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Electrical safety in low voltage distribution systems up to 1 000 V AC and 1 500 V DC – Equipment for testing, measuring or monitoring of protective measures – Part 1: General requirements

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN LOW VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS
UP TO 1 000 V AC AND 1 500 V DC –
EQUIPMENT FOR TESTING, MEASURING OR MONITORING
OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES****Part 1: General requirements**

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.

IEC 61557-1 edition 3.1 contains the third edition (2019-07) [documents 85/689/FDIS and 85/692/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2024-10) [documents 85/900/CDV and 85/926/RVC].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 61557-1 has been prepared by technical committee 85: Measuring equipment for electrical and electromagnetic quantities.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2007. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) terms aligned with IEC 60050;
- b) measurement of uncertainty revised according to the equations in 4.2 of ISO/IEC Guide 98-3:2008 (GUM);
- c) updated references for safety and EMC requirements;
- d) updated references for marking and operating instructions;
- e) updated references for testing safety and EMC;
- f) Annex A contains an explanation of GUM;
- g) Annex B addresses environmental aspects.

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

A list of all parts in the IEC 61557 series, published under the general title *Electrical safety in low voltage distribution systems up to 1 000 V AC and 1 500 V DC – Equipment for testing, measuring or monitoring of protective measures*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

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INTRODUCTION

IEC 60364-6 stipulates standardized conditions for the initial test of power installations in TN, TT or IT systems for continuous monitoring and for testing these installations after modifications. In addition to general references for the performance of the tests, IEC 60364-6 contains requirements that have to be verified by measurements. Only in a few instances, for example when measuring the insulation resistance, does IEC 60364-6 contain details of the characteristics of the measuring device to be used. Circuits which are given as examples in IEC 60364-6, and referred to within the text of that document, are generally not suitable for practical use.

The tests are carried out in installations where hazardous voltages can occur and where careless use or a defect in the equipment can easily cause an accident. Therefore, the technician has to rely on measuring devices which ensure safe test methods, in addition to simplifying the measurements.

The application of the general safety regulations for electrical and electronic measuring devices (IEC 61010-1) for testing the protective measures is not sufficient in itself. The performance of measurements in the installation can cause hazards not only to the technician, but also to third persons, depending on the measuring method used.

Likewise, reliable and comparable results of measurement with measuring devices from different manufacturers are an important precondition in order to obtain an objective assessment about the installation, for example when the installation is handed over for periodic tests, for continuous insulation monitoring or in the case of performance warranty.

The IEC 61557 series has been established with the aim of stipulating common principles for measuring and monitoring equipment for testing electrical safety and measuring performances in systems with nominal voltages up to 1 000 V AC and 1 500 V DC which correspond to the above-mentioned characteristics.

For that reason, the following common requirements have been stipulated in IEC 61557-1 (other parts of IEC 61557 can specify additional requirements or deviations):

- protection against extraneous voltages;
- class II protection (except insulation monitoring devices and insulation fault location systems);
- requirements and safety precautions against hazardous touch voltages at the measuring device;
- requirements for the assessment of connection configurations with respect to wiring errors in the tested equipment;
- special mechanical requirements;
- measuring methods;
- measured quantity;
- specification of the maximum operating uncertainty;
- requirements for testing the influencing quantity and the calculation of the operating uncertainty;
- uncertainties of the measuring device at the thresholds specified in the respective standards;
- specification of the nature of type and routine tests and the required conditions for testing.

Contrary to the usual convention, terms and definitions that occur more than once in another part of the series are listed in IEC 61557-1:2019, Clause 3. Only terms and definitions specific to the respective part of IEC 61557 are listed in Clause 3 of that part.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN LOW VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS UP TO 1 000 V AC AND 1 500 V DC – EQUIPMENT FOR TESTING, MEASURING OR MONITORING OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Part 1: General requirements

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61557 specifies the general requirements applicable to measuring and monitoring equipment for testing the electrical safety in low-voltage distribution systems with nominal voltages up to 1 000 V AC and 1 500 V DC.

When measuring equipment or measuring installations involve measurement tasks of various measuring equipment covered by this series of standards, then the part of this series relevant to each of the measurement tasks is applicable.

NOTE The term "measuring equipment" will hereafter be used to designate "testing, measuring and monitoring equipment".

Other parts of IEC 61557 can specify additional requirements or deviations.

This document does not cover functional safety or cybersecurity.

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 60038:2009, *IEC standard voltages*

IEC 60529:1989, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP code)*

IEC 60529:1989/AMD1:1999

IEC 60529:1989/AMD2:2013¹

IEC 61010-1:2010, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61010-1:2010/AMD1:2016²

IEC 61010-031, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – Part 031: Safety requirements for hand-held and hand-manipulated assemblies for electrical test and measurement*

¹ A consolidated version of this publication exists, comprising IEC 60529:1989, IEC 60529:1989/AMD1:1999 and IEC 60529:1989/AMD2:2013.

² A consolidated version of this publication exists, comprising IEC 61010-1:2010 and IEC 61010-1:2010/AMD 1:2016.

IEC 61010-2-030:2017, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 2-030: Particular requirements for equipment having testing or measuring circuits*

IEC 61010-2-032, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 2-032: Particular requirements for hand-held and hand-manipulated current sensors for electrical test and measurement*

IEC 61010-2-034:2017, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 2-034: Particular requirements for measurement equipment for insulation resistance and test equipment for electric strength*

IEC 61326-1:2012, *Electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – EMC requirements – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61326-2-4, *Electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – EMC requirements – Part 2-4: Particular requirements – Test configurations, operational conditions and performance criteria for insulation monitoring devices according to IEC 61557-8 and for equipment for insulation fault location according to IEC 61557-9*

IEC 61557-8:2014, *Electrical safety in low voltage distribution systems up to 1 000 V AC and 1 500 V DC – Equipment for testing, measuring or monitoring of protective measures – Part 8: Insulation monitoring devices for IT systems*

IEC 61557-9:2014, *Electrical safety in low voltage distribution systems up to 1 000 V AC and 1 500 V DC – Equipment for testing, measuring or monitoring of protective measures – Part 9: Equipment for insulation fault location in IT systems*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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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

nominal system voltage

U_n

value of the voltage by which the distribution system is designated and to which certain characteristics are assigned

3.2

voltage against earth

U_o

<in distribution systems with an earthed neutral point> voltage between a phase conductor and the earthed neutral point

3.3

voltage against earth

U_o

<in all other distribution systems> voltage present between the remaining phase conductors and earth when one of the phase conductors is short-circuited to earth

**3.4
fault voltage**

U_f
voltage between a given point of fault and reference earth resulting from an insulation fault

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:2004, 826-11-02, modified – The symbol has been added.]

**3.5
effective touch voltage**

U_t
voltage between conductive parts when touched simultaneously by a person or an animal

Note 1 to entry: The value of the effective touch voltage may be appreciably influenced by the impedance of the person or the animal in electric contact with these conductive parts.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:1998, 195-05-11, modified – The symbol has been added.]

**3.6
conventional touch voltage limit**

U_L
maximum value of the touch voltage which is permitted to be maintained indefinitely in specified conditions of external influences and is usually equal to 50 V AC, RMS or 120 V ripple free DC

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:2004, 826-11-04, modified – "prospective" has been omitted from the term and from the definition and values for the limit have been added to the definition; the symbol has been added.]

**3.7
supply voltage**

voltage that is used to power the measurement equipment

Note 1 to entry: If a supply voltage is specified, for instance in the supply contract, then it is called "declared supply voltage".

**3.8
rated supply voltage**

U_S
value of the supply voltage at a point where the measuring equipment does or can accept electric energy as a supply

**3.9
output voltage**

U_a
voltage across the measuring equipment terminals where this equipment does or can output electric energy

**3.10
open-circuit voltage**

U_q
voltage present across unloaded terminals on the measuring equipment

**3.11
rated voltage**

U_N
voltage value assigned by a manufacturer or other entity for a specified operating condition of the measuring equipment

Note 1 to entry: The value for the rated voltage of low-voltage equipment is generally assigned from the list of nominal voltages in IEC 60038:2009, Tables 1 and 6.

Note 2 to entry: Equipment may have more than one rated voltage value or may have a rated voltage range.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-614:2016, 614-03-09, modified – The domain <of equipment> and Note 1 have been omitted; the symbol has been added; the term specifically adapted for measuring equipment.]

3.12

extraneous voltage

external voltage to which the measuring equipment can be subjected during measurement

3.13

rated current

I_N

current assigned by the manufacturer for the specified operating condition of the measuring equipment

Note 1 to entry: The specified operating condition is a value (or values) within the rated operating conditions that are designated by the manufacturer.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-01-02, modified – "for accessories" has been deleted from the term and Note 1 has been added; the definition has been adapted for application to measuring equipment.]

3.14

short-circuit current

over-current resulting from a short circuit due to a fault on the terminals or within the measuring equipment

3.15

rated frequency

f_N

frequency for which the measuring equipment is intended to be used and for which it has been designed

3.16

uncertainty of measurement

parameter, associated with the result of a measurement, that characterizes the dispersion of the values that could reasonably be attributed to the measurand

Note 1 to entry: This term is used in the "uncertainty" approach.

Note 2 to entry: The parameter can be, for example, a standard deviation (or a given multiple of it), or a half-width of an interval having a stated level of confidence. Various ways of obtaining uncertainty are defined in the GUM.

Note 3 to entry: Uncertainty of measurement comprises, in general, many components. Some of these components can be evaluated from the statistical distribution of the results of a series of measurements and can be characterized by experimental standard deviations. The other components, which can also be characterized by standard deviations, are evaluated from the assumed probability distributions based on experience or other information.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-01-02]

3.17

operating uncertainty

calculated uncertainty taking into account the intrinsic uncertainty and defined influence quantities to mirror the worst case situation

3.18

fiducial uncertainty

uncertainty of measuring equipment expressed as a percentage of the fiducial value

3.19 fiducial value

clearly specified value to which reference is made in order to define the fiducial uncertainty

Note 1 to entry: This value can be, for example, the upper limit of the measuring range, the scale length or any other value which is clearly stated.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-01-16, modified – "error" has been replaced by "uncertainty"; Note 1 has been omitted.]

3.20 percentage operating uncertainty

operating uncertainty of measuring equipment expressed as a percentage of the fiducial value

3.21 intrinsic uncertainty

uncertainty of a measuring instrument or supply instrument when used under reference conditions

Note 1 to entry: The uncertainty caused by friction is part of the intrinsic uncertainty.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-03-09, modified – "or supply instrument" has been added to the definition; the Note has been deleted and Note 1 has been added.]

3.22 performance

characteristics defining the ability of a measuring instrument to achieve the intended functions

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-06-11]

3.23 influence quantity

quantity which is not the subject of the measurement and whose change affects the result of the measurement

Note 1 to entry: This term is used in the "uncertainty" approach.

Note 2 to entry: Influence quantities can originate from the measured system, the measuring equipment or the environment.

Note 3 to entry: As the calibration diagram depends on the influence quantities, in order to assign the result of a measurement it is necessary to know whether the relevant influence quantities lie within the specified range.

Note 4 to entry: An influence quantity may be external or internal with reference to the equipment. When the value of one of the influence quantities changes within its measuring range, it may affect the uncertainty due to another quantity. The measured quantity, or a parameter of it, may itself act as an influence quantity. For example, for a voltmeter, the value of the measured voltage may produce an additional uncertainty due to non-linearity or its frequency may also cause an additional uncertainty.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-06-01, modified – "the relationship between the indication and" has been deleted from the definition; Note 4 has been added.]

3.24 variation

<due to an influence quantity> difference between the indicated values for the same value of the measurand of an indicating measuring instrument, or the values of a material measure, when an influence quantity assumes, successively, two different values

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-07-03]

3.25

reference conditions

set of specified values and/or ranges of values of influence quantities under which the uncertainties, or limits of error, admissible for a measuring instrument are specified

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-06-02, modified – "are the smallest" has been replaced with "are specified".]

3.26

operating condition

characteristic which may affect performance of a component, device or equipment

Note 1 to entry: Examples of operating conditions are ambient conditions, characteristics of the power supply, duty cycle or duty type.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-16-01]

3.27

rated operating conditions

specified set of conditions which may affect the performance of a measuring device and under which the operating uncertainty is maintained

3.28

measuring voltage

U_m

voltage present at the measuring terminals during the measurement

3.29

uncertainty of measuring equipment

uncertainty of the result of a direct measurement of a measurand having negligible intrinsic uncertainty

Note 1 to entry: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, the measuring equipment uncertainty is expressed as an interval with coverage factor 2. <https://standards.iteh.ai/> <https://standards.iteh.ai/standards/iec/6102cf53-1588-469c-9355-7fd666b33695/iec-61557-1-2019>

Note 2 to entry: In single-reading direct measurements of measurands having low intrinsic uncertainty with respect to the measuring equipment uncertainty, the uncertainty of the measurement coincides, by definition, with the measuring equipment uncertainty. Otherwise the measuring equipment uncertainty is to be treated as a component of category B in evaluating the uncertainty of the measurement on the basis of the model connecting the several direct measurements involved.

Note 3 to entry: The measuring equipment uncertainty automatically includes, by definition, the effects due to the quantization of the reading values (minimum evaluable fraction of the scale interval in analogic outputs, unit of the last stable digit in digital outputs).

Note 4 to entry: For material measures, the measuring equipment uncertainty is the uncertainty that should be associated to the value of the quantity reproduced by the material measure in order to ensure the compatibility of the results of its measurements.

4 Requirements

4.1 General requirements

Measuring equipment, when used for a designated purpose, shall not endanger persons, livestock or property. Furthermore, measuring equipment with additional functions not forming part of the application of the IEC 61557 series shall also not endanger persons, livestock or property.

4.2 Influence quantities – Operating uncertainty (B), percentage operating uncertainty (B [%])

The operating uncertainty shall be calculated by means of Equation 1: