

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment practices – Part 1: Generic standard**

**Ordre modulaire pour le développement des structures mécaniques pour les infrastructures électriques et électroniques – Partie 1: Norme générique**



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Part 1: Generic standard**

**Ordre modulaire pour le développement des structures mécaniques pour les infrastructures électriques et électroniques –  
Partie 1: Norme générique**

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International Standard IEC 60917-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 48D: Mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment, of IEC technical committee 48: Electrical connectors and mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1998 and its Amendment 1:2000. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) added information on newly developed detail specification standards of mechanical structures for the electrical and electronic equipment practices;
- b) added information on newly developed performance test standards for the verifications of environmental performances and safety aspects and issues of the thermal performance and thermal management for the electrical and electronic equipment practices;

- c) introduced the relations between the mechanical structure for electrical and electronic system, the verification of environmental performance and safety aspects and issues of the thermal performance and thermal management for the electrical and electronic equipment practices.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
48D/703/FDIS	48D/708/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard 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.

Future standards in this series will carry the new general title as cited above. Titles of existing standards in this series will be updated at the time of the next edition.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60917 series, published under the general title *Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment practices*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability 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

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- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
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## INTRODUCTION

There is a continuous trend towards higher functional integration and smaller electronic components and integrated circuits. At the same time, new manufacturing methods, automatic manufacturing and testing equipment, and Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) systems have created commercial advantages for their users.

For users to take technical and economic advantage of these new components and technologies during planning, design, manufacturing, and testing, it is necessary for equipment practices to meet the following requirements (see IEC Guide 103): arrangement of products with a minimum loss of area and space;

- dimensional interchangeability of products, e.g. regarding overall dimensions, mounting dimensions (fixing holes, cut-out, etc.);
- dimensional compatibility and determination of interface dimensions of products which:
  - are combined with other products, e.g. instruments, racks, panels and cabinets, etc.;
  - are used in buildings that have been built in accordance with a modular system, e.g. column spacing, room height, door height, etc.

An obstacle arises from the use of two systems of dimensioning (inch – metre) that are not compatible with each other. The use of an interface between both dimensioning systems represents one way around this obstacle. The recommendation is:

- to use only one dimensioning system and to use SI units.

The dimensions given in 5.3 of this document have been taken from System I of IEC Guide 103 in consideration with other documents on dimensional coordination.

In accordance with the above considerations, IEC 60917-1 Ed.1 was published in 1998. This generic standard for mechanical structures for electronic equipment practices has been used to meet advanced requirements for various industrial applications of micro-electronics technology.

After publication of this generic standard, development of dimensional sectional and detail specifications consisting of the metric 25 mm modular standards, IEC 60917-2-X, and 19 inch (in) conventional standards, IEC 60297-3-XXX, was undertaken. In parallel, standards to address environmental performance and safety aspects of the mechanical structures were developed as the IEC 61587 series. All these standards are based on indoor system applications. The next step for the mechanical structure was the developments of the IEC 61969 series for outdoor applications.

In the first decade of the 21st century, the IEC 62194 and IEC 62610 series were developed to define the verification of the thermal performance of enclosures and address thermal management issues of the electrical and electronic equipment practices.

This document describes the relationships between the mechanical structure for electrical and electronic systems, the verification of environmental performance and safety aspects, and the issues of the thermal performance and of the thermal management for the electrical and electronic equipment practices.



# MODULAR ORDER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANICAL STRUCTURES FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT PRACTICES –

## Part 1: Generic standard

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60917 specifies the relationships between equipment practices and the modular order which are applicable to the main structural dimensions of electronic and electrical equipment mounted in various installations where dimensional interfaces have to be considered for mechanical compatibility.

This document also established terms for parts and assemblies of mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment, to clarify the specific relations between equipment practices and modular order.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 60917-1:2019  
IEC 60050-581, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 581 – Electromechanical components for electronic equipment*

IEC 60297 (all parts), *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment*

IEC 60297-3-100, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-100: Basic dimensions of front panels, subracks, chassis, racks and cabinets*

IEC 60297-3-101, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-101: Subracks and associated plug-in units*

IEC 60297-3-102, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-102: Injector/extractor handle*

IEC 60297-3-103, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-103: Keying and alignment pin*

IEC 60297-3-104, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-104: Connector dependent interface dimensions of subracks and plug-in units*

IEC 60297-3-105, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-105: Dimensions and design aspects for 1U high chassis*

IEC 60297-3-106, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-106: Adaptation dimensions for subracks and chassis applicable with metric cabinets or racks in accordance with IEC 60917-2-1*

IEC 60297-3-107, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-107: Dimensions of subracks and plug-in units, small form factor*

IEC 60297-3-108, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-108: Dimensions of R-type subracks and plug-in units*

IEC 60297-3-109, *Mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-109: Dimensions of chassis for embedded computing devices*

IEC 60297-3-110, *Mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment – Dimensions of mechanical structures of the 482,6 mm (19 in) series – Part 3-110: Residential racks and cabinets for smart houses*

IEC TR 60668, *Dimensions of panel areas and cut-outs for panel and rack-mounted industrial-process measurement and control instruments*

IEC 60917-2, *Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electronic equipment practices – Part 2: Sectional specification – Interface co-ordination dimensions for the 25 mm equipment practice*

IEC 60917-2-1, *Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electronic equipment practices – Part 2: Sectional specification – Interface co-ordination dimensions for the 25 mm equipment practice – Section 1: Detail specification – Dimensions for cabinets and racks*

IEC 60917-2-2, *Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electronic equipment practices – Part 2: Sectional specification – Interface co-ordination dimensions for the 25 mm equipment practice – Section 2: Detail specification – Dimensions for subracks, chassis, backplanes, front panels and plug-in units*

IEC 60917-2-3, *Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electronic equipment practices – Part 2-3: Sectional specification – Interface co-ordination dimensions for the 25 mm equipment practice – Extended detail specification – Dimensions for subracks, chassis, backplanes, front panels and plug-in units*

IEC 60917-2-4, *Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electronic equipment practices – Part 2-4: Sectional specification – Interface co-ordination dimensions for the 25 mm equipment practice – Adaptation dimensions for subracks or chassis applicable in cabinets or racks in accordance with IEC 60297-3-100 (19 in)*

IEC 60917-2-5, *Modular order for the development of mechanical structures for electronic equipment practices – Part 2-5: Sectional specification – Interface co-ordination dimensions for the 25 mm equipment practice – Cabinet interface dimensions for miscellaneous equipment*

IEC 61554, *Panel mounted equipment – Electrical measuring instruments – Dimensions for panel mounting*

IEC 61587 (all parts), *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Tests for IEC 60917 and IEC 60297 series*

IEC 61969-1, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Outdoor enclosures – Part 1: Design guidelines*

IEC 61969-2, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Outdoor enclosures – Part 2: Coordination dimensions*

IEC 61969-3, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Outdoor enclosures – Part 3: Environmental requirements, tests and safety aspects*

IEC 62194, *Method of evaluating the thermal performance of enclosures*

IEC TS 62454, *Mechanical structures for electronic equipment – Design guide: Interface dimensions and provisions for water cooling of electronic equipment within cabinets of the IEC 60297 and IEC 60917 series*

IEC 62610 (all parts), *Mechanical structures for electrical and electronic equipment – Thermal management for cabinets in accordance with IEC 60297 and IEC 60917 series*

IEC Guide 103:1980, *Guide on dimensional co-ordination*

ISO 1006, *Building construction – Modular coordination – Basic module*

ISO 1040, *Building construction – Modular coordination – Multimodules for horizontal coordinating dimensions*

ISO 1791, *Building construction – Modular co-ordination – Vocabulary*

ISO 2848, *Building construction – Modular coordination – Principles and rules*

ISO 3394, *Packaging – Complete, filled transport packages and unit loads – Dimensions of rigid rectangular packages*

ISO 3676, *Packaging – Complete, filled transport packages and unit loads – Unit load dimensions*

ISO 6514, *Building construction – Modular coordination – Sub-modular increments*

ISO 80000-1:2009, *Quantities and units – Part 1: General*

ISO 80000-3:2006, *Quantities and units – Part 3: Space and time*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-581 as well as the following apply.

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

#### 3.1

##### equipment practice

mechanical structure involved in housing and mounting of electrical, electronic and electromechanical systems

Note 1 to entry: The equipment practice provides for compatibility between mechanical parts, electrical interconnections and electrical and electronic components.

**3.2 modular order**

set of rules which establishes a relationship between co-ordination dimensions and the base pitch, multiple pitches and mounting pitches to be used in equipment practice

**3.3 co-ordination dimension**

reference dimension used to co-ordinate mechanical interfaces. This is not a manufacturing dimension with a tolerance.

**3.4 aperture dimension**

special co-ordination dimension for the usable space between features (structural parts)

Note 1 to entry: The actual inside dimension of an aperture can only increase.

**3.5 *n***

multiplier having values in continuous series of integers 1, 2, 3, ...

**3.6 pitch**

one division step of a regularly subdivided coordinate

SEE: Figure 1.



**Figure 1 – Pitch**

**3.7 base pitch**

*p*  
smallest distance between adjacent grid lines used in the equipment practices

**3.8 multiple pitch**

*Mp*  
integer multiple of the base pitch

**3.9 mounting pitch**

*mp*  
pitch used to arrange parts or assemblies in a given space

Note 1 to entry: The nominal value of a mounting pitch is achieved by using a base or multiple pitch multiplied by a factor F from Table 2.

Note 2 to entry: Actual dimensions used in an equipment practice are created for the nominal mounting pitch and they include manufacturing tolerance.

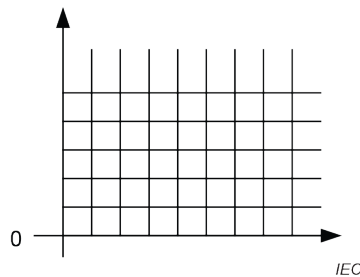
**3.10****reference plane**

theoretical plane without thickness or tolerances used to define spaces

**3.11****grid**

two- or three-dimensional arrangement of pitches used to coordinate a position, complying with the modular order

SEE: Figure 2.



**Figure 2 – Grid**

**3.12****module**

three-dimensional structure where all sides are multiples of whole numbers of the pitch, it can also be used in a two-dimensional grid.

Note 1 to entry: One dimensional module is often called unit (U) in some documents.

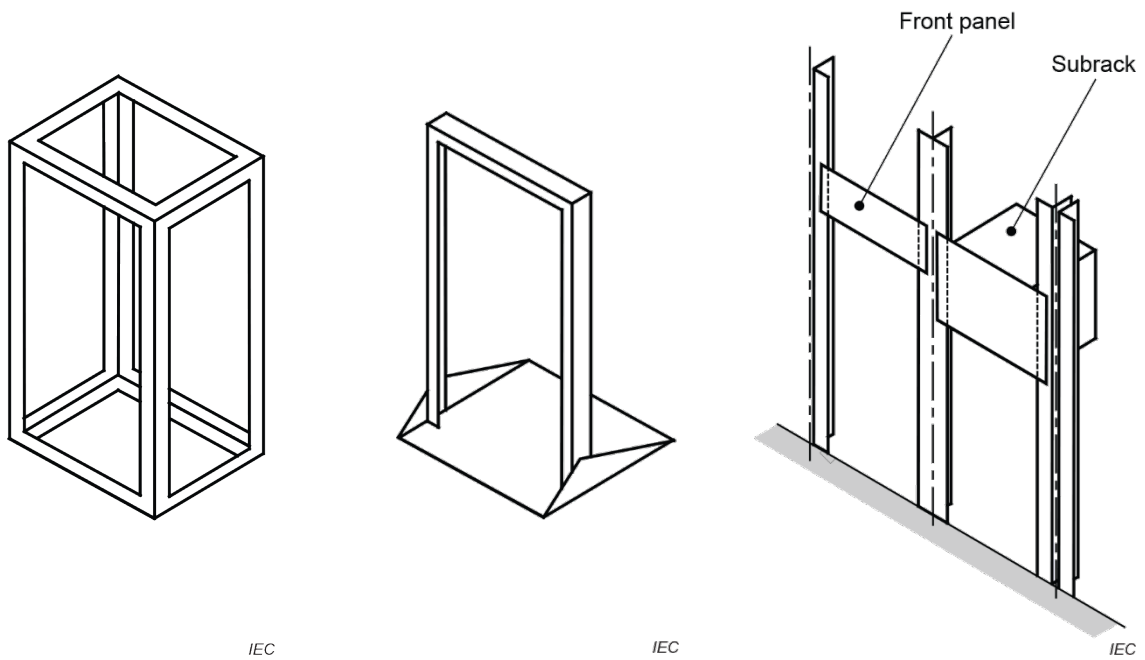
**3.13****suite of racks****suite of cabinets**

row of racks or cabinets placed side by side

**3.14****rack**

free-standing or fixed structure for housing electronic or electrical equipment

SEE: Figure 3.



Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

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Figure 3 – Rack

**3.15 cabinet**

free-standing and self-supporting enclosure for housing electronic and/or electrical equipment. It is usually fitted with doors and/or side panels which may or may not be removable

SEE: Figure 4.

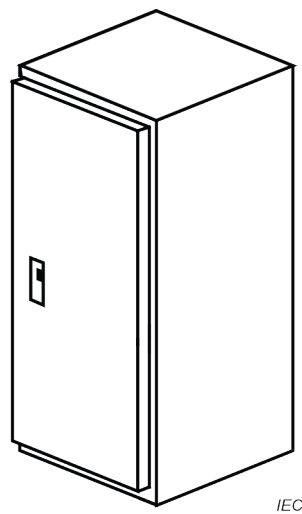
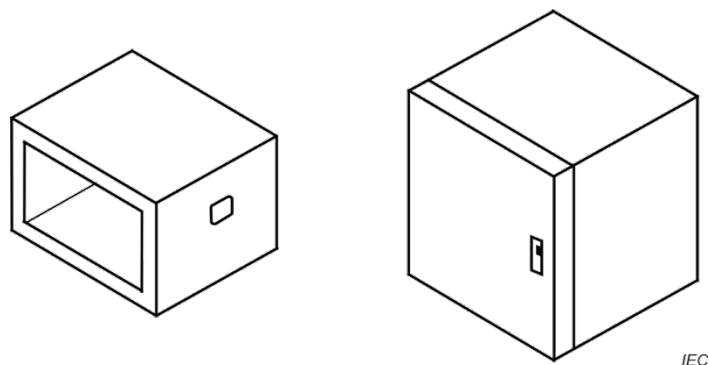


Figure 4 – Cabinet

**3.16****case**

table, bench or wall mounted enclosure in which electronic and /or electrical equipment can be housed

SEE: Figure 5.



**Figure 5 – Case**

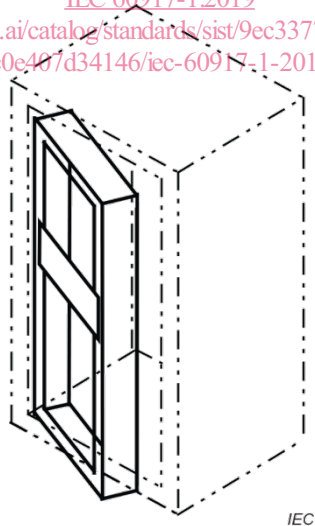
**3.17****swing frame**

hinged frame for housing electronic and/or electrical equipment

Note 1 to entry: The hinge frame swings to permit access to the back.

SEE: Figure 6.

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**Figure 6 – Swing frame**

**3.18****subrack**

structural unit for housing printed boards with components inserted, and plug-in units