

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

**Piezoelectric and dielectric devices for frequency control and selection –  
Glossary –  
Part 4-1: Piezoelectric materials – Synthetic quartz crystal**



## THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2007 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester.

If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

IEC Central Office  
3, rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland  
Email: [inmail@iec.ch](mailto:inmail@iec.ch)  
Web: [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

### About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

### About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigenda or an amendment might have been published.

- Catalogue of IEC publications: [www.iec.ch/searchpub](http://www.iec.ch/searchpub)

The IEC on-line Catalogue enables you to search by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee,...). It also gives information on projects, withdrawn and replaced publications.

- IEC Just Published: [www.iec.ch/online\\_news/justpub](http://www.iec.ch/online_news/justpub)

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details twice a month all new publications released. Available on-line and also by email.

- Electropedia: [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)

The world's leading online dictionary of electronic and electrical terms containing more than 20 000 terms and definitions in English and French, with equivalent terms in additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary online.

- Customer Service Centre: [www.iec.ch/webstore/custserv](http://www.iec.ch/webstore/custserv)

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please visit the Customer Service Centre FAQ or contact us:

Email: [csc@iec.ch](mailto:csc@iec.ch)  
Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00



# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

---

**Piezoelectric and dielectric devices for frequency control and selection –  
Glossary –  
Part 4-1: Piezoelectric materials – Synthetic quartz crystal**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

PRICE CODE

**J**

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## PIEZOELECTRIC AND DIELECTRIC DEVICES FOR FREQUENCY CONTROL AND SELECTION – GLOSSARY –

### Part 4-1: Piezoelectric materials – Synthetic quartz crystal

#### FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC provides no marking procedure to indicate its approval and cannot be rendered responsible for any equipment declared to be in conformity with an IEC Publication.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. In exceptional circumstances, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical specification when

- the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts, or
- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

IEC 61994-4-1, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 49: Piezoelectric and dielectric devices for frequency control and selection.

This second edition of IEC 61994-4-1 cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2001. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- this second edition takes into account new terms and definitions given in IEC 60758, third edition, published in 2004.

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
49/763/DTS	49/767/RVC

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

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

IEC 61994 consists of the following parts under the general title, *Piezoelectric and dielectric devices for frequency control and selection – Glossary*:

- Part 1: Piezoelectric and dielectric resonators
- Part 2: Piezoelectric and dielectric filters
- Part 3: Piezoelectric oscillators
- Part 4-1: Piezoelectric materials– Synthetic quartz crystal
- Part 4-2: Piezoelectric and dielectric materials – Piezoelectric ceramics
- Part 4-3: Materials for dielectric devices<sup>1</sup>
- Part 4-4: Materials – Materials for Surface Acoustic Wave (SAW) devices

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

- transformed into an international standard;
- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

<sup>1</sup> To be published.

# PIEZOELECTRIC AND DIELECTRIC DEVICES FOR FREQUENCY CONTROL AND SELECTION – GLOSSARY –

## Part 4-1: Piezoelectric materials – Synthetic quartz crystal

### 1 Scope

This technical specification gives the terms and definitions for synthetic quartz single crystals representing the present state-of-the-art, which are intended for manufacturing piezoelectric elements for frequency control and selection.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

IEC 60050(561):1991, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 561: Piezoelectric devices for frequency control and selection*

IEC 60758:2004, *Synthetic quartz crystal – Specifications and guide to the use*

### 3 Terms and definitions

#### 3.1

##### **AT-cut plate**

rotated Y-cut crystal plate oriented at an angle of about  $+35^\circ$  around the X-axis or of about  $-3^\circ$  from the z (minor rhombohedral) -face

[IEC 60758, 3.7.2]

#### 3.2

##### **as-grown Y-bar**

crystals which are produced using seeds with the largest dimension in the Y-direction

[IEC 60758, 3.2.2]

#### 3.3

##### **as-grown Z-bar**

as-grown Y-bar crystals in which the Z-grown sector is much larger than the X-growth sector.

The relative size of the growth sector is controlled by the X-dimension of the seed

[IEC 60758, 3.2.3 modified]

#### 3.4

##### **as-grown synthetic quartz crystal**

single crystal quartz grown hydrothermally. "As-grown" refers to the state of processing and indicates a state prior to mechanical fabrication

[IEC 60758, 3.2.1 modified]

#### 3.5

##### **autoclave**

vessel for the high-pressure, high-temperature condition required for growth of synthetic quartz crystal

[IEC 60758, 3.15]

**3.6****dislocations**

linear defects in the crystal due to misplaced planes of atoms

[IEC 60758, 3.13]

**3.7****dopant**

any additive used in the growth process which may change the crystal habit, chemical composition, physical or electrical properties of the synthetic quartz batch

[IEC 60758, 3.10]

**3.8****effective Z-dimension**

as-grown effective Z dimension which is defined as the minimum measure in the Z ( $\Theta = 0^\circ$ ) or Z' direction of as-grown crystals

[IEC 60758, 3.8.1.1 modified]

**3.9****electrical twins**

quartz crystal in which regions with a common Z-axis exist, showing a polarity reversal of the electrical X-axis

[IEC 60758, 3.17]

**3.10****etch channel**

roughly cylindrical void that is present along a dislocation line after etching a test wafer prepared from a quartz crystal

[IEC 60758, 3.14]

**3.11****gross dimensions**

maximum dimensions along the X-, Y- or Y'- and Z- or Z'-axes measured along the X-, Y'- and Z'-axes

[IEC 60758, 3.8.1]

**3.12****growth zones**

regions of a synthetic quartz crystal resulting from growth along different crystallographic directions

[IEC 60758, 3.5]

**3.13****hydrothermal crystal growth**

literally crystal growth in the presence of water, elevated temperatures and pressures by a crystal growth process believed to proceed geologically within the earth's crust. The industrial synthetic quartz growth processes utilize alkaline water solutions confined within autoclaves at supercritical temperatures (330 °C to 400 °C) and pressures (700 to 2000 atmospheres). The autoclave is divided into two chambers: the dissolving chamber, containing raw quartz chips at the higher temperature; the growing chamber, containing cut seeds at the lower temperature

[IEC 60758, 3.1]

**3.14****impurity concentration**

concentration of impurities relative to silicon atoms

[IEC 60758, 3.12]

### 3.15

#### **inclusions**

any foreign material within a synthetic quartz crystal, visible by examination of scattered light from a bright source with the crystal immersed in a refractive index-matching liquid. A particularly common inclusion is the mineral acmite (sodium iron silicate)

[IEC 60758, 3.9]

### 3.16

#### **infrared absorption coefficient $\alpha$ -value**

coefficient (referred to as the  $\alpha$ -value) established by determining the relationship between absorption of two wavelengths: one with minimal absorption due to OH impurity, the other with high absorption due to presence of OH impurities in the crystal lattice. The OH impurity creates mechanical loss in resonators and its presence is correlated to the presence of other loss-inducing impurities. The  $\alpha$ -value is a measure of OH concentration and is correlated with expected mechanical losses due to material impurities. The infrared absorption coefficient  $\alpha$ -value is determined using the following equation:

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{t} \log \frac{T_1}{T_2}$$

where

$\alpha$  is the infrared absorption coefficient;

$t$  is the thickness of Y-cut sample, in centimetres;

$T_1$  is the per cent transmission at a wave number of 3 800 cm<sup>-1</sup> or 3 979 cm<sup>-1</sup>

$T_2$  is the per cent transmission at a wave number of 3 410 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3 500 cm<sup>-1</sup> or 3 585 cm<sup>-1</sup>

[IEC 60758, 3.18]

### 3.17

#### **lumbered synthetic quartz crystal**

synthetic quartz crystal whose X- and Z- or Z'- surfaces in the "as grown" condition have been processed flat and parallel by sawing, grinding, lapping, etc., to meet specified dimensions and orientation

[IEC 60758, 3.19]

### 3.18

#### **lumbered Y-bar**

quartz bars which are lumbered from an as-grown Y-bar

[IEC 60758, 3.19.1]

### 3.19

#### **lumbered Z-bar**

quartz bars which are lumbered from an as-grown Z-bar

[IEC 60758, 3.19.2]

### 3.20

#### **minimum Z-dimension**

minimum distance from seed surface to Z surface

[IEC 60758, 3.8.1.2]

### 3.21

#### **optical twins**

quartz crystal in which regions with the common Z-axis exhibit handedness reversal of the optical Z-axis

[IEC 60758, 3.17]



**3.22****orientation of a synthetic quartz crystal**

orientation of its seed with respect to the orthogonal axes

[IEC 60758, 3.6]

**3.23****pre-dimensioned bar**

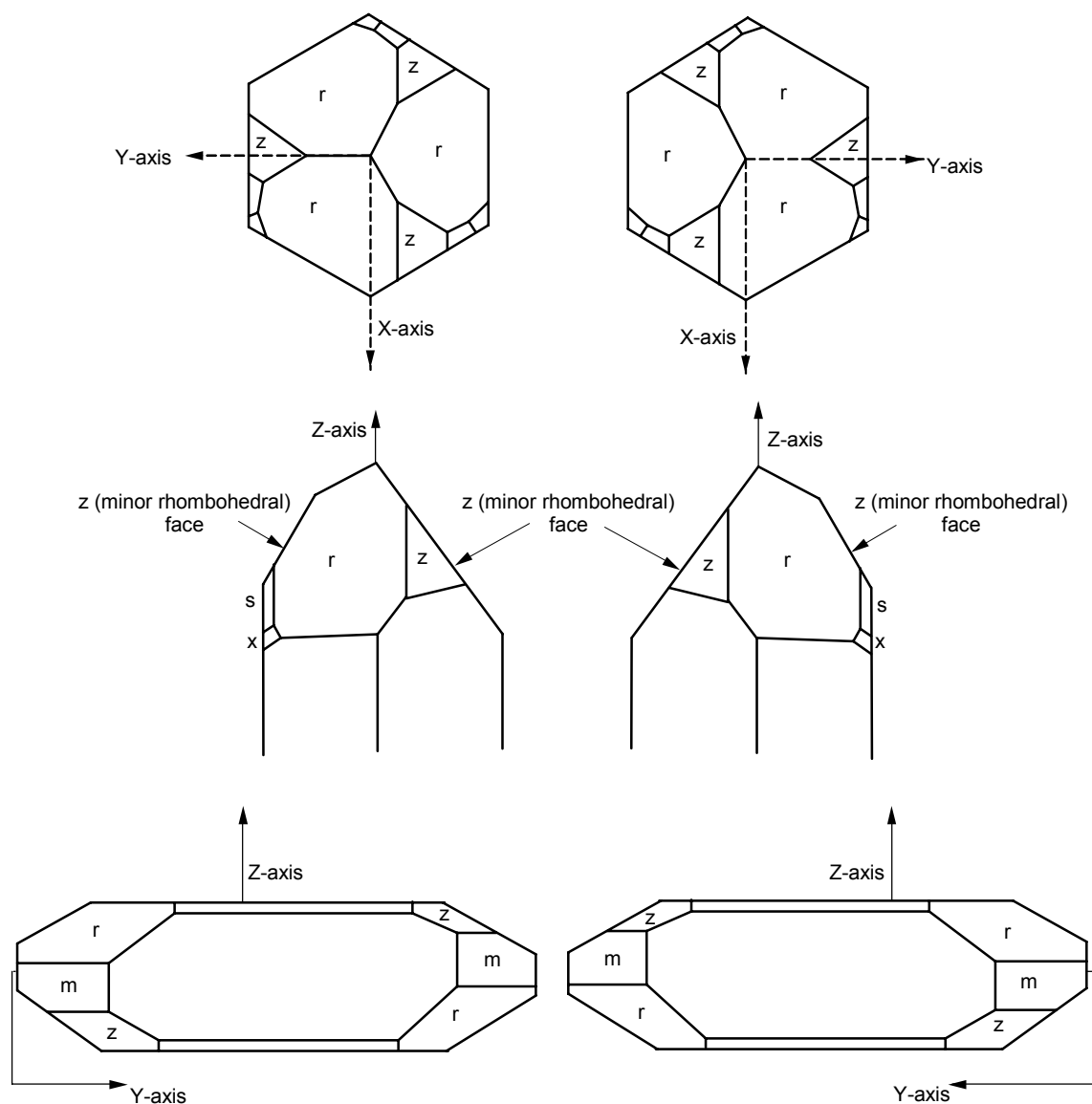
any bar of as-grown quartz with dimensions altered by sawing, grinding, lapping, etc, to meet a particular dimensional and orientation requirement

[IEC 60758, 3.11 modified]

**3.24****orthogonal axial system for quartz**

the orthogonal axial system is illustrated in figure 1

[IEC 60758 3.7.1]



IEC 1704/07

**Figure 1 – Orthogonal axial system for quartz**

### 3.25

#### **reference surface**

surface of the lumbered bar prepared to specific flatness and orientation with respect to a crystallographic direction ( typically the X-direction)

[IEC 60758, 3.20]

### 3.26

#### **right-handed quartz or left-handed quartz**

handedness of a quartz crystal, as determined by observing the sense of handedness of the optical rotation in polarized light. Right handed quartz is the crystal of dextrorotatory and left-handed quartz is the crystal of levorotary.

[IEC 60758,3.16]

### 3.27

#### **seed**

rectangular parallelepiped. quartz plate or bar to be used as a nucleus for crystal growth

[IEC 60758, 3.4]

### 3.28

#### **seed veil**

the array of inclusions or voids at the interface of the seed and the grown crystal

[IEC 60758, 3.9.1 modified]

### 3.29

#### **synthetic quartz crystal**

single crystal of  $\alpha$  quartz grown by the hydrothermal method. The crystal is of either handedness and in the "as grown" condition

[IEC 60758, 3.2]

### 3.30

#### **synthetic quartz crystal batch**

synthetic quartz crystals grown at the same time in one autoclave

[IEC 60758, 3.3]

### 3.31

#### **twins**

twins follow laws of crystallography relating symmetrically to specific faces or axes. Common

twins observed in synthetic quartz are optical and electrical twins

[IEC 60758, 3.17]

### 3.32

#### **X-cut plate**

crystal plate perpendicular to the X-axis

[IEC 60758, 3.7.4]

### 3.33

#### **Y-cut plate**

a crystal plate perpendicular to the Y-axis

[IEC 60758, 3.7.5]

**3.34**

**Z-cut plate**

a crystal plate perpendicular to the Z-axis

[IEC 60758, 3.7.6]

**3.35**

**z (minor rhombohedral)-cut plate**

a crystal plate parallel to the z (minor rhombohedral)-face

[IEC 60758, 3.7.3]

---





INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

3, rue de Varembé  
P.O. Box 131  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 919 02 11  
Fax: + 41 22 919 03 00  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)