

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Insulators for overhead lines with a nominal voltage above 1000 V –  
Part 1: Ceramic or glass insulator units for a.c. systems – Definitions, test  
methods and acceptance criteria**

**Isolateurs pour lignes aériennes de tension nominale supérieure à 1 000 V –  
Partie 1: Éléments d'isolateurs en matière céramique ou en verre pour systèmes  
à courant alternatif – Définitions, méthodes d'essai et critères d'acceptation**



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	6
INTRODUCTION.....	8
1 Scope.....	9
2 Normative references .....	9
3 Terms and definitions .....	10
4 Classification, types of insulators and insulating materials.....	13
4.1 Insulator classes.....	13
4.2 Insulator types .....	14
4.3 Insulating materials.....	14
5 Identification of insulators.....	14
6 Classification of tests.....	14
6.1 Type tests.....	14
6.2 Sample tests.....	15
6.3 Routine tests.....	15
7 Cross-reference tables for tests to be performed .....	15
7.1 Pin insulators.....	15
7.2 Line post insulators.....	17
7.3 String insulator units.....	19
7.3.1 General .....	19
7.3.2 Specified type tests on string insulator units.....	20
7.4 Insulators for overhead electric traction lines .....	24
8 Procedures for type and sample tests.....	24
8.1 Insulator selection for type tests.....	24
8.2 Sampling rules and procedures for sample tests .....	24
8.3 Re-test procedure for sample tests .....	25
9 General requirements for electrical tests .....	25
10 Artificial rain parameters for wet tests.....	26
11 Mounting arrangements for electrical tests .....	26
12 Dry lightning impulse voltage tests .....	26
12.1 General.....	26
12.2 Test procedure.....	26
12.3 Acceptance criteria .....	26
13 Wet power frequency withstand voltage tests .....	27
13.1 Test procedure.....	27
13.2 Acceptance criteria .....	27
14 RIV test .....	27
14.1 Test procedure.....	27
14.2 Acceptance criteria .....	28
15 Puncture withstand test .....	28
15.1 General.....	28
15.2 Impulse puncture testing in air .....	28
15.3 Power frequency puncture withstand test.....	29
16 Routine electrical test.....	29
17 Verification of the dimensions.....	30
18 Electromechanical failing load test.....	30

18.1	Test procedure.....	30
18.2	Acceptance criteria .....	31
19	Mechanical failing load test.....	31
19.1	Test procedure for pin and line post insulators .....	31
19.2	Test procedure for string insulator units .....	31
19.3	Acceptance criteria for pin insulators .....	31
19.4	Acceptance criteria for string insulator units and line post insulators .....	31
20	Thermal-mechanical performance test .....	32
20.1	Test procedure.....	32
20.2	Acceptance criteria .....	33
21	Residual strength test.....	33
21.1	General.....	33
21.2	Previous tests .....	33
21.3	Preparation of the test pieces .....	33
21.4	Test procedure.....	34
21.5	Test results .....	34
21.6	Acceptance criteria .....	34
22	Verification of the axial, radial and angular displacements .....	34
22.1	Test procedure.....	34
22.2	Acceptance criteria .....	35
23	Verification of the locking system.....	36
23.1	General.....	36
23.2	Conformity of the locking device .....	36
23.3	Verification of locking.....	36
23.4	Position of the locking device.....	36
23.5	Procedure for the operation test.....	36
23.6	Acceptance criteria for the operation test.....	37
24	Temperature cycle test .....	37
24.1	Test procedure for ceramic or toughened glass material .....	37
24.2	Test procedure for of annealed glass .....	38
24.3	Special test procedure for insulators with thick sections or very large insulators .....	38
24.4	Complementary specifications.....	38
24.5	Acceptance criteria .....	38
25	Thermal shock test .....	39
25.1	Sample test.....	39
25.1.1	Test procedure .....	39
25.1.2	Acceptance criteria .....	39
25.2	Routine thermal shock test.....	39
25.2.1	Test procedure .....	39
25.2.2	Acceptance criteria .....	39
26	Porosity test .....	39
26.1	Test procedure.....	39
26.2	Acceptance criteria .....	39
27	Galvanizing test.....	40
27.1	General.....	40
27.2	Test procedure.....	40
27.2.1	General .....	40

27.2.2	Appearance .....	40
27.2.3	Determination of the coating mass by the magnetic test method .....	40
27.3	Acceptance criteria .....	40
27.3.1	Acceptance criteria for the appearance test .....	40
27.3.2	Acceptance criteria for the value of coating mass .....	41
28	Zinc sleeve test (if applicable) .....	41
28.1	General requirements concerning the zinc sleeve .....	41
28.2	Type test procedure .....	41
28.3	Sample test procedure .....	42
29	Routine visual inspection .....	42
29.1	General.....	42
29.2	Insulators with ceramic insulating parts .....	42
29.3	Insulators with glass insulating parts.....	43
30	Impact test .....	44
30.1	Test procedure.....	44
30.2	Acceptance criteria .....	44
31	Routine mechanical test .....	44
31.1	Routine mechanical test on line post insulators.....	44
31.2	Routine mechanical test on string insulator units.....	45
32	Mounting arrangements for tests on pin insulators .....	45
32.1	Standard mounting arrangement for electrical tests .....	45
32.2	Mounting arrangements for electrical tests reproducing service conditions.....	46
32.3	Mounting arrangement for the mechanical failing load test.....	46
33	Coefficients for statistical analysis of the test results on line post Insulators .....	46
33.1	Coefficient for type tests .....	46
33.2	Coefficients for sample tests .....	46
34	Mounting arrangements for tests on line post insulators .....	46
34.1	Standard mounting arrangement for electrical tests .....	46
34.2	Mounting arrangements for electrical tests reproducing service conditions.....	47
34.3	Mounting arrangement for the mechanical failing load test.....	47
35	Coefficients for statistical analysis of the test results on string insulator units .....	47
35.1	Coefficient for type tests .....	47
35.2	Coefficients for sample tests .....	48
36	Mounting arrangements for electrical tests on string insulator units .....	48
37	Mounting arrangements for electrical tests on Insulators for overhead electric traction lines.....	48
37.1	Standard mounting arrangement .....	48
37.2	Mounting arrangement representing service conditions .....	49
Annex A (informative) Method of comparison of the results of electromechanical or mechanical type and sample tests .....		52
Annex B (informative) Illustration of the mechanical and electromechanical test acceptance procedure for string insulator units and line post insulators .....		54
B.1	Flow charts .....	54
B.2	Calculated examples of acceptance and rejection .....	56
Annex C (informative) Coatings on ceramic or glass insulators .....		59
C.1	General.....	59
C.2	Material fingerprinting and ageing performance.....	59
C.3	Type testing .....	59

C.4	Sample testing .....	60
C.5	Routine testing.....	60
C.6	Pollution performance .....	60
C.7	Acceptance criteria .....	60
Annex D (informative)	Impact test .....	62
Figure 1	– Schematic representation of the thermal-mechanical performance test .....	49
Figure 2	– Measurement of axial and radial displacements .....	50
Figure 3	– Measurement of angular displacement .....	50
Figure 4	– Greatest thickness of the insulator .....	51
Figure B.1	– Acceptance flow chart for mechanical or electromechanical type tests .....	54
Figure B.2	– Acceptance flow chart for mechanical or electromechanical sample tests .....	55
Figure B.3	– Flow chart of the comparison of type and sample tests .....	56
Figure C.1	– Example of thickness criteria based on current experience .....	60
Figure C.2	– Example of adherence test criteria.....	61
Figure D.1	– Example of equipment for impact testing .....	62
Table 1	– Cross-reference table for pin insulators .....	17
Table 2	– Cross-reference table for line post insulators .....	19
Table 3	– Cross-reference table for string insulator units – cap and pin .....	21
Table 4	– Cross-reference table for string insulator units – long rod.....	23
Table 5	– Sample sizes for sample tests .....	25
Table 6	– Acceptance criteria for impact test.....	44
Table 7	– Coefficients for sample tests (line post insulators).....	46
Table 8	– Coefficients for sample tests (string insulator units).....	48
Table A.1	– Values for constants a, b and c .....	52
Table A.2	– Values for constants a, b and c (re-test).....	53
Table B.1	– Examples for mechanical and electromechanical sample tests .....	57
Table B.2	– Blank form for calculation for mechanical and electromechanical sample tests .....	58

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**INSULATORS FOR OVERHEAD LINES  
WITH A NOMINAL VOLTAGE ABOVE 1 000 V –****Part 1: Ceramic or glass insulator units for AC systems –  
Definitions, test methods and acceptance criteria**

## FOREWORD

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IEC 60383 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 36: Insulators. It is an International Standard.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition published in 1993. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) The complete document has been revised and updated. The layout of the document has been changed in order to increase readability;
- b) RIV test has been added (Clause 14);
- c) Impulse puncture test in air has been added (15.2);
- d) Residual strength test has been added (Clause 21);



- e) Zinc sleeve test has been added (Clause 28);
- f) Impact test has been added (Clause 30);
- g) Annex C, coatings on ceramic and glass insulators has been added;
- h) Annex D, impact test has been added.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
36/564/FDIS	36/571/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

A list of all parts in the IEC 60383 series, published under the general title *Insulators for overhead lines with a nominal voltage above 1 000 V*, can be found on the IEC website.

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## INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 60383 deals with four different types of insulators:

- Pin insulators
- Line post insulators
- String insulator units
- Insulators for overhead electric traction lines

Certain clauses of this document contain general requirements and other clauses contain specific tests relevant to each of the above-mentioned insulators.

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[IEC 60383-1:2023](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/db4f53f2-017d-41cf-9d1d-0d47c0a63290/iec-60383-1-2023)

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# INSULATORS FOR OVERHEAD LINES WITH A NOMINAL VOLTAGE ABOVE 1 000 V –

## Part 1: Ceramic or glass insulator units for AC systems – Definitions, test methods and acceptance criteria

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60383 applies to insulators of ceramic material or glass for use on AC overhead power lines and overhead traction lines with a nominal voltage greater than 1 000 V and a frequency not greater than 100 Hz. It also applies to insulators for use on DC overhead electric traction lines.

This document applies to string insulator units, rigid overhead line insulators and to insulators of similar design when used in substations.

It does not apply to insulators forming parts of electrical apparatus or to parts used in their construction or to post insulators which are covered by IEC 60168, *Tests on indoor and outdoor post insulators of ceramic material or glass for systems with nominal voltages greater than 1 000 V*.

Tests on insulator strings and insulator sets (for example, wet switching impulse voltage) are dealt with in IEC 60383-2.

The object of this document is:

- to define the terms used
- to define insulator characteristics and to prescribe the conditions under which the specified values of these characteristics shall be verified
- to prescribe test methods
- to prescribe acceptance criteria.

This document does not include requirements dealing with the choice of insulators for specific operating conditions.

Specific requirements on the use of coatings on ceramic or glass insulators are described in the informative Annex C.

Numerical values for insulator characteristics are specified in IEC 60305, IEC 60433 and IEC 60720.

NOTE A guide for the choice of insulators under polluted conditions has been published, see IEC 60815-1 and -2.

### 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 60060-1, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60120, *Ball and socket couplings of string insulator units – Dimensions*

IEC 60305, *Insulators for overhead lines with a nominal voltage above 1000 V – Ceramic or glass insulator units for AC systems – Characteristics of insulator units of the cap and pin type*

IEC 60372, *Locking devices for ball and socket couplings of string insulator units – Dimensions and tests*

IEC 60433, *Insulators for overhead lines with a nominal voltage above 1000 V – Ceramic insulators for AC systems – Characteristics of insulator units of the long rod type*

IEC 60437, *Radio interference test on high-voltage insulators*

IEC 60471, *Clevis and tongue couplings of string insulator units – Dimensions*

IEC 61211, *Insulators of ceramic material or glass for overhead lines with a nominal voltage greater than 1 000 V – Impulse puncture testing in air*

ISO 1459:1973, *Metallic coatings – Protection against corrosion by hot dip galvanizing – Guiding principles*

ISO 1460, *Metallic coatings – Hot dip galvanized coatings on ferrous metals – Determination of the mass per unit area – Gravimetric method*

ISO 1461, *Hot dip galvanized coatings on fabricated iron and steel articles – Specifications and test Methods*

ISO 1463, *Metal and oxide coatings – Measurement of coating thickness – Microscopical method*

ISO 2064, *Metallic and other non-organic coatings – Definitions and conventions concerning the measurement of thickness*

ISO 2178:2016, *Non-magnetic coatings on magnetic substrates – Measurement of coating thickness – Magnetic method*

### 3 Terms and definitions

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

##### **insulator string**

one or more string insulator units coupled together and intended to give flexible support to conductors and stressed mainly in tension

#### 3.2

##### **rigid insulator**

insulator intended to give rigid support to an overhead line conductor and to be stressed mainly by bending and compressive loads

**3.3****long rod insulator**

rigid insulator intended to be subjected to tensile loads, comprising an insulating part having an approximately circular cylindrical shank, with or without sheds, and external or internal fixing devices attached to each end

**3.4****cap and pin insulator**

insulator comprising an insulating part usually having the form of a disk or bell, with or without ribs on its surface, and end fittings consisting of an outside cap and an inside pin attached axially

**3.5****pin insulator**

rigid insulator consisting of an insulating component intended to be mounted rigidly on a supporting structure by means of a pin passing up inside the insulating component which consists of one or more pieces of insulating material permanently connected together

Note 1 to entry: The pin can have two basic shapes. With one shape, the insulating component is fixed to the end of the pin and does not allow contact of the insulating component with the supporting structure. With the other shape, the insulating component is fixed by means of the pin in contact with the supporting structure either directly or with a plate in between, the plate being either a separate washer or part of the pin (sometimes referred to as a pin post insulator).

**3.6****line post insulator**

rigid insulator intended to be subjected to cantilever, tensile and compressive loads, constructed with one or more insulating materials and assembled on a metal base that is intended to be mounted rigidly on a supporting structure

**3.7****traction insulator**

insulator or insulator set intended to give flexible or rigid support for overhead electric traction lines. All types of overhead line insulators may be used for this purpose.

**3.8****annealed glass**

glass which has been treated to eliminate internal stresses

**3.9****toughened glass**

glass in which pre-stresses have been created in order to improve its mechanical characteristics

**3.10****lot**

group of insulators offered for acceptance from the same manufacturer, of the same design and manufactured under presumed similar conditions of production

Note 1 to entry: One or more lots may be offered together for acceptance; the lot(s) offered may consist of the whole, or part, of the quantity ordered.

**3.11****flashover (of an insulator)**

disruptive discharge external to the insulator, and over its surface, connecting those parts which normally have the operating voltage between them

**3.12****impulse withstand voltage**

highest peak value of impulse voltage of prescribed form and polarity which does not cause breakdown of insulation under specified conditions

**3.13****power frequency withstand voltage**

RMS value of sinusoidal power frequency voltage that the insulation of the given equipment can withstand during tests made under specified conditions and for a specified duration

**3.14****electromechanical failing load**

maximum load reached when a string insulator unit is tested under the prescribed conditions of the test

**3.15****mechanical failing load**

maximum load reached when an insulator is tested under the prescribed conditions of test

**3.16****specified mechanical failing load, SFL**

mechanical load that causes the loss of mechanical characteristics of any part of an insulator, when tested according to the relevant standard

Note 1 to entry: SFL can also be used for specified electromechanical failing load.

**3.17****puncture (of an insulator)**

disruptive discharge passing through the solid insulating material of the insulator which produces a permanent loss of dielectric strength

**3.18****creepage distance**

shortest distance or the sum of the shortest distances along the surface on an insulator between two conductive parts which normally have the operating voltage between them

Note 1 to entry: The surface of cement or of any other non-insulating jointing material is not considered as forming part of the creepage distance.

Note 2 to entry: If a high resistance coating is applied to parts of the insulating part of an insulator, such parts are considered to be effective insulating surfaces and the distance over them is included in the creepage distance.

Note 3 to entry: Insulators with grooves e.g. pin insulators, the creepage measurements shall start at the centre of the side groove.

**3.19****minimum creepage distance**

defined minimum allowed creepage distance which cannot be subject to a specified negative tolerance

**3.20****nominal creepage distance**

value of the creepage distance which can also be subject to a specified positive or negative tolerance

**3.21****minimum nominal creepage distance**

defined minimum allowed creepage distance which can also be subject to a specified negative tolerance

Note 1 to entry: Minimum nominal creepage distance is a definition that normally applies to cap and pin insulators.

### 3.22 displacements

#### axial displacement

maximum positional variation, parallel to the insulator axis, of a definite point on the circumference of the considered insulator during one complete revolution around the insulator axis

#### radial displacement

maximum positional variation, perpendicular to the insulator axis, of a definite point on the circumference of the considered insulator during one complete revolution around the insulator axis

#### angular displacement

angular deviation around the insulator axis between corresponding planes of the two coupling pieces

### 3.23

#### short standard string

string used to verify characteristics of a unit which are significant only to an insulator string

<for cap and pin units> insulator string of 5 insulator units

<for long rod insulator units> insulator string between 1 m and 2 m in length for long rod insulator units intended to be assembled in a string

Note 1 to entry: For long rod insulators less than 1 m long intended to be used as a string, the unit itself is considered as a short standard string.

Note 2 to entry: The definition short standard string is different to the definition of short string in IEC 61467.

Note 3 to entry: For systems with insulator string with less than 5 insulators, must be considered the string with the real number of insulators.

### 3.24 <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/db4f53f2-017d-41cf-9d1d-0d47c0a63290/iec-60383-1-2023>

#### specified characteristic

<domain> numeric value of a voltage or of a mechanical load or any other characteristic specified in an IEC international standard

<domain> numeric value of any such characteristic agreed between the purchaser and the manufacturer

## 4 Classification, types of insulators and insulating materials

### 4.1 Insulator classes

Insulators for overhead lines are divided into two classes according to their design:

Class A: an insulator or string insulator unit in which the length of the shortest puncture path through solid insulating material is at least equal to half the arcing distance. An example of a class A insulator is a long rod insulator with external fittings.

Class B: an insulator or string insulator unit in which the length of the shortest puncture path through solid insulating material is less than half the arcing distance. An example of a class B insulator is a cap and pin insulator.