

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Rotating electrical machines –  
Part 18-1: Functional evaluation of insulation systems – General guidelines**

**Machines électriques tournantes –  
Partie 18-1: Évaluation fonctionnelle des systèmes d'isolation – Lignes  
directrices générales**

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## ROTATING ELECTRICAL MACHINES –

**Part 18-1: Functional evaluation of insulation systems –  
General guidelines**

## FOREWORD

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IEC 60034-18-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 2: Rotating machinery. It is an International Standard.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2010. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) provides general guidelines for functional evaluation of different types of windings as before but incorporates those changes, which have been introduced for the electrical qualification and evaluation of windings which are electrically stressed by converter-supply;
- b) is now focused on general guidelines with all technical details of procedures and qualification principles moved to the subsequent parts;

- c) details additional general aspects of functional evaluation and qualification, particularly the procedure for comparison between reference and candidate insulation systems, the introduction of the concept of qualification for different expected life-times in service and the evaluation of minor component or manufacturing changes.

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

Draft	Report on voting
2/2113/FDIS	2/2118/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/standardsdev/publications](http://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications).

A list of all parts in the IEC 60034 series, published under the general title *Rotating electrical machines*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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- amended.

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## INTRODUCTION

IEC 60034-18 comprises several parts, dealing with different types of functional evaluation and special kinds of test procedures for insulation systems of rotating electrical machines. IEC 60034-18-1 provides general guidelines for such procedures and qualification principles, whereas the subsequent parts IEC 60034-18-21, IEC 60034-18-31, IEC 60034-18-32, IEC TS 60034-18-33, IEC 60034-18-34, IEC 60034-18-41 and IEC 60034-18-42 give detailed procedures for the various types of windings. Beyond that, part IEC 60034-18-41 and IEC 60034-18-42 contain special test procedures for electrical evaluation of windings electrically stressed by converter-supply.

The following standards provide the basis and background for the development of the aforementioned standards.

IEC 60505 establishes the basis for estimating the ageing of electrical insulation systems under conditions of either electrical, thermal, mechanical, environmental stresses or combinations of these (multifactor stresses). It specifies the general principles and procedures that should be followed defining functional test and evaluation procedures.

The IEC 60216 series deals with the determination of thermal endurance properties of single insulating materials. On the assumption, that the Arrhenius formulas describe the rate of thermal ageing of the materials, test procedures and analyzing instructions for getting characteristic parameters like the “Temperature index” (TI), the “Halving interval” (HIC) and the “Relative thermal endurance index” (RTE) are given. For all these parameters selected properties and accepted end-point-criteria are specified. Consequently, a material may be assigned with more than one temperature index, derived from the measurement of different properties and the use of different end-point criteria.

IEC 60034-18-1 defines general requirements on the qualification of insulation systems, where – for thermal ageing – the Arrhenius equations do not necessarily fit, according to many experiences.

IEC 60085 deals with thermal evaluation of electrical insulation materials and in particular insulation systems used in electrical equipment. In particular, thermal classes of insulation systems are defined and designations are given, such as 130 (B), 155 (F) and 180 (H) for use in rotating machines belonging to IEC 60034-1. In the past, materials for insulation systems were often selected solely on the basis of thermal endurance of individual materials performed according to the IEC 60216 series. However, IEC 60085 recognizes that such selection may be used only for screening materials prior to further functional evaluation of a new insulation system which is not service-proven. Evaluation is performed on the basis of a comparison with a service-proven reference insulation system. Service experience is the preferred basis for assessing the thermal endurance of an insulation system.

IEC 62539 defines statistical methods to analyse times to breakdown and breakdown voltage data obtained from electrical testing of solid insulation materials, for the purposes of characterization of the system and comparison with other insulation systems. The methods of analysis are described for the Weibull-distribution, but other distributions are also presented.



## ROTATING ELECTRICAL MACHINES –

### Part 18-1: Functional evaluation of insulation systems – General guidelines

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60034 deals with the general guidelines for functional evaluation of electrical insulation systems, used or proposed to be used in rotating electrical machines within the scope of IEC 60034-1, in order to qualify them.

#### 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 60034-1, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 1: Rating and performance*

IEC 60034-18-21, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 18-21: Functional evaluation of insulation systems – Test procedures for wire-wound windings – Thermal evaluation and classification*

IEC 60034-18-31, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 18-31: Functional evaluation of insulation systems – Test procedures for form-wound windings – Thermal evaluation and classification of insulation systems used in rotating machines*

IEC 60034-18-32, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 18-32: Functional evaluation of insulation systems (Type II) – Electrical endurance qualification procedures for form-wound windings*

IEC TS 60034-18-33, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 18-33: Functional evaluation of insulation systems – Test procedures for form-wound windings – Multifactor evaluation by endurance under simultaneous thermal and electrical stresses*

IEC 60034-18-34, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 18-34: Functional evaluation of insulation systems – Test procedures for form-wound windings – Evaluation of thermomechanical endurance of insulation systems*

IEC 60034-18-41:2014, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 18-41: Partial discharge free electrical insulation systems (Type I) used in rotating electrical machines fed from voltage converters – Qualification and quality control tests*  
IEC 60034-18-41:2014/AMD1:2019

IEC 60034-18-42, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 18-42: Partial discharge resistant electrical insulation systems (Type II) used in rotating electrical machines fed from voltage converters – Qualification tests*

IEC 60034-27-3, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 27-3: Dielectric dissipation factor measurement on stator winding insulation of rotating electrical machines*

IEC 60085, *Electrical insulation – Thermal evaluation and designation*



IEC 60493-1, *Guide for the statistical analysis of ageing test data – Part 1: Methods based on mean values of normally distributed test results*

IEC 60505:2011, *Evaluation and qualification of electrical insulation systems*

IEC 61858-1:2014, *Electrical insulation systems – Thermal evaluation of modifications to an established electrical insulation system (EIS) – Part 1: Wire-wound winding EIS*

IEC 61858-2:2014, *Electrical insulation systems – Thermal evaluation of modifications to an established electrical insulation system (EIS) – Part 2: Form-wound EIS*

IEC 62539, *Guide for the statistical analysis of electrical insulation breakdown data*

### 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 General terms

##### 3.1.1

##### **class temperature**

temperature for which the insulation system is suitable, as defined by the thermal class in IEC 60085 and as used in IEC 60505

##### 3.1.2

##### **electrical insulation system EIS**

insulating structure containing one or more electrical insulating materials (EIM) together with associated conducting parts employed in an electrotechnical device

[SOURCE: IEC 60505:2011, 3.1.1]

##### 3.1.3

##### **candidate insulation system**

insulation system being tested to determine its capability with respect to ageing factors

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-39-26]

##### 3.1.4

##### **reference insulation system**

insulation system whose performance has been established by satisfactory service experience

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-39-27]

##### 3.1.5

##### **coil**

one or more turns of insulated conductors connected in series and surrounded by common insulation, arranged to link or produce magnetic flux

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-38-03]

### 3.1.6

#### **bar**

either of two parts which, after placed in their slots and when connected together, will form the complete form-wound coil (see 3.1.8) and which comprise a coil side and an appropriate end winding

Note 1 to entry: Large AC machines commonly use bars, and usually, though not always, they form single-turn coils in a two-layer winding.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-38-05]

### 3.1.7

#### **wire-wound winding**

winding which is wound with one or several insulated conductors and in which the individual conductors occupy random positions in the coil side

Note 1 to entry: It is usually random-wound with round conductors.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-38-13]

### 3.1.8

#### **form-wound winding**

winding consisting of coils or bars which are preformed to shape, insulated and substantially completed before they are inserted into their final places

Note 1 to entry: Coils or bars are usually wound with rectangular conductors.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-38-11]

## 3.2 Terms relating to the objects being tested

### 3.2.1

#### **test object**

unit being tested

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Note 1 to entry: It may be an actual machine or part thereof or a special test model (see 3.2.3 and 3.2.4) which can be subjected to functional tests.

Note 2 to entry: A test object may contain more than one test specimen (see 3.2.2).

### 3.2.2

#### **test specimen**

individual component within a test object which can be used to generate one piece of test data (e.g. time to failure)

Note 1 to entry: A test specimen may contain more than one insulation component (e.g. turn insulation and conductor to earth insulation), any one of which can provide that piece of data.

### 3.2.3

#### **formette**

special test model used for the evaluation of the insulation systems for form-wound windings

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-53-64]

### 3.2.4

#### **motorette**

special test model used for the evaluation of the insulation systems for wire-wound (random-wound) windings

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-411:1996, 411-53-65]

### 3.3 Terms relating to factors of influence and ageing factors

#### 3.3.1

**factor of influence**

stress imposed by conditions of operation, environment or test that may affect ageing or life of an insulation system

#### 3.3.2

**ageing factor**

factor of influence that causes ageing

Note 1 to entry: In the winding of an electrical machine, different factors of influence or ageing factors can be dominant in different parts (e.g. turn insulation and end-winding insulation). Therefore, different criteria may be used to assess those parts of the insulation. It can also be appropriate to apply different procedures of functional evaluation to these parts.

### 3.4 Terms relating to testing and evaluation

#### 3.4.1

**diagnostic factor**

variable or fixed stress which is applied to an EIS to establish the degree of ageing

[SOURCE: IEC 60505:2011, 3.3.7]

#### 3.4.2

**functional test**

comparative test in which the candidate and the reference insulation systems are exposed to ageing and diagnostic factors in order to qualify the candidate system, or, a functional test may also be related to a diagnostic property

#### 3.4.3

**endurance test**

test in which the insulation system of a test object is exposed to one or more ageing factors related to service conditions and where changes in specific properties are evaluated by diagnostic tests

#### 3.4.4

**diagnostic test**

test in which the insulation system of a test object is exposed to one or more diagnostic factors in order to discern its condition through measurements or proof tests and to determine when the end-point criterion has been reached

#### 3.4.5

**end-point criterion**

selected value of a characteristic of a test object indicating the end of its test life or arbitrarily chosen for the purpose of the comparison of insulation systems

#### 3.4.6

**end-point**

end of a test as defined by the end-point criterion

#### 3.4.7

**classification**

set of actions leading to the determination of the class of an insulation system, e.g. Thermal Class or Impulse Voltage Insulation Class

#### 3.4.8

**type test**

test conducted on first prototype of product to confirm the design specifications, it is usually not repeated on other products of same type

### 3.4.9

#### quality control test

conducted in order to ensure that the quality of a product is maintained against a set of benchmarks and that any errors encountered are either eliminated or reduced

### 3.4.10

#### routine test

test made on each individual device during or after manufacture to check if it complies with the requirements of the standard concerned or the criteria specified

## 4 General aspects of functional evaluation

### 4.1 Introductory remarks

Most functional tests given in the IEC 60034-18 series are comparative. The performance of a candidate system is compared with that of a reference system when both are subjected to equivalent test conditions with respect to test objects, methods of ageing and diagnostic tests.

It is not necessarily required that the reference system is physically to be tested in parallel, if the test results of the reference system used have been documented previously and obtained from same test conditions.

The reference system normally is particular and real – but its quantified minimum performance can also be defined by an agreed reference lifeline, provided by an IEC standard as in IEC 60034-18-42.

At the end of every functional test, the functional evaluation shall be made. This means it is necessary to compare the diagnostic data obtained from the candidate and the reference system, usually to compare the mean times to failure, and its spread, using appropriate statistical methods.

If the data from the candidate system is no worse than from the reference system, the candidate system is considered to be qualified. This is true if the 90 % confidence interval of that percentile of the used probability distribution which represents the mean value falls above or within that obtained from the reference system (see IEC 60493-1 and IEC 62539).

The large differences found in rotating electrical machine windings, in terms of size, voltage, operating conditions and expected lifetime-behaviour during service necessitate the use of different procedures for functional evaluation of thermal, electrical and multifactor ageing (IEC 60034-18-21, IEC 60034-18-31, IEC 60034-18-32, IEC TS 60034-18-33, IEC 60034-18-34, IEC 60034-18-41, IEC 60034-18-42) to qualify various types of windings. These procedures can be of different complexity, the simplest being based on a single ageing factor (e.g. thermal or electrical).

The procedures for functional evaluation will permit comparisons and allow qualification of candidate insulation systems. However, they cannot completely determine the merits of any particular insulation system. Principally, it is not possible to give an operational lifetime forecast of the individual winding insulation based on any kind of functional tests. Such information can be obtained in general only from extended service experience.

The demonstration of IEC 60034-18 series results could contain proprietary information that the manufacturer therefore does not want to share in the documentation. But in order to prove compliance of the candidate system, key points shall be at least shown and explained to the customer without the need to provide documents.