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Edition 3.0 2022-06

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) modules and assemblies – Design qualification and type approval

Modules et ensembles photovoltaïques à concentration – Qualification de la conception et homologation

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CONCENTRATOR PHOTOVOLTAIC (CPV) MODULES AND ASSEMBLIES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL

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IEC 62108 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems. It is an International Standard.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2016. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) Changes in the procedure of the thermal cycling test for the active cooling module.
b) Solar simulator I-V measurement.

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

Draft	Report on voting
82/2024/FDIS	82/2046/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. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

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CONCENTRATOR PHOTOVOLTAIC (CPV) MODULES AND ASSEMBLIES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL

1 Scope

This document specifies the minimum requirements for the design qualification and type approval of concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) modules and assemblies suitable for long-term operation in general open-air climates as defined in IEC 60721-2-1. The test sequence is partially based on that specified in IEC 61215-1 for the design qualification and type approval of flat-plate terrestrial crystalline silicon PV modules. However, some changes have been made to account for the special features of CPV receivers and modules, particularly with regard to the separation of on-site and in-lab tests, effects of tracking alignment, high current density, and rapid temperature changes, which have resulted in the formulation of some new test procedures or new requirements.

The object of this test document is to determine the electrical, mechanical, and thermal characteristics of the CPV modules and assemblies and to show, as far as possible within reasonable constraints of cost and time, that the CPV modules and assemblies are capable of withstanding prolonged exposure in climates described in the scope. The actual life of CPV modules and assemblies so qualified will depend on their design, production, environment, and the conditions under which they are operated.

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This document is used in conjunction with the retest guidelines described in Annex B.

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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 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60664-1:2020, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage supply systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC 60721-2-1, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 2-1: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Temperature and humidity*

IEC 60904-1:2020, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 1: Measurement of photovoltaic current-voltage characteristics*

IEC 60904-1-1:2017, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 1-1: Measurement of current-voltage characteristics of multi-junction photovoltaic (PV) devices*

IEC TS 60904-1-2:2019, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 1-2: Measurement of current-voltage characteristics of bifacial photovoltaic (PV) devices*

IEC 60904-2:2015, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 2: Requirements for photovoltaic reference devices*

IEC 60904-3:2019, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data*

IEC 60904-4:2019, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 4: Photovoltaic reference devices – Procedures for establishing calibration traceability*

IEC 60904-5:2011, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 5: Determination of the equivalent cell temperature (ECT) of photovoltaic (PV) devices by the open-circuit voltage method*

IEC 60904-7:2019, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 7: Computation of the spectral mismatch correction for measurements of photovoltaic devices*

IEC 60904-8:2014, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 8: Measurement of spectral responsivity of a photovoltaic (PV) device*

IEC 60904-8-1:2017, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 8-1: Measurement of spectral responsivity of multi-junction photovoltaic (PV) devices*

IEC 61140:2016, *Protection against electric shock – Common aspects for installation and equipment*

IEC 61210:2010, *Connecting devices – Flat quick-connect terminations for electrical copper conductors – Safety requirements*

IEC 61215-1:2021, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1: Test requirements*

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IEC 61215-2:2021, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 2: Test procedures*

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IEC TS 61836:2016, *Solar photovoltaic energy systems – Terms, definitions and symbols*

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IEC 61853-1:2011, *Photovoltaic (PV) module performance testing and energy rating – Part 1: Irradiance and temperature performance measurements and power rating*

IEC 61853-2:2016, *Photovoltaic (PV) module performance testing and energy rating – Part 2: Spectral responsivity, incidence angle and module operating temperature measurements*

IEC 61853-3:2018, *Photovoltaic (PV) module performance testing and energy rating – Part 3: Energy rating of PV modules*

IEC 62670-1, *Photovoltaic concentrators (CPV) – Performance testing – Part 1: Standard conditions*

IEC 62670-3:2017, *Photovoltaic concentrators (CPV) – Performance testing – Part 3: Performance measurements and power rating*

IEC 62790:2020, *Junction boxes for photovoltaic modules – Safety requirements and tests*

IEC 62852:2014, *Connectors for DC-application in photovoltaic systems – Safety requirements and tests*
IEC 62852:2014/AMD1:2020

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60664-1, IEC TS 60904-1-2, IEC 61140, IEC TS 61836 and the following apply, see also Table 1.

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
concentrator
term associated with photovoltaic devices that use concentrated sunlight

3.2
concentrator cell
basic photovoltaic device that is used under the illumination of concentrated sunlight

3.3
concentrator optics
optical device that performs one or more of the following functions from its input to output: increasing the light intensity, filtering the spectrum, modifying light intensity distribution, or changing light direction. Typically, it is a lens or a mirror

Note 1 to entry: A primary optics receives unconcentrated sunlight directly from the sun. A secondary optics receives concentrated or modified sunlight from another optical device, such as primary optics or another secondary optics.

3.4
concentrator receiver
group of one or more concentrator cells and secondary optics (if present) that accepts concentrated sunlight and incorporates the means for thermal and electric energy transfer

Note 1 to entry: A receiver could be made of several sub-receivers. The sub-receiver is a physically stand-alone, smaller portion of the full-size receiver.

3.5
concentrator module
group of receivers, optics, and other related components, such as interconnection and mounting, that accepts unconcentrated sunlight

Note 1 to entry: All above components are usually prefabricated as one unit, and the focus point is not field adjustable.

Note 2 to entry: A module could be made of several sub-modules. The sub-module is a physically stand-alone, smaller portion of the full-size module.

3.6
concentrator assembly
group of receivers, optics, and other related components, such as interconnection and mounting, that accepts unconcentrated sunlight

Note 1 to entry: All above components would usually be shipped separately and need some field installation, and the focus point is field adjustable.

Note 2 to entry: An assembly could be made of several sub-assemblies. The sub-assembly is a physically stand-alone, smaller portion of the full-size assembly.

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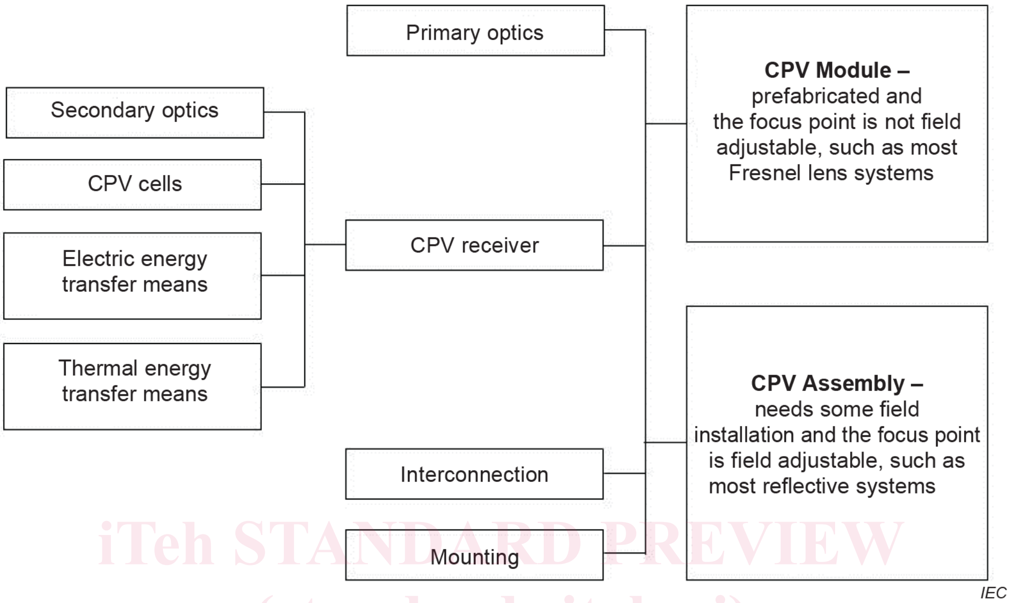
3.7
control unit
hardware that is not stressed, but is included in each measurement to enable greater confidence in consistent measurements

Table 1 – Terms used for CPV



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4 Sampling

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Figure 1 to Figure 5 are schematics of cells, receivers, modules, and assemblies.

For non-field-adjustable focus-point CPV systems or modules, 7 modules and 2 receivers are required to complete all the specified tests, plus one receiver for the bypass/blocking diode thermal test (intrusive or non-intrusive). For details, see Figure 6. For field-adjustable focus-point CPV systems or assemblies, 9 receivers (including secondary optics sections, if applicable) and 7 primary optics sections are required to complete all the specified tests, plus one receiver for the bypass/blocking diode thermal test (intrusive or non-intrusive). For details, see Figure 7.

In the case that a full-size module or assembly is too large to fit into available testing equipment, such as environmental chambers, or a full-size module or assembly is too expensive (e.g., for a 20 kW reflective dish concentrator system, 9 receiver samples account for 180 kW of PV cells), a smaller representative sample can be used. However, even if representative samples are used for the other test, a full-size module or assembly shall be installed and tested for outdoor exposure. This can be conducted either in the testing lab, or through on-site witness.

Representative samples shall include all components, except some repeated parts. If possible, the representative samples shall use sub-receivers, sub-modules, or sub-assemblies. During the design and manufacturing of the representative samples, much attention shall be paid to reach the maximum similarity to the full-size component in all electrical, mechanical, and thermal characteristics related to quality and reliability.

Specifically, the cell string in representative samples shall be long enough to include at least two bypass diodes, but in no case less than ten cells. The encapsulations, interconnects, terminations, and the clearance distances around all edges shall be the same as on the actual full-size products. Other representative components, including lens/housing joints, receiver/housing joints, and end plate/lens shall also be included and tested.

Test samples should be taken at random from a production batch or batches. When the samples to be tested are prototypes of a new design and not from production, or representative samples are used, these facts should be noted in the test report (see Clause 8).

The test samples shall have been manufactured from specified materials and components in accordance with the relevant drawings and process instructions and should have been subjected to the manufacturer's normal inspection, quality control, and production acceptance procedures. They shall be complete in every detail and should be accompanied by the manufacturer's handling, mounting, connection, and operation manuals. Samples shall not be subjected to other special procedures that are not a part of standard production.

If the intrusive bypass/blocking diode thermal test is to be performed, an additional specially manufactured receiver is required with extra electrical and thermal detector leads so that each individual diode can be accessed separately.

5 Marking

Each receiver or module section shall carry the following clear and indelible markings:

– Name, monogram, or symbol of manufacturer.
– Type or model number.
– Serial number.
– Polarity of terminals or leads (color coding is permissible).
– Maximum system voltage for which the module or assembly is suitable.
– Nominal maximum output power and its tolerance at specified condition.
– The date, place of manufacture, and cell materials shall be marked, or be traceable from the serial number.

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If representative samples are used, the same markings as on full-size products shall be included for all tests, and the marking should be capable of surviving all test sequences.

6 Testing

If recommended by the manufacturer, before beginning the testing, all testing samples, including the control module and control receiver, shall be exposed to the direct normal irradiation (DNI) of sunlight (either natural or simulated) for a total of 5 kWh/m^2 to 5,5 kWh/m^2 while open circuited. This procedure is designed to reduce the initial photon degradation effects.

In this document all references to short-circuit current I_{sc}, open-circuit voltage V_{oc}, maximum output power P_m, are based on Concentrator Standard Test Condition (CSTC), which is defined in IEC 62670-1. Alternatively, Concentrator Standard Operating Conditions (CSOC), as defined in IEC 62670-1, may be used consistently. Other parameters and testing method unless specified are based on IEC 60904 and IEC 61853.

The test samples shall be randomly divided into groups and subjected to the qualification test sequences in Figure 6 or Figure 7. Test procedures and requirements are detailed in Clause 10, and summarized in Annex A. The allocation of test samples to typical test sequences is given in Table 2.

After initial tests and inspections, one module or one receiver/mirror section shall be removed from the test sequence as a control unit. Preferably, the control unit should be stored in the dark at room temperature to reduce the electrical performance degradation, but it may be kept outdoors with a dark cover. As shown in Figure 6 for modules or in Figure 7 for assemblies, the test sequence is performed both in-lab and on-site. If the CPV receiver uses crystalline silicon, a 1-sun measurement (flash or outdoor) can be used as a diagnostic tool throughout the program. If the distance between these two locations is considerable or public shipping companies are involved, a dark current-voltage (I-V) curve measurement before and after the shipping should be performed to evaluate any possible changes on testing samples.

If a particular manufacturer produces only specific components, such as receivers, lenses, or mirrors, the design qualification and type approval testing can be conducted only on applicable test sequences, and a partial certification can be issued independently.

If some test procedures in this document are not applicable to a specific design configuration, the manufacturer should discuss this with the certifying body and testing agency to develop a comparable test program, based on the principles described in this document. Any changes and deviations shall be recorded and reported in details, as required in Clause 8 j).

Table 2 – Allocation of test samples to typical test sequences

Test sequence	Module		Assembly	
	receiver	module	receiver	mirror
Control		1	1	1
A	2		2	
B		2	2	2
C		2	2	2
D		1	1	1
E		1 (full-size)	1 (full-size)	1 (full-size)
F	1		1	
Total	3	7	10	7

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7 Pass criteria

A concentrator photovoltaic module or assembly design shall be judged to have passed the qualification tests, and therefore to be IEC 62108 type approved, if each test sample meets all the following criteria:

a) The relative power degradation in sequence A to D does not exceed 13 % if the I-V measurement is under outdoor natural sunlight, or 8 % if the I-V measurement is under solar simulator.

b) The relative power degradation in sequence E does not exceed 7 % for natural sunlight I-V measurement, or 5 % for solar simulator I-V measurement, because the 1 000 kWh/m^2 DNI outdoor exposure test is not an accelerated stress test.

c) No sample has exhibited any open circuit during the tests.

d) There is no visual evidence of a major defect, as defined in 10.1.2.

e) The insulation test requirements are met at the beginning and the end of each sequence.

f) The wet leakage current test requirements are met at the beginning and the end of each sequence.

g) Specific requirements of the individual tests are met.

If there are some failures observed during the test, the following judgment and re-test procedure shall apply:

h) If two or more test samples do not meet pass criteria, the design shall be deemed not to have met the qualification requirements.

i) Should one sample fail any test, another two samples meeting the requirements of Clause 4 could be subjected to the whole of the relevant test sequence from the beginning.

j) In case i), if both samples pass the test sequence, the design shall be judged to have met the qualification requirements.

k) In case i), if one or both of these samples also fail, the design shall be deemed not to have met the qualification requirements.

l) In case h) or k), the entire test program illustrated in Figure 6 or Figure 7 shall be re-performed, usually after some design or processing improvement.

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