

Standard Reference Material[®] 1964

Polystyrene Spheres

(Nominal Diameter 60 nm)

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Purpose: This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is intended for the calibration/validation of particle sizing instruments, including electron microscopes, differential mobility analyzers, scanning surface inspection systems, and other light scattering instruments.

Description: A unit of SRM 1964 consists of 5 mL of polystyrene spheres in deionized filtered (0.2 μm pore size) water. The particle suspension contains primary spheres (monomers) with very few agglomerates. The spheres are present at a mass fraction of approximately 0.5 % and are supplied in a dispensing vial.

Certified Values: The size probability distribution is $P(D) = dN/dD$, where dN is the fraction of particles with diameter between D and $D + dD$. The modal diameter, which is the diameter where $P(D)$ takes the largest value, also called the mode of $P(D)$, was measured for the spheres suspended as an aerosol using differential mobility analysis (DMA) [1]. The certified value for the modal diameter of the polystyrene spheres as an aerosol is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Certified Modal Sphere Diameter and Expanded Uncertainty ^(a)

Modal Diameter
60.39 nm \pm 0.63 nm

^(a) The expanded uncertainty (95 % confidence interval) includes both Type A and Type B uncertainties calculated according to the ISO/JCGM Guide [2].

These results are based on three repeat measurements on each of three different dates. There was one calibration measurement made either proceeding or following each of the certification measurements [3]. The measurand is the diameter for the Modal Sphere. The certified values are metrologically traceable to the International System of Units (SI) unit of length, expressed as nanometers.

The value for the combined uncertainty for the modal diameter is 0.31 nm and the number of degrees of freedom for the uncertainty is 123. This information may be used to estimate the uncertainty when using the spheres for calibrating a particle sizing instrument and estimating the effective degrees of freedom.

Non-Certified Values: Non-certified values are provided in Appendix A.

Additional Information: Additional information is provided in Appendix B.

Period of Validity: The certified values delivered by **SRM 1964** are valid within the measurement uncertainty specified until **31 March 2026**. The certified values are nullified if the material is stored or used improperly, damaged, contaminated, or otherwise modified.

Maintenance of Certified Values: NIST will monitor this SRM over the period of its validity. If substantive technical changes occur that affect the certification, NIST will issue an amended certificate through the NIST SRM website (<https://www.nist.gov/srm>) and notify registered users. SRM users can register online from a link available on the NIST SRM website or fill out the user registration form that is supplied with the SRM at the time of purchase. Before making use of any of the values delivered by this material, users should verify they have the most recent version of this documentation, available free of charge through the NIST SRM website.

Storage: Refrigerate the sample (5 °C to 15 °C) but **DO NOT** allow the sample to become frozen. **DO NOT** remove the cap from the vial until the sample is to be used. It should be noted that no biocide was added during packaging. Once the sample is opened, there is a possibility of biological contamination leading to growth of bacteria or spores. To minimize the occurrence of this unwanted growth, replace the cap immediately after dispensing the sample drops.

Use: A sample of the spheres may be obtained by squeezing a drop from the vial. Use filtered (0.2 µm pore size filter) deionized water for dilution. Care should be exercised to prevent contamination once the cap has been removed.

Note: The polystyrene spheres may be damaged by exposure to an electron beam. Notably, this could lead to shrinkage of the certified diameter by 8 % or more. This effect can be minimized by using a short exposure time and low electron flux but may nevertheless remain significant [4].

Traceability: In the present certification measurements [1], the DMA was calibrated using SRM 1963. The certification of SRM 1963 [5] was based upon the certification of the 0.895 µm particle standard, SRM 1690. The certification of SRM 1690 [6], in turn, was based upon the He-Ne laser wavelength in air, 632.807 nm. Lastly, the He-Ne laser wavelength [7] has been determined with respect to the fundamental standard, SI Unit for length. All of the contributions to the uncertainty imposed by this traceability chain have been included in the Type B uncertainty expressed above.

REFERENCES

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Certificate Revision History: 01 April 2022 (Change in period of validity; updated format; editorial changes); 07 June 2019 (Change in the expiration date; editorial changes); 06 October 2014 (Corrected Semiconductor and Dimensional Metrology Division Chief name; editorial changes); 05 June 2014 (Extension of the certification period; editorial changes); 10 January 2007 (Original certificate date).
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Certain commercial equipment, instruments, or materials may be identified in this Certificate/COA/RMIS to adequately specify the experimental procedure. Such identification does not imply recommendation or endorsement by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, nor does it imply that the materials or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

Users of this SRM should ensure that the Certificate/COA/RMIS in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the Office of Reference Materials 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2300, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2300; telephone (301) 975-2200; e-mail srminfo@nist.gov; or the Internet at <https://www.nist.gov/srm>.

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APPENDIX A

Non-Certified Values: A non-certified value is considered to be a value that will be of interest to the SRM user, but insufficient information is available to assess the uncertainty associated with the value. Non-certified values cannot be used to establish metrological traceability.

Additional Information: A single measurement of the size probability distribution $P(D)$ over an extended range of the distribution is given in Table A1 and Figure A1. The standard deviation of the size distribution near the peak is 4.9 nm, and the standard deviation of the entire distribution is 7.9 nm. The number median diameter is 57.5 nm. The number median diameter is the diameter x , at which the integral

$$\int_0^x P(D)dD = 0.5$$

where the cumulative distribution function is 0.5. The number mean diameter, the volume mean diameter, the light scattering mean diameter, and the dynamic light scattering mean diameter are given in Table A2. The extended measurement of $P(D)$ yielded a slightly different modal diameter than the certified value, because that measurement was only obtained from a single scan on a single day; the difference between those values is statistically insignificant. These are non-certified values with no uncertainty assessed and are provided for information purposes only.

The peak diameter is for the spheres as an aerosol. The contaminants in the suspension result in a residue layer on the spheres. The estimated thickness of this layer is 0.03 nm.

Table A1. Additional non-certified values on the size probability distribution, $P(D)$, obtained from a single measurement scan over an extended range.

D (nm)	$P(D)$ (nm^{-1})	D (nm)	$P(D)$ (nm^{-1})
10.811	0.00009	59.412	0.06676
15.430	0.00008	60.645	0.06895
19.079	0.00013	61.859	0.06504
22.138	0.00010	63.056	0.05756
24.852	0.00030	64.236	0.04241
27.321	0.00075	65.401	0.02680
29.606	0.00121	66.550	0.01461
31.744	0.00229	67.686	0.00631
33.764	0.00413	68.808	0.00217
35.683	0.00402	69.917	0.00090
37.518	0.00579	71.014	0.00043
39.281	0.00782	72.100	0.00036
40.978	0.00985	73.173	0.00016
42.621	0.01263	74.236	0.00010
44.211	0.01393	75.289	0.00013
45.757	0.01784	77.365	0.00012
47.261	0.01822	79.404	0.00013
48.727	0.02021	80.410	0.00014
50.159	0.02408	81.408	0.00011
51.559	0.02794	83.380	0.00009
52.930	0.03435	85.323	0.00005
54.274	0.03966	87.237	0.00002
55.592	0.04775	89.126	0.00001
56.888	0.05460	90.989	0.00000
58.160	0.06152	92.828	0.00000

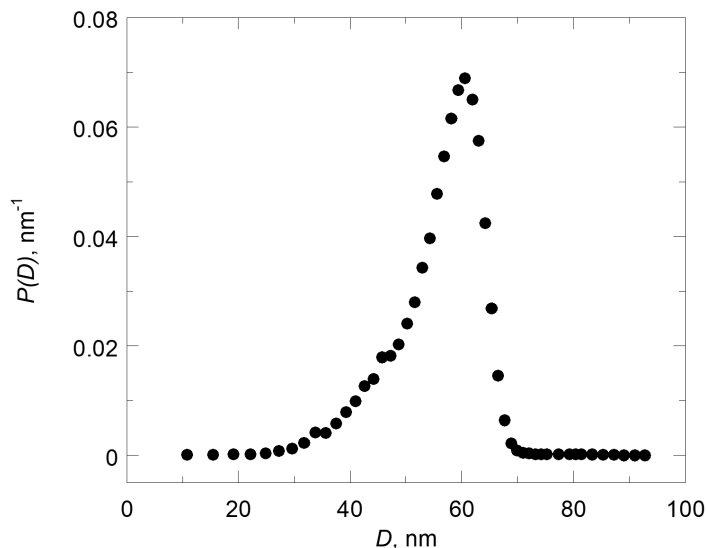


Figure A1. Size probability distribution, $P(D)$, of data provided in Table 2 obtained from a single measurement scan over an extended range.

Table A2. Non-certified values for the weighted mean particle diameter based on the size probability distribution, $P(D)$, given in Table 1.

Peak Diameter ^(a) (nm)	$\langle D_N \rangle^{(b)}$ (nm)	$\langle D_V \rangle$ (nm)	$\langle D_{LS} \rangle$ (nm)	$\langle D_h \rangle_Z$ (nm)	$\sigma_{\langle D_N \rangle}$ (nm)
60.55	55.70	58.49	60.23	59.72	7.90

Number mean diameter:
$$\langle D_N \rangle = \int D P(D) dD$$

Standard deviation of size distribution:
$$\sigma = \left[\int (D - \langle D_N \rangle)^2 P(D) dD \right]^{1/2}$$

Volume or mass mean diameter:
$$\langle D_V \rangle = \frac{\int D D^3 P(D) dD}{\int D^3 P(D) dD}$$

Light scattering weighted mean diameter (Rayleigh limit):
$$\langle D_{LS} \rangle = \frac{\int D D^6 P(D) dD}{\int D^6 P(D) dD}$$

Dynamic light scattering mean diameter^(c):
$$\langle D_h \rangle_Z = \left[\frac{\int \frac{1}{D} D^6 P(D) dD}{\int D^6 P(D) dD} \right]^{-1}$$

^(a) The peak diameter is estimated from a cubic fit for the 9 data points within 30 % of the largest value of $P(D) = 0.068419$.
^(b) The integrals are evaluated using the trapezoidal rule.
^(c) The subscript h indicates that this is the hydrodynamic diameter based on the diffusive motion of the particle.

Maintenance of Non-Certified Values: NIST will monitor this material to the end of its period of validity. If substantive technical changes occur that affect the non-certified values during this period, NIST will update this Appendix. Before making use of any of the values delivered by this material, users should obtain the most recent version of this documentation, available free of charge through the <https://www.nist.gov/srm> website.

***** End of Appendix A *****

APPENDIX B

Technical direction and physical measurements were provided by T.A. Germer, NIST Sensor Science Division; G.W. Mulholland, and M.K. Donnelly, NIST Fire Research Division; V.A. Hackley, NIST Materials Measurement Science Division; S.R. Kukuck, formerly of NIST, and D.Y.H. Pui, Particle Technology Laboratory, University of Minnesota.

Statistical analysis was provided by C.R. Hagwood formerly of the NIST Statistical Engineering Division.

Support aspects involved in the issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the NIST Office of Reference Materials.

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