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# TECHNICAL REPORT



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**Nanotechnologies – A guideline for ellipsometry application to evaluate the thickness of nanoscale films**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	5
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms and definitions .....	6
3.1 General terms .....	6
3.2 Terms specific to this document.....	7
4 Measurement of ellipsometry .....	8
4.1 General.....	8
4.2 Measurement procedure .....	9
4.2.1 Sample preparation for system check .....	9
4.2.2 Experimental procedure for system check.....	9
4.2.3 Sample handling.....	9
4.2.4 Experimental procedures .....	9
5 Reporting data.....	10
6 Data analysis / interpretation of results.....	10
6.1 General.....	10
6.2 Setting analysis model .....	11
6.3 Data fitting and validation of analysis result .....	12
6.3.1 General .....	12
6.3.2 Data analysis method 1 – Dispersion law (Cauchy model) [6] .....	13
6.3.3 Data analysis method 2 – Sellmeier equation model (transparent material) [7] .....	13
6.3.4 Data analysis method 3 – Drude dispersion model (conductive material) [8], [9].....	13
6.3.5 Data analysis method 4 – Dispersion law (classical model / Lorentz model) [8], [9] .....	14
6.3.6 Data analysis method 5 – Forouhi-Bloomer dispersion model [10], [11].....	15
6.3.7 Data analysis method 6 – Tauc-Lorentz dispersion model (amorphous materials) [12], [13].....	15
Annex A (informative) Case study: Interlaboratory comparison by using SiO <sub>2</sub> /Si samples .....	17
Annex B (informative) Case study: Ellipsometry measurement of other materials .....	19
Bibliography.....	20
Figure 1 – Primary structure of ellipsometry measurement.....	8
Figure 2 – Flow chart of the ellipsometry data analysis .....	11
Figure A.1 – An example of the report form of ellipsometry measurements .....	17
Figure A.2 – An example of the results of the interlaboratory comparison .....	18
Figure A.3 – The wafer-shaped sample used for the interlaboratory comparison .....	18

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

# NANOTECHNOLOGIES – A GUIDELINE FOR ELLIPSOMETRY APPLICATION TO EVALUATE THE THICKNESS OF NANOSCALE FILMS

## FOREWORD

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Full information on the voting for the approval of this Technical Report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
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## INTRODUCTION

Ellipsometry is a powerful optical technique to evaluate the dielectric properties of thin films. Ellipsometry can be used to characterize thickness, roughness, composition, crystalline nature, and other properties of nanomaterials, and is frequently used to warrant the quality and the performance of thin-film growth equipment. The signal depends on the change in the optical response of incident light that interacts with the nanomaterial being investigated.

Many current and emerging electrotechnical devices employ nanomaterials in the form of thin films. Therefore, it is important to develop a measurement protocol to evaluate the thickness of such films with sufficient accuracy. This document describes the practical considerations that need to be taken into account in using ellipsometry to evaluate the thickness of nanoscale films.

# NANOTECHNOLOGIES – A GUIDELINE FOR ELLIPSOMETRY APPLICATION TO EVALUATE THE THICKNESS OF NANOSCALE FILMS

## 1 Scope

This document, which is a Technical Report, is focused on the practical protocol of ellipsometry to evaluate the thickness of nanoscale films. This document does not include any specification of the ellipsometers, but suggests how to minimize the data variation to improve data reproducibility.

This document includes

- outlines of the ellipsometry procedures,
- methods of interpretation of results and discussion of data analysis, and
- case studies.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/TS 80004-1, *Nanotechnologies – Vocabulary – Part 1: Core terms*