International Standard

ISO 12231-1

Digital imaging — Vocabulary —

Part 1: Fundamental terms

Imagerie numérique — Vocabulaire —

Partie 1: Termes fondamentaux

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 42, *Photography*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12231-1:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— fundamental terms that are commonly-used in digital imaging were added;

— obsolete terms were deleted.

A list of all parts in the ISO 12231 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

Digital imaging concepts are drawn from traditional photography, electronics, video, and information technology. In some cases, the concepts are redefined to apply to digital imaging. For example, unlike traditional photography, measurements cannot be defined in terms of “film” or “sensitised material”, since images acquired by digital image capture devices are stored electronically and are not immediately exposed on film. The meaning of shutter and exposure time is also different for digital image capture devices, because an electronic imaging sensor typically has image acquisition characteristics that are different from those of film.

This document provides a vocabulary which standardizes the use and meaning of terms associated with digital imaging that were not defined by other ISO/TC 42 deliverables (see Annex A for a list of related WGs and documents). It is organized alphabetically and follows natural (English) word order wherever possible.

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Digital imaging — Vocabulary —

Part 1:
Fundamental terms

1 Scope

This document defines terms used in digital imaging.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
aliasing
output image artefacts that occur in a sampled imaging system due to insufficient sampling

Note 1 to entry: These artefacts usually manifest themselves as moiré patterns in repetitive image features or as jagged stair-stepping at edge transitions.

[SOURCE: ISO 12233:2024, 3.2]

3.2
digital still camera
DSC
device which incorporates an image sensor and produces a digital signal representing a still picture

Note 1 to entry: A digital still camera is typically a portable, hand-held device. The digital signal is usually recorded on a removable or an internal memory.

[SOURCE: ISO 12232:2019, 3.1]

3.3
flare
light falling on an image, in an imaging system, which does not emanate from the subject point

3.4
image aspect ratio
ratio of the image width to the image height

[SOURCE: ISO 12233:2024, 3.9]

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