

PD ISO/TS 80004-6:2013



BSI Standards Publication

# Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary

Part 6: Nano-object characterization

**bsi.**

...making excellence a habit.™

**National foreword**

This Published Document is the UK implementation of ISO/TS 80004-6:2013.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee NTI/1, Nanotechnologies.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2013. Published by BSI Standards Limited 2013

ISBN 978 0 580 66585 1

ICS 01.040.07; 07.030

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

This Published Document was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 November 2013.

**Amendments issued since publication**

Date	Text affected
------	---------------

---

First edition  
2013-11-01

---

---

**Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary —**  
**Part 6:**  
**Nano-object characterization**

*Nanotechnologies — Vocabulaire —*  
*Partie 6: Caractérisation d'un nano-objet*

---

---

Reference number  
ISO/TS 80004-6:2013(E)





**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2013

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 General terms</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms related to size and shape measurement</b> .....	<b>3</b>
3.1 Terms related to measurands for size and shape.....	3
3.2 Terms related to scattering techniques.....	4
3.3 Terms related to aerosol characterization.....	5
3.4 Terms related to separation techniques.....	6
3.5 Terms related to microscopy.....	7
3.6 Terms related to surface area measurement.....	10
<b>4 Terms related to chemical analysis</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>5 Terms related to measurement of other properties</b> .....	<b>15</b>
5.1 Terms related to mass measurement.....	15
5.2 Terms related to crystallinity measurement.....	16
5.3 Terms related to charge measurement in suspensions.....	16
<b>Annex A (informative) Index</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>23</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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 ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. [www.iso.org/directives](http://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 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. [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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

ISO/TS 80004-6 was prepared jointly by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies* and Technical Committee IEC/TC 113, *Nanotechnology standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems*. The draft was circulated for voting to the national bodies of both ISO and IEC.

Documents in the 80000 to 89999 range of reference numbers are developed by collaboration between ISO and IEC.

ISO/TS 80004 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary*:

- *Part 1: Core terms*
- *Part 3: Carbon nano-objects*
- *Part 4: Nanostructured materials*
- *Part 5: Nano/bio interface*
- *Part 6: Nano-object characterization*
- *Part 7: Diagnostics and therapeutics for healthcare*
- *Part 8: Nanomanufacturing processes*

The following parts are under preparation:

- *Part 2: Nano-objects: Nanoparticle, nanofibre and nanoplate<sup>1)</sup>*
- *Part 9: Nano-enabled electrotechnical products and systems*
- *Part 10: Nano-enabled photonic components and systems*
- *Part 11: Nanolayer, nanocoating, nanofilm, and related terms*

---

1) Revision of ISO/TS 27687:2008, *Nanotechnologies — Terminology and definitions for nano-objects — Nanoparticle, nanofibre and nanoplate*.

— *Part 12: Quantum phenomena in nanotechnology*

Graphene and other two dimensional materials will form the subject of a future Part 13.

## Introduction

Measurement and instrumentation techniques have effectively opened the door to modern nanotechnology. Characterization is key to understanding the properties and function of all nano-objects.

Nano-object characterization involves interactions between people with different backgrounds and from different fields. Those interested in nano-object characterization might, for example, be materials scientists, biologists, chemists or physicists and might have a background that is primarily experimental or theoretical. Those making use of the data extend beyond this group to include regulators and toxicologists. To avoid any misunderstandings, and to facilitate both comparability and the reliable exchange of information, it is essential to clarify the concepts, to establish the terms for use and to establish their definitions.

The terms are classified under the following broad headings:

- [Clause 2](#): General terms
- [Clause 3](#): Terms related to size and shape measurement
- [Clause 4](#): Terms related to chemical analysis
- [Clause 5](#): Terms related to measurement of other properties

These headings are intended as guide only, as some techniques can determine more than one property. [Subclause 3.1](#) lists the overarching measurands that apply to the rest of [Clause 3](#). Other measurands are more technique specific and are placed in the text adjacent to the technique.

It should be noted that most techniques require analysis in a non-native state and involve sample preparation, for example placing the nano-objects on a surface or placing it in a specific fluid or vacuum. This could change the nature of the nano-objects.

The order of the techniques in this document should not be taken to indicate a preference and the techniques listed in this document are not intended to be exhaustive. Equally, some of the techniques listed in this document are more popular than others in their usage in analysing certain properties of nano-objects. [Table 1](#) lists alphabetically the main current techniques for nano-object characterization.

**Table 1 — Alphabetical list of main current techniques for nano-object characterization**

Property	Current main techniques
Size	atomic force microscopy (AFM), centrifugal liquid sedimentation (CLS), differential mobility analysing system (DMAS), dynamic light scattering (DLS), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), particle tracking analysis (PTA), transmission electron microscopy (TEM)
Shape	atomic force microscopy (AFM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), transmission electron microscopy (TEM)
Surface area	Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method
'Surface' chemistry	secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)
Chemistry of the 'bulk' sample	inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR)
Charge in suspensions	zeta potential

This document is intended to serve as a starting reference for the vocabulary that underpins measurement and characterization efforts in the field of nanotechnologies.

# Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary —

## Part 6: Nano-object characterization

### 1 Scope

This Technical Specification lists terms and definitions relevant to the characterization of nano-objects.

### 2 General terms

#### 2.1

##### **nanoscale**

size range from approximately 1 nm to 100 nm

Note 1 to entry: Properties that are not extrapolations from a larger size will typically, but not exclusively, be exhibited in this size range. For such properties the size limits are considered approximate.

Note 2 to entry: The lower limit in this definition (approximately 1 nm) is introduced to avoid single and small groups of atoms from being designated as *nano-objects* (2.2) or elements of nanostructures, which might be implied by the absence of a lower limit.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 80004-1:2010, definition 2.1]

#### 2.2

##### **nano-object**

material with one, two or three external dimensions in the *nanoscale* (2.1)

Note 1 to entry: Generic term for all discrete nanoscale objects.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 80004-1:2010, definition 2.5]

#### 2.3

##### **nanoparticle**

*nano-object* (2.2) with all three external dimensions in the *nanoscale* (2.1)

Note 1 to entry: If the lengths of the longest to the shortest axes of the nano-object differ significantly (typically by more than three times), the terms *nanofibre* (2.6) or *nanoplate* (2.4) are intended to be used instead of the term nanoparticle.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 27687:2008, definition 4.1]

#### 2.4

##### **nanoplate**

*nano-object* (2.2) with one external dimension in the *nanoscale* (2.1) and the two other external dimensions significantly larger

Note 1 to entry: The smallest external dimension is the thickness of the nanoplate.

Note 2 to entry: The two significantly larger dimensions are considered to differ from the nanoscale dimension by more than three times.

Note 3 to entry: The larger external dimensions are not necessarily in the nanoscale.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 27687:2008, definition 4.2]