of a polychromator. NOTE: In some cases, optical components may form a part of the array, as in, for example, a fiber optics faceplate coupled array detector”) is close to the definition used in this document.