Application Note

MEASUREMENTS IN REVERBERATION CHAMBER WITH R&S® ELEKTRA

Products:

[1] R&S®ELEKTRA

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https://www.rohde-schwarz.com/product/elektra



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1 Overview

Reverberation chambers (RVC) have become a popular alternative to anechoic chambers (AC) for electromagnetic emission and immunity testing. Unlike an AC, an RVC reflects waves to create a multipath environment. EMC testing with reverberation chambers is accepted in various EMC testing standards across different industries. An RVC is cost effective, generates high field strength, does not need excessive amplification, eliminates the need for complex antenna and DUT positioning for faster test speeds and accurately simulates real-world electromagnetic environments. Accurate and efficient testing demands specialized EMC test software for data acquisition, automation and analysis.

This application note describes how to setup R&S®ELEKTRA for measurements in an RVC.

2 Scope

This application note is based on R&S®ELEKTRA v5.20. The standards for conducting radiated immunity measurements supported with R&S®ELEKTRA v5.20 include:

- EN 61000-4-21 (mode tuned only)
- ISO 11452-11 (mode tuned only)
- ISO 11451-5 (Annex G: Reverb method with closed-loop power control)

This version of application note explains how to configure the hardware setup and test templates for the RVC calibration, equipment under test (EUT) checks and EUT testing in mode-tuned operation as well as closed-loop power control.

3 Application pre-requisites

The following R&S ELEKTRA licenses and options are required for radiated immunity measurements with an RVC.

- Required
 - EMS test software (radiated) ELEMS-R (for all options)
 - EMS rotating-tuner reverberation measurements ELEMS-RVC (for calibration & mode tuned only)
 - EMS fast stirring reverberation measurement ELEMS-FRVC (for Annex G: Reverb method with closed-loop power control)
 - R&S®ELEKTRA supports a wide range of field probes from several manufacturers. For the
 reverb method with closed-loop power control, currently, only Lumiloop and Raditeq field
 probes provide the necessary statistical functionality.

Optional

- EMS extension to system ELEMS-S (for EUT specific test plan definition, automated testing & summary reports)
- EMS extension to automotive/MIL ELEMS-AMEX (optional, required for ISO 11542-11 support)

4 Radiated immunity testing in mode-tuned operation

The mode-tuned operation is described in the IEC 61000-4-21 [1] & ISO 11542-11 [2]. It consists of the following steps.

- Chamber calibration procedures
- **EUT** test procedures

Before describing the chamber validation and EUT test procedures, let's examine the calibration setup.

4.1.1 **Calibration setup**

The calibration setup is described in the appropriate section of the EMC standard.

The RVC test volume is defined by the eight points where the isotropic field probe is placed during calibration, see Figure 1. The test volume maintains a distance of at least λ/4 away from the chamber walls and any other metallic object (antenna or stirrers) within the chamber.

The isotropic field probe is positioned at the first corner of the test volume and every axis of the triaxial field probe points inside the test volume. The receiving antenna is positioned inside the test volume. It points to a random location outside of the test volume and is cross polarized with the transmitting antenna.

During calibration, the lower frequency range utilizes the log-per antennas, and the upper frequency ranges the horn antennas.

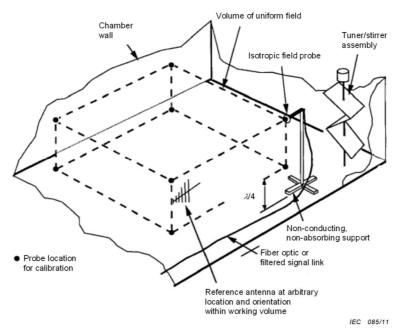


Figure 1 Test volume in RVC, SOURCE: IEC 61000-4-21 [1]

4.2 Mode-tuned chamber validation procedures

The chamber calibration procedures consist of three steps.

- Unloaded chamber testing is where the chamber field uniformity and input power requirements are determined with no EUT in the chamber. The test volume of the chamber is completely empty except for the necessary tri-axial field probes, transmit antenna, receive (reference) antenna and their cabling. All extra equipment (video monitoring system, foam test table) are removed. The calibration only needs to be done when a chamber is installed or after major modifications.
- Loaded chamber testing is where the chamber field uniformity and input power requirements are checked by simulated maximum loads. Along with tri-axial field probes, transmit antenna and receive (reference) antenna, the chamber is filled with absorbing material and fully loaded. Equipment that will be used for EUT testing can be added back to the chamber (video monitoring equipment, foam test table). The calibration only needs to be done when a chamber is installed or after major modifications.
- EUT check where the chamber is calibrated with EUT in place and the chamber validation factor (CVF, or average to input power ratio similar to the antenna validation factor (AVF) for an unloaded chamber) is computed. The chamber loading factor (CLF) is derived from the CVF and AVF. The calibration is performed before every EUT test.

Unloaded and loaded chamber measurements check whether the reverberation chamber meets the requirements for statistically uniform field distribution and determines the chamber limits (maximal loading). This data is required for the EUT check and measurement.

During the unloaded and loaded chamber testing, the max E-field values (Ex, Ey, Ez) are measured with the E-field probe, maximum and average received power are measured with the reference antenna and input power (forward power averaged over a tuner rotation) for each frequency, stirrer position and field probe/antenna location. The standard deviation for each probe axis and total data set (all probe axis) are determined from the E-field measurements. The standard deviations should not exceed the limits defined in the standard for the individual and total probe axis.

The average received power is used to compute the

- Receive AVF
- Chamber quality factor.
- Time constant for the chamber (derived from quality factor and needed to confirm the chamber is suitable for desired pulse waveform testing)
- Power needed to generate the test levels.

The maximum of the received power is used to compute.

- Estimated E field
- Insertion loss (IL) in loaded chamber test
- Maximum load factor (ratio of AVF_{Empty} to AVF_{Loaded})

Only the received power is measured during chamber validation with the EUT in place. E-field measurements with the probe are not required. The loading factor presented by the EUT should be lesser than the maximum loading factor derived during loaded chamber test. The CVF (average to input power ratio as with the AVF for the unloaded chamber) is computed. From the CVF and AVF_{Empty}, the chamber loading factor (CLF) is derived. The CLF should be less than the maximum loading factor for all frequencies. A value for the minimum pulse width is calculated. The applied pulse width shall not be below this value to inject sufficient power into the RVC.

Users should consult the appropriate sections in [1] and [2] for in-depth understanding of the concepts.

4.3 Mode-tuned EUT testing

The EUT test procedures consist of

EUT Qualification & Susceptibility tests as per standards. The forward input power required to set up the E-field at every test frequency is derived from the average normalized maximum E-field of unloaded chamber calibration and CLF derived with the EUT in place.

4.4 Mode-tuned hardware setup configuration

The hardware setup describes the devices used in a measurement and how they work together. The hardware setup is created manually. Figure 2 below shows a setup as described in the standard.

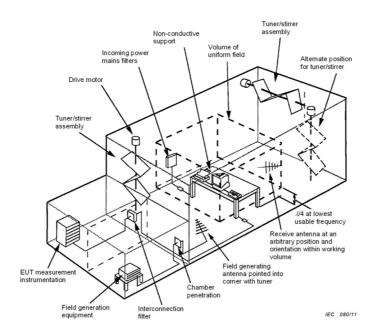


Figure 2 General test setup for measurements in RVC, SOURCE: IEC 61000-4-21 [1]

In R&S®ELEKTRA, the radiated hardware setup for the reverberation chamber is used for the recommended hardware setup in the standard. Figure 3 & Figure 4 shows the Calibration & EUT view of a hardware setup with four subranges.

Calibration View (200 MHz – 7.125 GHz) shown below in Figure 3

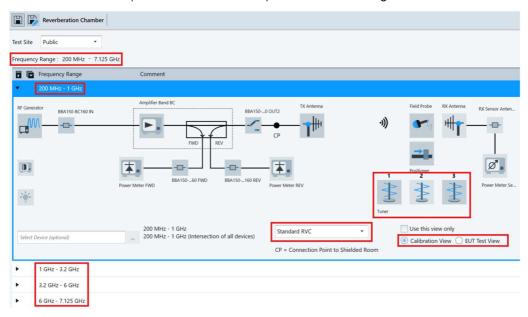


Figure 3 Calibration view (200 MHz – 7.125 GHz) of hardware setup for mode-tuned test.

• EUT Test View (200 MHz - 7.125 GHz) shown below in Figure 4

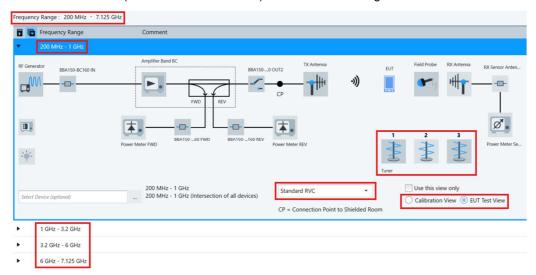


Figure 4 EUT view (200 MHz – 7.125 GHz) of hardware setup for mode tuned test.

Each subrange in the hardware setup is configured with devices matching the subrange. For mode-tuned testing, the hardware is configured in the standard RVC mode that supports up to three tuners for better mode density and field uniformity.

The Table 1 shows the devices must be selected from the device list and assigned to the respective placeholders.

Device Name	Device Category/Type	Special Settings
RF Generator	Generator	No specific requirements.
Amplifier Band A	Amplifier	Depending on whether a directional coupler is used, the value of the directional coupler attenuation must be appropriately measured and set. If necessary, multiple amplifiers may be used to cover the measured frequency range.
Power Meter FWD	Power Meter	If a two-channel power meter is used channel A shall be set for the measurement of the forward power.
Power Meter REV	Power Meter	If a two-channel power meter is used, channel B shall be set for the measurement of the reverse power. If the power meter supports dual channel measurement (coupling of channel B to A), the feature should be activated to improve the measurement speed.
Tx Antenna Rx Antenna	Antenna	Enter the frequency parameters for each antenna and the respective antenna efficiency factor. Antenna efficiency is the ratio of the total power radiated by an antenna to the net power accepted by the antenna from the connected transmitter.
Tuner (1, 2, 3)	Comtest tuner or generic turntable	Comtest is a manufacturer of tuners for the RVC. Comtest tuners are classified as a type of turntable. Configuration requires a minimum of one tuner and allows a maximum of three
Field Probe		The field probe must support the simultaneous measurement of all three axes.
		Enter the values of the probe calibration (frequency response and linearity correction) if available.
Power Meter Sensor	Power meter/spectrum analyzer	No specific requirements.
Switch unit		The signal paths of the switching unit with their respective settings are defined here
Interlock		An interlock device must always be available in the device list. If no physical device is available, select NONE.
Positioner	Positioner/manual positioner	Manual positioner to prompt user to change the Rx antenna /field probe position (only in calibration view)

Table 1 Devices used in hardware setup for mode-tuned test.

Depending on the power needed, multiple amplifiers can cover the frequency range. Typically, transmit and receive antennas are required. Logarithmic periodical antennas are used for frequency ranges up to 1 GHz. Horn antennas are used to cover frequencies above 1 GHz. The transmit antennas should not point to a corner of the chamber and their position should not be changed after calibration is completed.

Either NRX or single probes are used to measure the transmitted antenna forward and reverse power,

The generated field strength is measured by the field probe and a receive antenna connected to the spectrum analyzer/field probe used to measure the received power.

4.5 Mode-tuned test template configuration and test execution

The following sections describe the test template configuration for the different calibration & EUT tests. The hardware setup must be created before configuring test templates.

4.5.1 Mode-tuned unloaded chamber test template configuration

Table 2 shows the typical parameters configured for the unloaded chamber test template for ISO 11452-11 test standard. This configuration applies to EN 61000-4-21 standards as well.

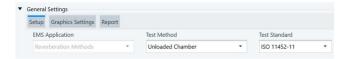
Parameter	Setting	Location in User Interface (UI)
EMS Application	Reverberation Methods	General Setup => Setup
Test Method	Unloaded Chamber	General Setup => Setup
Test Standard	ISO 11452-11	General Setup => Setup
Level On	Transducer Power	Measurement Settings => Leveling Mode
Power Control	Forward Power	Measurement Settings => Leveling Mode
Level Conservation for Modulation	CW Carrier = Modulation Carrier	Measurement Settings => Leveling Options
Power Limitation	Not Active	Measurement Settings => Power Level Limitation
Frequency Range	200 MHz – 7.125 GHz	Subrange Header
Frequency Steps	5.6%, LOG (200 MHz – 600 GHz) 5.6%, LOG (600 MHz – 1 GHz) 5.6%, LOG (1 GHz – 1.2 GHz) 5.2% LOG (1.2 GHz – 2 GHz) 1.45% DECLIN (2 GHz – 7.125 GHz)	Subrange Header
Test Level	5 W	Subrange => Test Level
Modulation	Off	UI not activated
Leveling Tolerance	0 dB - 0.4 dB	Subrange => Test Level
Tuner	12	Subrange => Reverb Settings
Sensor	8	Subrange => Reverb Settings
Accessory Settings	Priority 1 => Frequency Priority 2 => Tuner Priority 3 => Position (Sensor)	Accessory Settings
Input Evaluation Data	Tolerance of Standard Deviation: ISO 11452-11 Max Std Deviation Chamber Volume: 179.237 m³ (depends on chamber) Relative Permittivity: 8.8595 pF/m (depends on chamber)	Data Evaluation => Input Data
Output Evaluation Data	Calibration Result Table: ISO 11452-11 Unloaded Chamber Norm Max E-Field Table: LUF200 Averaged Max E-Field E&C	Data Evaluation => Output Data
Evaluation Graphics	Insertion Loss Standard Deviation Antenna Correction Factor E-Field Comparison Chamber Q	Data Evaluation => Evaluation Graphics
System Monitoring	Test Level Received Antenna Power Sensor Level Transducer Reverse Power	System Monitoring

Table 2 Typical parameters in mode-tuned unloaded chamber test template

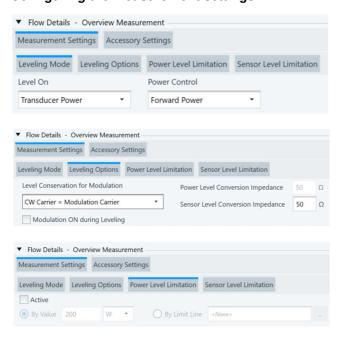
4.5.1.1 Unloaded chamber test template user interface previews

In this section, the UI to configure various parameters of unloaded chamber listed in Table 2 are shown.

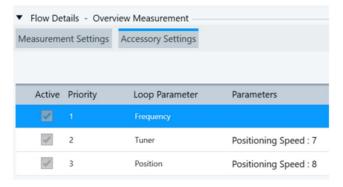
Configuring the test method and test standard



Configuring the measurement settings

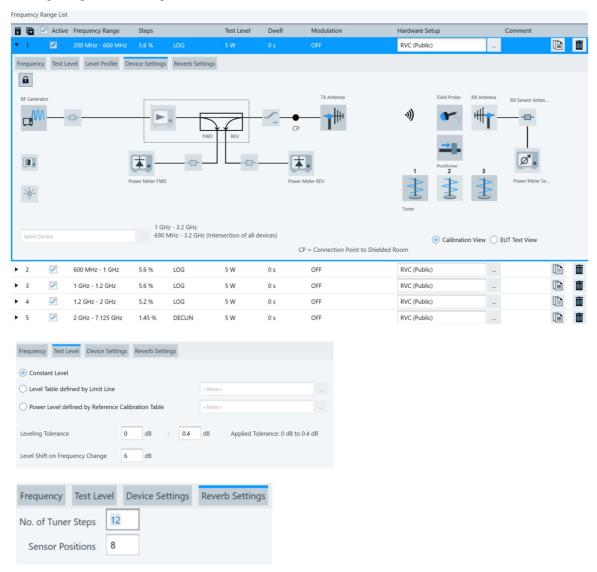


Configuring the accessory settings



As shown above, an unloaded chamber test is performed for various combinations of tuner and sensor positions.

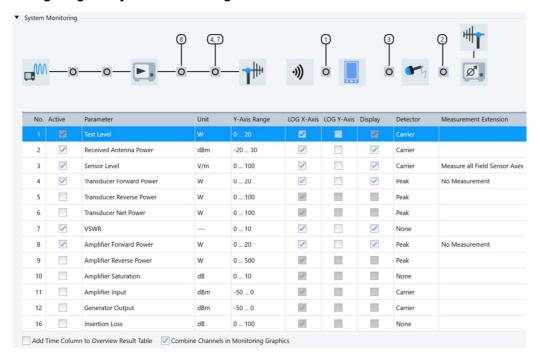
Configuring the subrange



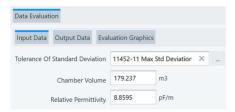
If multiple tuners are configured, each position is defined by a unique combination of tuner positions.

In the examples above, Tuner 2 is configured, and its position—relative to the tuner step—is calculated using the highlighted formula. The same calculation applies if Tuner 3 is configured. The relative positions of the tuners are set to increase the number of independent positions, helping to achieve a statistically uniform electromagnetic field.

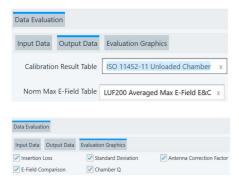
Configuring the system monitoring



Configuring the data evaluation



Chamber volume and relative permittivity are used to calculate the quality factor (Q-factor) for the chamber using the average power measurements. Relative permittivity is used for estimating the Q-factor from the averaged field strength readings.



4.5.2 Mode-tuned unloaded chamber test

4.5.2.1 Test creation

The first step of the RVC calibration process verifies the field strength distribution in the test volume of the unloaded chamber. Before the test starts, the field probe is positioned at sensor position 1 (the single axis points into the test volume). The receive antenna is placed in a random position inside the test volume (note: the receive antenna should have no direct radiating path to the transmit antenna and that it should also be cross polarized to the transmit antenna).

Click "create test from template" in the unloaded chamber test template to create the unloaded chamber test as shown in Figure 5. In the measurement flow control, the test flow is grouped based on the antenna/tuner positions. In the example shown in Figure 5, all subranges used the same transmit antenna and the same number of tuner/sensor positions. If the antenna or tuner positions are different in the few subranges, the measurement flow will be grouped based on antenna/tuner steps to optimize the test flow.

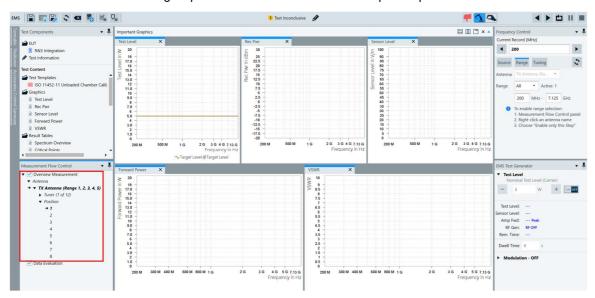


Figure 5 Unloaded chamber test view for mode-tuned test.

4.5.2.2 Test execution

The RVC calibration runs with several measurement loops. As in 4.5.1.1, the accessory settings are defined for three accessories (frequency, tuner and position/sensor). Additionally, if the templates in the hardware setup use multiple antennas, the software groups and executes subranges based on the antenna. Combining various accessories creates many repetitions with unique accessory positions. Some accessory settings do not require any user interaction, but others like the sensor position, or the subrange antenna, must be set manually and the dialog shown in Figure 6 will appear.

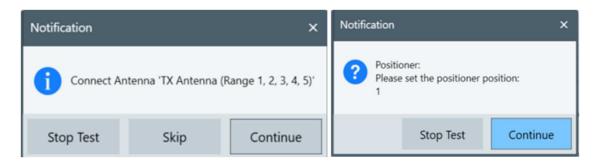


Figure 6 User dialog during mode-tuned unloaded calibration Test.

The measurement run has two distinct phases:

- The data collection phase is where the test levels are set at every frequency/tuner/sensor position and the system monitoring points are measured. After each completed scan, the measurement results are copied to the loop results folder.
- The data evaluation phase is where the evaluation generates an unloaded chamber evaluation result table (Figure 8) and a transducer correction average normalized E-field table (see Figure 9).
 In the average normalized E-field table, the unloaded insertion column is occupied during this test run. The evaluation graphics selected in the template are also generated.

During the run of the measurement, the current state of the measurement loops, accessory movements, test levels are displayed in the respective panels as shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7 Unloaded test view during mode-tuned measurement.

Figure 8 shows the various columns of the unloaded test calibration results and

Table 3 describes the unloaded chamber result columns.

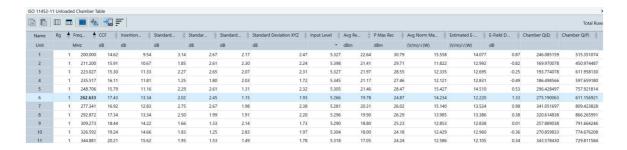


Figure 8 Unloaded Chamber Calibration Result of mode tuned test

Column Name	Description	Unit
Rg	Subrange number	None
Frequency	frequency	Hz
CCF	Chamber correction factor (B.8)	dB
Insertion Loss	Insertion loss (B.9)	dB
Standard Deviation X, Y, Z	Standard deviation of the E-field for the x axis in dB (B.4 $\&$ B.5)	dB
Standard Deviation XYZ	Standard deviation of the E-field for the x axis in dB (B.6 $\&$ B.7)	dB
P _{input}	Input power into the transmitting antenna	dBm
P _{AveRec}	Average power received by the receiving antenna measured with the receiver device	dBm
P _{MaxREC}	Maximum power received by the receiving antenna measured with the receiver device	dBm
Avg Norm Max E-field	Calculated average normalized maximum E-field (B.3) in $\ensuremath{\text{V/m}}$	V/m/SQR(W)
Estimated E-field	Estimated E-field using the maximum received power (A.6)	V/m/SQR(W)
E-field Delta	Difference between average normalized max E-field and estimated E-field columns	dB
Chamber Q(E)	Estimated chamber Q factor using the chamber volume, the chamber wall permittivity, and the averaged field strength values	None
Chamber Q(P)	Calculated chamber Q factor using the chamber volume, the chamber wall permittivity, and the averaged power	None

Table 3 Unloaded calibration result table column description of mode-tuned test.

Figure 9 shows the various columns for the average normalized E-field table and Table 4 describes the average normalized E-field table columns based on [1]. The insertion loss (unloaded) column is populated during this test run.



Figure 9 Average normalized E-Field table after mode tuned unloaded calibration test

Column Name	Description	Unit
Frequency	Frequency	Hz
Avg Norm Max E-field	Calculated average normalized maximum E-field (B.3) in $\ensuremath{\text{V/m}}$	V/m/SQR(W)
Insertion Loss (unloaded)	Insertion loss (B.9)	dB

Table 4 Average normalized E-Field table column description

Figure 10 shows the various evaluation graphics generated during the data evaluation phase. The graphics are stored in the evaluation graphics folder in the test content explorer.

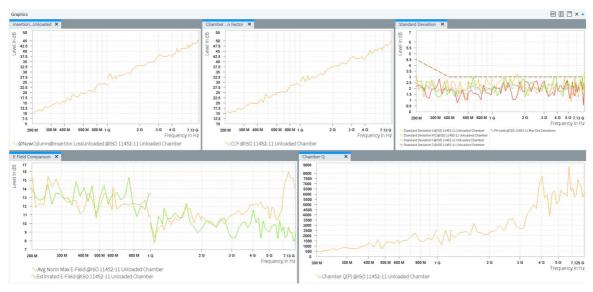


Figure 10 Unloaded chamber evaluation graphics of mode-tuned test.

4.5.3 Mode-tuned loaded chamber test template configuration

The typical parameters for the loaded chamber are largely identical to those of the unloaded chamber, except for the test method and evaluation settings. The following table includes the parameter changes in compared to the unloaded chamber.

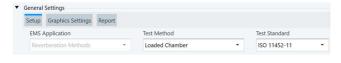
Parameter	Setting	Location in User Interface (UI)
Test Method	Loaded Chamber	General Setup => Setup
Input Evaluation Data	Tolerance of Standard Deviation: ISO 11452-11 Max Std Deviation Chamber Volume: 179.237m³ (depends on chamber) Relative Permittivity: 8.8595 pF/m (depends on chamber) Norm Max E-Field Table: LUF200 Averaged Max E-Field Example (Public)	Data Evaluation => Input Data
Output Evaluation Data	Calibration Result Table: ISO 11452-11 Loaded Chamber	Data Evaluation => Output Data
Evaluation Graphics	Insertion Loss Standard Deviation Antenna Correction Factor Maximum Loading Factor Chamber Q	Data Evaluation => Evaluation Graphics

Table 5 Typical parameters of loaded chamber test template for mode-tuned test

4.5.3.1 Loaded chamber test template user interface previews

In this section, the UI for various parameters of loaded chamber listed in Table 5 are shown.

Configuring the test method and test standard



Configuring the measurement settings

The measurement settings are like those for the unloaded chamber test template.

Configuring the accessory settings

The accessory settings are like those of the unloaded chamber test template.

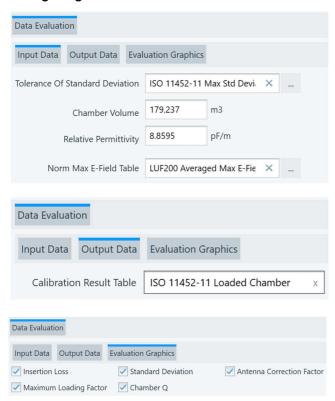
Configuring the subrange

The subrange settings are like those of the unloaded chamber test template.

Configuring the system monitoring settings

The system monitoring settings are like those of the unloaded chamber test template.

Configuring the data evaluation



4.5.4 Loaded chamber test execution

The loaded chamber test creation and execution form the second step of reverberation chamber calibration process. The tests resemble the unloaded chamber test but the field strength distribution in the test volume of the fully loaded chamber is verified. The receiving antenna is placed at a random position inside the test volume (please note that the receiving antenna should have no direct radiating path to the transmitting antenna and that it should also be cross polarized to the transmitting antenna). However, before creating the loaded chamber test, an application setting dialog (Figure 11) appears to select unloaded chamber calibration result table.

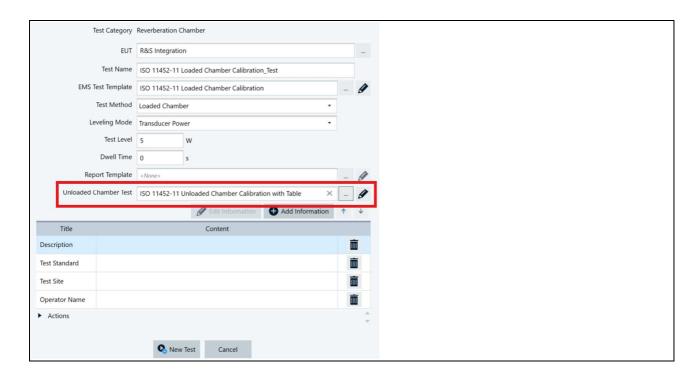


Figure 11 Test application setting view to select the unloaded chamber calibration result table of mode-tuned test.

Clicking "New Test" lets the user proceed with the test creation even without selecting an unloaded calibration chamber result table. This is particularly useful if chamber calibration results are available from the EMC32 software and R&S®ELEKTRA allows calibration results from EMC32 to be imported within test as explained later.

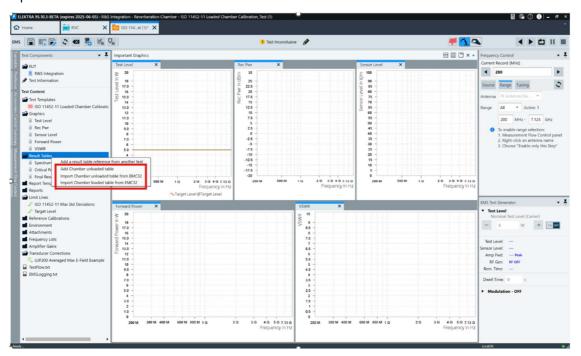


Figure 12 Selection of unloaded chamber calibration results inside the test view for mode-tuned test.

The unloaded calibration table can be selected within test within the test as shown in Figure 12. The menu allows the import of calibration results generated with EMC32 software to save time.

If the unloaded chamber test result table is not available, the test execution validation will not let the user proceed with the data evaluation phase of the test.

The data collection and evaluation phases of loaded chamber calibration are like those of the unloaded chamber calibration.

Figure 13 shows the various columns of the loaded test calibration results and Table 6 describes the unloaded chamber result columns based on [1].

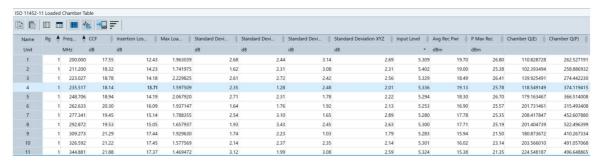


Figure 13 Loaded chamber calibration result table of mode-tuned test.

Column Name	Description	Unit
Rg	Subrange number	None
Frequency	Frequency	Hz
CCF	Chamber correction factor (B.8)	dB
Insertion Loss	Insertion loss (B.9)	dB
Max loading	Calculated maximum loading factor (B.10)	None
Standard Deviation X, Y, Z	Standard deviation of the E-field for the x axis in dB (B.4) (B.5)	dB
Standard Deviation XYZ	Standard deviation of the E-field for the x axis in dB (B.6) (B.7)	dB
P _{input}	Input power into the transmitting antenna	dBm
P _{AveRec}	Average power received by the receiving antenna measured with the receiver device	dBm
P _{MaxREC}	Maximum power received by the receiving antenna measured with the receiver device	dBm
Chamber Q(E)	Estimated chamber Q factor using the chamber volume, the chamber wall permittivity, and the averaged field strength values	None
Chamber Q(P)	Calculated chamber Q factor using the chamber volume, the chamber wall permittivity, and the averaged power	None

Table 6 Loaded calibration result table column description of mode-tuned test.

Figure 14 shows the various columns for average normalized E-field and Table 7 describes the average normalized E-field table columns.



Figure 14 Average normalized E-Field table after mode-tuned loaded calibration test.

Column Name	Description	Unit
Frequency	Frequency	Hz
Avg Norm Max E-field	Calculated average normalized maximum E-field (B.3) in $\mbox{\sc V/m}$	V/m/SQR(W)
Insertion Loss (loaded)	Insertion loss (B.9)	dB

Table 7 Average normalized E-Field table column description after loaded chamber mode-tuned calibration.

Figure 15 shows the various evaluation graphics generated during the data evaluation phase. These graphics are stored in the evaluation graphics folder in the test content explorer.

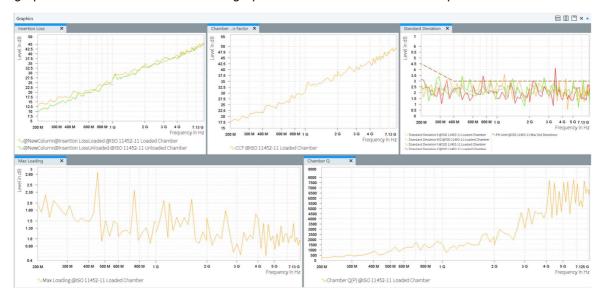


Figure 15 Loaded chamber evaluation graphics of mode-tuned test.

4.5.5 Mode-tuned EUT check test template configuration

The typical parameters of the EUT check that differ from unloaded/loaded test template configurations are shown in Table 8

Parameter	Setting	Location in User Interface (UI)
Assess Method	EUT Check	General Setup => Setup
Input Evaluation Data	Min Required Pulse Width: 2.4 µs. Chamber Volume: 179.237m³ (depends on chamber) Relative Permittivity: 8.8595 pF/m (depends on chamber)	Data Evaluation => Input Data
Output Evaluation Data	EUT Load Effect Table: EUT Load Effect Table Cahmber Loading Factor: Chamber Loading Factor	Data Evaluation => Output Data
Evaluation Graphics	Chamber Loading factor Chamber Calibration Factor Chamber Q Pulse Width	Data Evaluation => Evaluation Graphics

Table 8 Typical parameters of mode0tuned EUT Check test template

4.5.5.1 EUT check test template user interface previews

This section shows the UI for various EUT check parameters listed in Table 8.

Configuring the test method and test standard

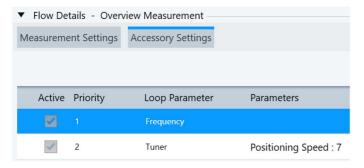


Configuring the measurement settings

The measurement settings are like those of the unloaded/loaded chamber test templates.

Configuring the accessory settings

Only the frequency and tuner loop are enabled for accessory settings.



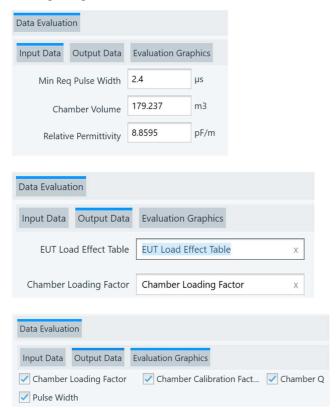
Configuring the subrange

The subrange settings are like those of the unloaded/loaded chamber test templates.

Configuring the system monitoring settings

The system monitoring settings are like those of the unloaded chamber test template.

Configuring the data evaluation



4.5.6 Mode-tuned EUT check test execution

The EUT check test creation and execution are the third step of the reverberation chamber calibration process. It is like the loaded chamber method but the field strength distribution in the test volume of the chamber is verified with the presence of the EUT. The receiving antenna is placed in a random position inside the test volume. Please note that the transmitting antenna should have no direct radiating path to the receiving antenna and that the transmitting and receiving antennas are cross polarized. However, before creating the EUT check test, a dialog for test application settings (Figure 16) appears for selecting the unloaded and loaded chamber calibration result tables.

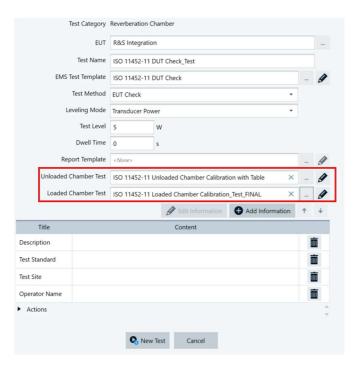


Figure 16 Test application setting view to select the mode-tuned unloaded chamber calibration and loaded chamber result tables.

A test can be created by clicking "New Test" even when no unloaded/loaded calibration chamber result tables are selected. They can be selected within the test as shown in Figure 12. The menu allows calibration results generated using EMC32 software to be imported and helps save time.

If the unloaded/loaded chamber test result tables are not available, the test execution validation will not allow users to proceed with the data evaluation phase of the test.

The data collection and evaluation phases of the loaded chamber calibration is like those of the unloaded/loaded chamber calibration but have differences in the measurement loops.

Figure 17 shows the various columns of the loaded test calibration results and Table 9 describes the EUT check chamber result columns based on [1]

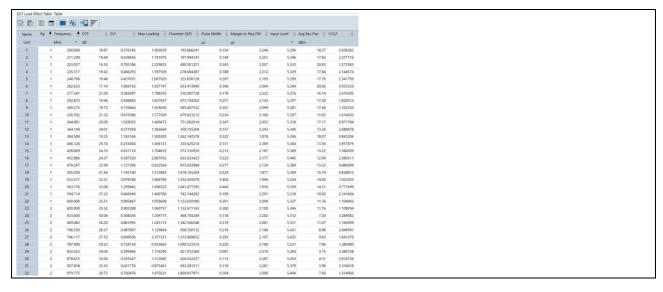


Figure 17 EUT Check result table of mode-tuned test.

Column Name	Description	Unit
Rg	Subrange number	None
Frequency	Frequency	Hz
CCF	Chamber correction factor (B.11)	dB
CLF	Chamber Loading Factor (B.12)	None
Max loading	Calculated maximum loading factor (B.10)	None
Chamber Q(P)	Calculated chamber Q factor (B.13)	None
Pulse Width	Calculated minimum pulse width (B.14)	Ms
Margin to Req PW	difference between the calculated minimum pulse width and the limit defined in the input parameters	μs
Input Level	Input power into the transmitting antenna	dBm
P _{AveRec}	Average power received by the receiving antenna measured with the receiver device	dBm
1/CLF	Inverse CLF for comparison to the Max. loading	None

Table 9 EUT Check result table column description of mode-tuned test.

Figure 18 shows the various columns of the chamber loading factor table and Table 10 describes the corresponding columns.

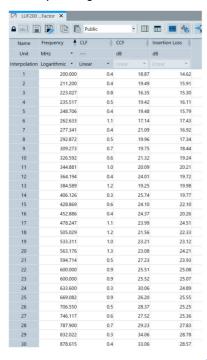


Figure 18 Chamber loading factor table of mode-tuned test.

Column Name	Description	Unit
Frequency	Test Frequency	Hz
CLF	Chamber loading factor (B.12)	None
CCF	Chamber calibration factor (B.11)	dB
Insertion Loss	Insertion loss (B.9) of the unloaded chamber	dB

Table 10 Chamber loading factor table column description after mode tuned EUT Check

Figure 19 shows the various evaluation graphics generated during the data evaluation phase. These graphics are stored in the evaluation graphics folder in the test content explorer.



Figure 19 EUT Check Evaluation Graphics

4.5.7 Mode-tuned EUT test template configuration

The typical parameters for EUT qualification testing in the RVC are shown in Table 11.

Parameter	Setting	Location in User Interface (UI)
EMS Application	Reverberation Methods	General Setup => Setup
Test Method	EUT Qualification	General Setup => Setup
Test Standard	ISO 11452-11	General Setup => Setup
Level On	Power Relation	Measurement Settings => Leveling Mode
Power Control	Forward Power	Measurement Settings => Leveling Mode
Transducer Relation	pow(TESTNOMLEV(v/m) /RVCEFIELD, 2) / RVCCLF RVCEFILED is referenced from the avg norm max E- field table generated by unloaded chamber test RVCCLF is referenced from CLF table generated by EUT check	Measurement Settings => Calculate Transducer Power[W]
Avg Norm Max E-Field	LUF200 Averaged Max E-Field Example (updated from unloaded tests)	Measurement Settings => Avg Norm Max E-Field
Chamber Loading Factor	Chamber Loading Factor (updated from EUT Check test)	Measurement Settings => Chamber Loading Factor
Level Conservation for Modulation	CW Carrier = Modulation Carrier	Measurement Settings => Leveling Options
Power Limitation	Not Active	Measurement Settings => Power Level Limitation
Frequency Range	200 MHz – 7.125 GHz	Subrange Header
Frequency Steps	5.6%, LOG (200 MHz – 600 GHz) 5.6%, LOG (600 MHz – 1 GHz) 5.6%, LOG (1 GHz – 1.2 GHz) 5.2% LOG (1.2 GHz – 2 GHz) 1.45% DECLIN (2 GHz – 7.125 GHz)	Subrange Header
Test Level	100 V/m	Subrange => Test Level
Modulation	Off	UI not activated
Leveling Tolerance	0 dB - 0.4 dB	Subrange => Test Level

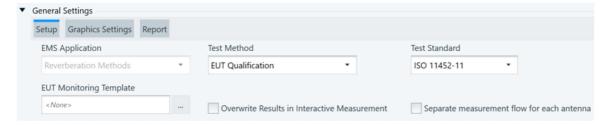
Parameter	Setting	Location in User Interface (UI)
Tuner	12	Subrange => Reverb Settings
Accessory Settings	Priority 1 => Frequency Priority 2 => Tuner	Accessory Settings
System Monitoring	Test Level Received Antenna Power Sensor Level Transducer Forward Power VSWR Amplifier Forward Power	System Monitoring

Table 11 Typical parameters of mode tuned EUT Qualification Test Template

4.5.7.1 EUT test template user interface preview

This section shows the UI for various parameters listed in Table 11.

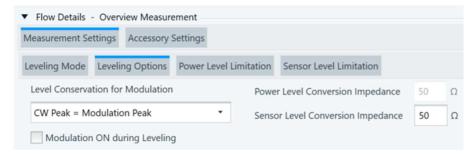
Configuring the test method and test standard



Configuring the measurement settings



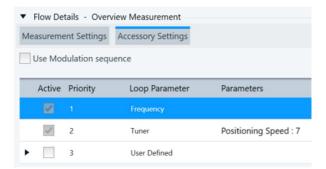
The formula to calculate the required forward power to generate the required electric field strength at each frequency is from [1]. However, the conversion factors are same as in [2].



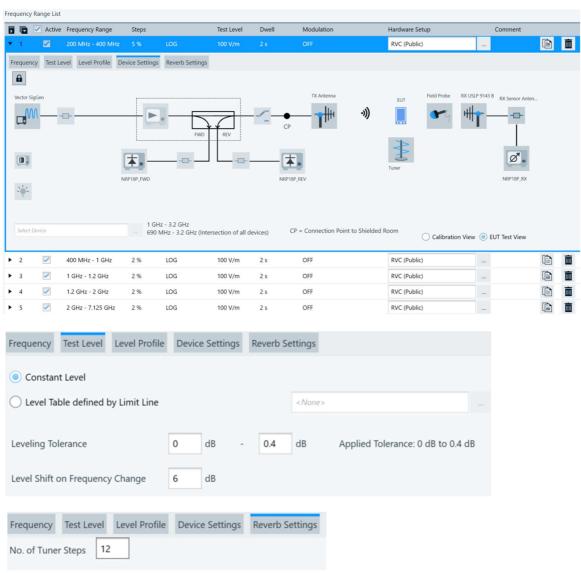
The level conservation needs to be CW carrier = modulation carrier for [1].

Configuring the accessory settings

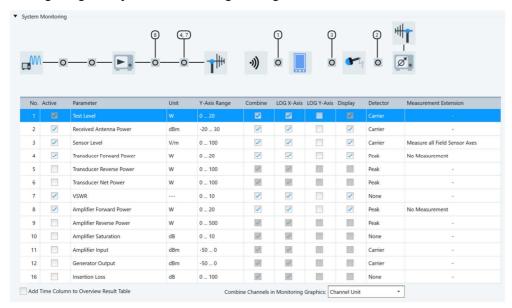
For accessory settings, only the frequency and tuner loops are enabled.



Configuring the subrange



Configuring the system monitoring settings



Configuring the data evaluation

The data evaluation settings are like those of any EUT tests done in an anechoic chamber

4.5.8 Mode-tuned EUT test execution

The EUT test creation and execution are like those of any EUT qualification/susceptibility tests performed in an anechoic chamber. Figure 20 shows the various columns of the EUT qualification test in an RVC.

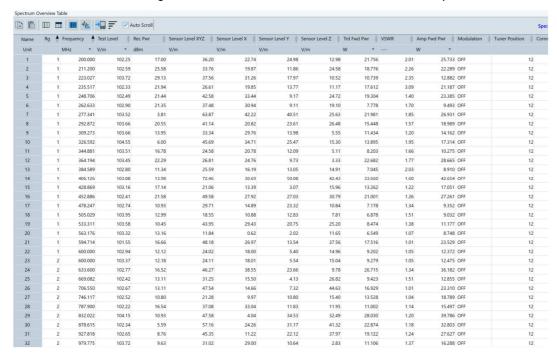


Figure 20 Loop result table of EUT Qualification in mode-tuned test.

Figure 21 shows the various system monitoring graphics for the EUT qualification test in the mode-tuned RVC test.



Figure 21 System monitoring graphics of mode tuned EUT Qualification test.

Evaluation of EUT failure mode either by operator intervention or with EUT monitoring template is like those performed with the anechoic chamber and is not described in this application note.

5 Radiated immunity testing with closed-loop power control

The closed-loop power control is described in Annex G of 11451-5 [3] and uses eight field probes to measure electric field strength and calculate test levels and uniformity in real time as the field changes with mode stirring. The probe positions determine the test volume as shown in Figure 1. A significant benefit is that it does not require chamber calibration or EUT checks. Testing is done with the EUT in position. Chamber calibration, if needed, is done with mode-tuned method specified in section 4.

5.1 Closed-loop EUT test procedures

The field distribution is random, and the field can fluctuate at any point due to reflections and continuous mode-stirring. So, the power control loop for closed-loop testing based directly on field measurements might lead to unacceptably long levelling times or to the risk of over-testing if the stirring speed is not fast enough. So, the field probe system uses a statistical approach to the leveling process by acquiring field-strength distribution snapshots from eight probes and computing the cumulative distribution function (CDF). The R&S®ELEKTRA software then retrieves the field strength corresponding to a defined CDF level, such as 80%. If the field strength is within the target level ± tolerance, leveling is complete. If not, the forward power into the RVC is adjusted and the cycle repeats. Upon reaching the defined test level, the system triggers the dwell period, after which measurement procedures start. The mean forward power, mean reverse power, mean of the twenty-four maximum field components and four standard deviations required for a field uniformity evaluation are recorded.

5.2 Closed-loop hardware setup

In R&S®ELEKTRA, the radiated hardware setup for a reverberation chamber diagram type is used for the recommended hardware setup in a closed loop FRVC. Figure 22 shows the EUT view of a hardware setup with a single subrange. Since the closed-loop method does not require calibration, the hardware setup is fixed to EUT test view.

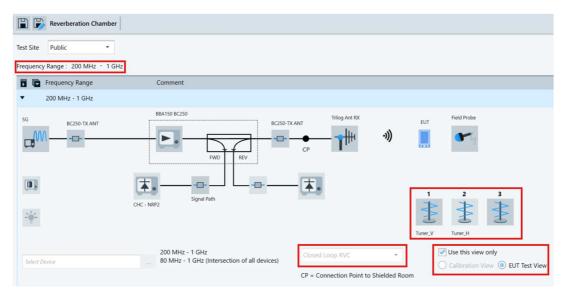


Figure 22 EUT view (200 MHz – 1 GHz) of a closed-loop test hardware setup.

The hardware is configured in closed-loop RVC mode that supports up to three independent tuners. Multiple tuners produce better mode density and field uniformity. Tuners should support continuous and endless stirring. Comtest and Frankonia tuners can be used as stirring devices in the compatible software for this application note (see 2) since they support continuous stirring. Future versions will support a wider range of tuners from various manufacturers, as well as a generic turntable for testing purposes. The setup in Figure 22 has two RVC tuners. See Table 1 for more details on the devices in the hardware setup. In the current version of R&S®ELEKTRA, the field probe system is configured very differently in the device list when used for the closed loop method compared to standard test methods.

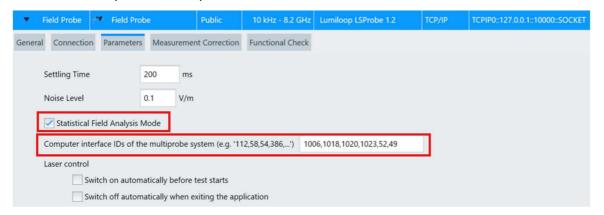


Figure 23 Field probe parameter configuration for closed Loop test.

The field probe system should be configured in statistical field analysis mode, and eight field probes - identified by their computer interface IDs - should be assigned. No measurement correction is applied in this statistical mode, since it is managed internally by the field probe system. Using post-measurement result corrections in the statistical evaluation is not feasible as shown in Figure 24.

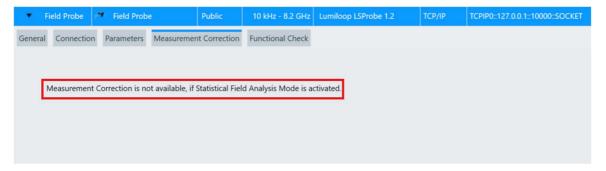


Figure 24 Field probe measurement correction for closed loop test.

5.3 Closed-loop template configuration and test execution

The following sections describe the test template configuration for the EUT tests. The hardware setup must be created before configuring the test templates.

5.3.1 Closed-loop EUT test template configuration

The typical parameters for performing EUT qualification test in the RVC are shown in

Table 12.

Parameter	Setting	Location in user interface (UI)
EMS Application	Reverberation Methods	General Setup => Setup
Test Method	EUT Qualification	General Setup => Setup
Test Standard	ISO 11451-5:2023 Annex G	General Setup => Setup
Level On	Sensor Measurement Settings => L Mode	
Power Control	Forward Power	Measurement Settings => Leveling Mode
Level Conservation for Modulation	CW Carrier = Modulation Carrier	Measurement Settings => Leveling Options
Power Limitation	Not Active	Measurement Settings => Power Level Limitation
Sensor Limitation	Not Active	Measurement Settings => Sensor Level Limitation
Frequency Range	As per test requirements	Subrange Header
Frequency Steps	As per test requirements	Subrange Header
Test Level	As per test requirements	Subrange => Test Level
Modulation	Off	UI not activated
Leveling Tolerance	0 dB - 0.4 dB	Subrange => Test Level
Tuner	12	Subrange => Reverb Settings
Accessory Settings	Priority 1 => Frequency Priority 2 => User Defined	Accessory Settings
System Monitoring	Test Level E-Field Statistics Standard Deviation Transducer Forward Power VSWR Amplifier Forward Power	System Monitoring

Table 12 Typical parameters of EUT qualification test template in closed-loop test

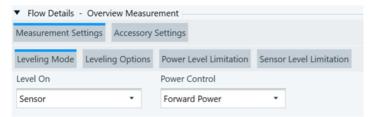
5.3.1.1 Closed-loop EUT test template UI previews

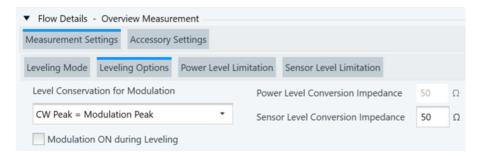
In this section, the UI for various EUT parameters listed in Table 12 are shown.

Configuring the test method and test standard



Configuring the measurement settings

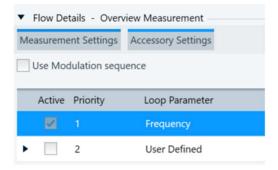




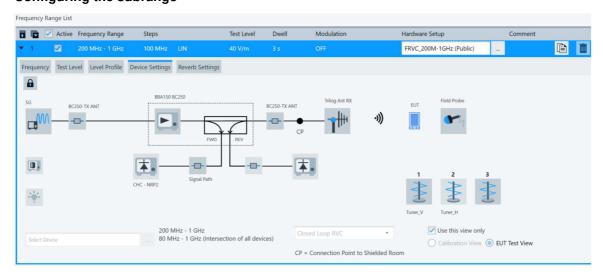
The level conservation needs to CW carrier = modulation carrier for [1].

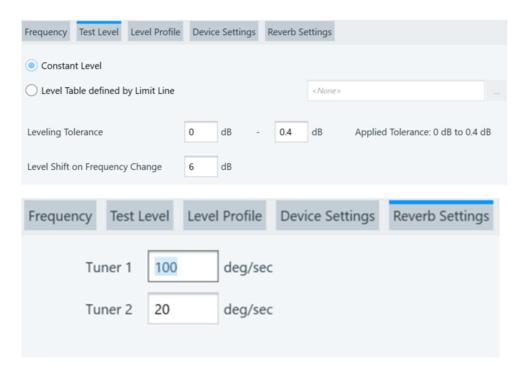
Configuring the accessory settings

Only the frequency is enabled for accessory settings.



Configuring the subrange





For every tuner, the tuner speed is configured in the reverb settings tab as shown in the above screenshot. The field probe allows user to configure few parameters as shown in the screenshot below.

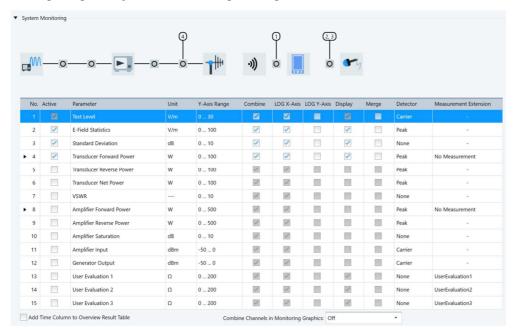


Table 13 presents the field probe configuration parameters along with typical values.

Parameter	Setting	Comments
CDF Threshold Level	80 %	Valid range (0 – 100). The value is used by the SW to level until the field strength meets the target.
Measurement Speed	Mode 0 (30 MHz – 8.2 GHz)	Data sampling rate of the field probe system
Measurement Time	3.5 s	Refers to the duration for which the field strength data is recorded before capturing the first data snapshot after a new forward power level is set
Verification Time Cycle	1 s	Interval within the dwell time after which the current field strength is checked
CDF Axis Combined or Vector Evaluation Magnitude Mode		The option refers to two ways of evaluating field strength data from a multi-axis field probe. Vector Magnitude : A single scalar value representing the overall magnitude of the field ($E_{\text{Total}} = \sqrt{Ex^2 + Ey^2 + Ez^2}$) Axis Combined: Evaluating each axis separately & averaging $(E_x + E_y + E_z)/3$

Table 13 Typical settings of field probe for closed loop method

Configuring the system monitoring settings



The E-field statistics channel represents the arithmetic mean of the maximum X, Y, Z and XYZ E-field values measured over the entire dwell time. The Standard Deviation channel represents the standard deviation in dB of the maximum X, Y, Z & XYZ E-field components measured during the test. The standard deviation values for E-field are only available in the overview results table of the test.

Configuring the data evaluation

The data evaluation settings are like any EUT tests done in an anechoic chamber

5.3.2 Closed-loop EUT test execution

The EUT test creation and execution are like any EUT qualification/susceptibility tests performed in an anechoic chamber. Figure 20 shows the various columns of the EUT Qualification test in closed loop test.

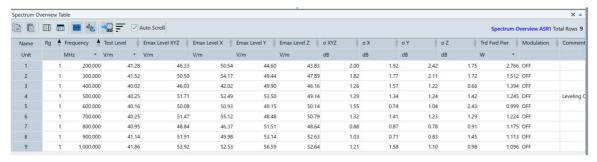


Figure 25 Loop result table of EUT Qualification in closed loop test.

Figure 26 shows the various system monitoring graphics of the EUT qualification test in RVC.

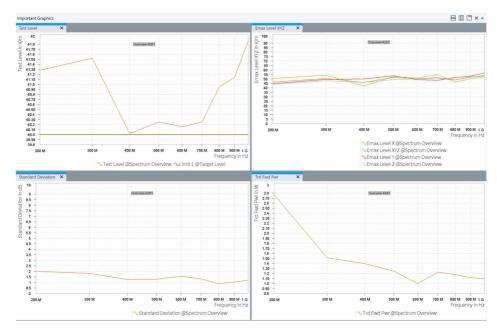


Figure 26 System monitoring graphics of EUT Qualification test in closed loop test.

Evaluation of EUT failure mode either by operator intervention or using EUT monitoring template is like those performed with Anechoic Chamber and is not described in this application note.

6 Comtest stirrer configuration

The Comtest stirrer assembly is driven by an Oriental controller. Figure 27 shows the settings dialog for Comtest stirrer with an Oriental controller.

The following settings are recommended for closed loop testing with R&S®ELEKTRA.

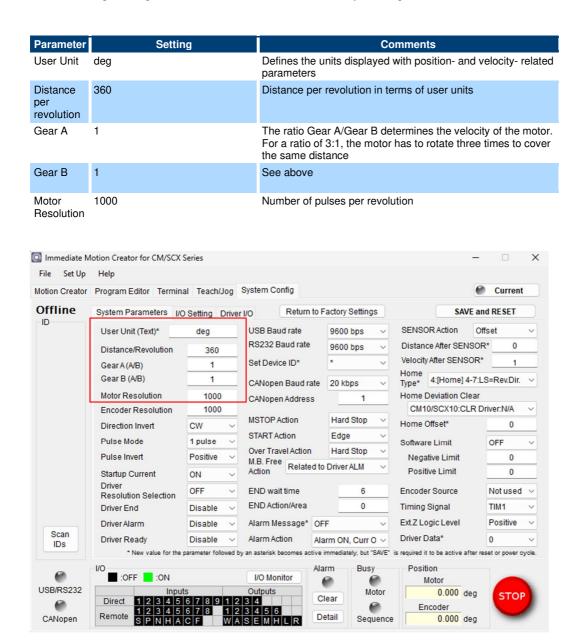


Figure 27 Comtest Stirrer Control Settings for closed loop test.

The user should consult the stirrer controller manual provided by the stirrer supplier.

7 Reference documents

- [1] IEC 61000-4-21 Edition 2.0 2011-01 Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) Part 4-21: Testing and measurement techniques - Reverberation chamber test
- [2] ISO 11542-11 Edition 2010-09-01 Road vehicles Component test methods for electrical disturbances from narrowband radiated electromagnetic energy — Part 11: Reverberation chamber
- [3] ISO 11541-5 Edition xxx Road vehicles Vehicle test methods for electrical disturbances from narrowband radiated electromagnetic energy — Part 5: Reverberation chamber

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Application Note | MEASUREMENTS IN REVERBERATION CHAMBER with R&S® ELEKTRA

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