

## **Boulton's Bulletin**

**December 2024**

### **Important revisions to BS EN ISO 18490**

#### **Non-destructive testing – Evaluation of vision acuity of NDT personnel.**

As we are all aware international standards for NDT Personnel qualification and certification mandate that the visual acuity of inspection personnel shall be verified on an annual basis by persons suitably trained and familiar with the requirements of BS EN ISO 18490:2015 (the standard).

Attestation of having met the requirements contained within the standard shall be made in writing, and form part of the formal records of the individual for certification.

The standard confirms that medical personnel, which includes optometrists, are not exempt from the requirements contained within the standard. By meeting the near vision acuity level defined within the standard, then the requirements of BS EN ISO 9712 and EN 4179 will have been met through use of accepted procedures contained within the standard under defined testing conditions.

Tests contained within the standard are recognised as being “not medical in nature” but are intended to objectively ensure adequate near vision perception without reliance on reading ability and because it was historically difficult to demonstrate equivalency in near vision tests, BS EN ISO 18490 was prepared to ensure that an international system could be adopted for use without the need to demonstrate equivalence. As such tests contained within BS EN ISO 18490 have now become the recommended method of determining near vision acuity for NDT Personnel.

The current version of the standard specifies the form of optotype, the quality requirements for the chart, the test procedure, and the acceptance level for near vision acuity as well as addressing the qualification requirements for those persons carrying out the test. The current standard does not address the requirements for confirmation of colour vision, however, the next iteration will include references to Ishihara and grey scale perception tests for the purpose confirming both colour perception, and grey scale identification through use of Dr Kolbl and Skerik grey scale tests.

One further important consideration the NDT News readership is being asked to consider is that members of the ISO Working Group (WG) responsible for making revisions to the standard are actively considering removal of “Tumbling E”, one of the test options currently available used to confirm visual acuity.

Therefore, and in recognition of the proposed changes to the standard, BINDT would like to draw your attention for you to make a public comment on the revised standard when the standard reaches Draft International Status (DIS). It is at this stage that the standard will be submitted to the ISO Central Secretariat by the committee manager and then circulated to all ISO members who have 12 weeks to vote and/or comment upon the document. Draft standards for comment at this, the enquiry stage, are in addition open for public comment which the organisation (ISO) may choose to recognise or not as the case may be.

You can find a list of standards that are currently at the enquiry stage on the International Standards Organisations website where you may view, and where necessary, provide your comments through your national member. For the purpose of those persons and or organisations operating within the UK then this would be the British Standards Institute (BSI).

To make comments you should contact the national member of your country to do so.

For information and where the DIS is approved by a two-thirds majority vote by the Working Group members, and not more than one-quarter of the total number of votes cast are negative, and no technical changes are introduced, then the standard will be published.

For those organisations within the UK the draft standard will be made available for public comment via the BSI Standards Development Portal from the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 until 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025, all comments may be provided using the following link:

<https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/projects/2024-00396#/section>

For those organisations within the UK: If you have any questions regarding the public commenting process, please feel free to contact your BSI representative Mr Graham Stockley at:

Graham Stockley [Graham.Stockley@bsigroup.com](mailto:Graham.Stockley@bsigroup.com)

All comments made external to the UK should be made through your countries representative as previously indicated.