

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes –  
Part 1: General requirements**

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Edition 4.0 2021-07  
COMMENTED VERSION

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INTERNATIONAL  
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**This commented version (CMV) of the official standard IEC 60320-1:2021 edition 4.0 allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous IEC 60320-1:2015+AMD1:2018 edition 3.1. Furthermore, comments from IEC SC 23G experts are provided to explain the reasons of the most relevant changes.**

**A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. Experts' comments are identified by a blue-background number. Mouse over a number to display a pop-up note with the comment.**

**This publication contains the CMV and the official standard. The full list of comments is available at the end of the CMV.**

IEC 60320-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 23G: Appliance couplers, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories. It is an International Standard.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2015 and Amendment 1:2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) introduction of necessary tolerances throughout this document;
- b) the heating test from edition 2 is reintroduced in 18.2;
- c) temperature rise added for plug connectors in Clause 21;
- d) change for better readability in 23.3;
- e) updated lateral pull test in 23.6 for connectors/plug connectors with separate front parts;
- f) revision of 24.1 for ball pressure test;
- g) Clause 27 for glow wire test is updated;
- h) revision of Annex C for test sequences;
- i) additional Annex E for additional tests and requirements for appliance couplers intended to be used in ambient temperatures above +35 °C.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
23G/464/FDIS	23G/467/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.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 60320 series, under the general title *Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes*, can be found on the IEC website.

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).

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# APPLIANCE COUPLERS FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR GENERAL PURPOSES –

## Part 1: General requirements

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60320 sets the general requirements for appliance couplers for two poles and two poles with earth contact and for the connection of electrical devices for household and similar onto the mains supply.

This document is also valid for appliance inlets/appliance outlets integrated or incorporated in appliances.

The rated voltage does not exceed 250 V (AC) and the rated current does not exceed 16 A.

Appliance couplers complying with this document are suitable for normal use at ambient temperatures not normally exceeding +40 °C, but their average over a period of 24 h does not exceed +35 °C, with a lower limit of the ambient air temperature of –5 °C.

Annex E provides test requirements for derating the operating current of an accessory when used in ambient temperatures above +35 °C up to and including +90 °C. **1**

Appliance couplers are not suitable for:

- use in place of plug and socket-outlet systems according to IEC 60884-1;
- use in place of devices for connecting luminaires (DCLs) according to IEC 61995 or luminaire supporting couplers (LSCs);
- use in place of installation couplers according to IEC 61535.

~~NOTE – Requirements for d.c. are under consideration.~~

### 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 60068-2-31, *Environmental testing – Part 2-31: Tests – Test Ec: Rough handling shocks, primarily for equipment-type specimens*

IEC 60068-2-60, *Environmental testing – Part 2-60: Tests – Test Ke: Flowing mixed gas corrosion test*

IEC 60068-2-75, *Environmental testing – Part 2-75: Tests – Test Eh: Hammer tests*

IEC 60112:2020, *Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials*

IEC 60227 (all parts), *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V*

IEC 60245 (all parts), *Rubber insulated cables – Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V*

~~IEC 60320 (all parts), *Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes*~~

IEC 60320-3:2014, *Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes – Part 3: Standard sheets and gauges*  
IEC 60320-3:2014/AMD1:2018

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment* (available from: <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>)

IEC 60664-1:~~2007~~2020, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

~~IEC 60695-2-10:2000, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-10: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire apparatus and common test procedure*~~

IEC 60695-2-11:~~2000~~2014, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-11: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability test method for end-products (GWEPT)*

~~IEC 60695-2-12:2000, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-12: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability index (GWFI) test method for materials*~~

~~IEC 60695-2-13:2000, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-13: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire ignition temperature (GWIT) test method for materials*~~

IEC 60695-10-2:2014, *Fire hazard testing – Part 10-2: Abnormal heat – Ball pressure test method*

IEC 60730-2-11:2019, *Automatic electrical controls ~~for household and similar use~~ – Part 2-11: Particular requirements for energy regulators*

IEC 60999-1:1999, *Connecting devices – Electrical copper conductors – Safety requirements for screw-type and screwless-type clamping units – Part 1: General requirements and particular requirements for clamping units for conductors from 0,2 mm<sup>2</sup> up to 35 mm<sup>2</sup> (included)*

IEC 61032:~~1997~~, *Protection of persons and equipment by enclosures – Probes for verification*

IEC 61058 (all parts), *Switches for appliances*

### 3 Terms and definitions

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

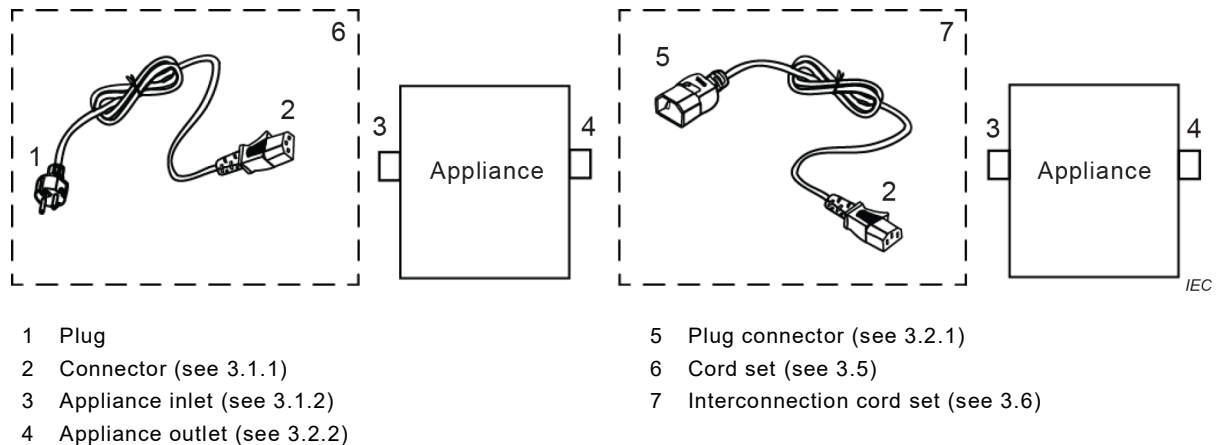
ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

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

#### 3.1

##### **appliance coupler**

means enabling the connection and disconnection of an appliance or equipment to the supply



**Figure 1 – Intended use of appliance couplers**

### 3.1.1

#### **connector** (of an appliance coupler)

part of the appliance coupler integral with, or intended to be attached to, one cord connected to the supply

SEE: Figure 1.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-07-02, modified – "the cord" has been replaced with "one cord" and a reference to Figure 1 has been added.]

### 3.1.2

#### **appliance inlet**

part of the appliance coupler integrated as a part of an appliance or incorporated as a separate part in the appliance or equipment or intended to be fixed to it

SEE: Figure 1.

### 3.2

#### **interconnection coupler**

appliance coupler enabling the connection and disconnection of an appliance or equipment to a cord leading to another appliance or equipment

SEE: Figure 1.

Note 1 to entry: An interconnection coupler is a type of appliance coupler.

### 3.2.1

#### **plug connector**

part of the interconnection coupler integral with or intended to be attached to one cord

SEE: Figure 1.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-07-09, modified – "the flexible cable" has been replaced with "one cord" and a reference to Figure 1 has been added.]

### 3.2.2

#### **appliance outlet**

part of the interconnection coupler integrated in or incorporated in the appliance or equipment or intended to be fixed to it, and from which the supply is obtained

SEE: Figure 1.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-07-08, modified – A reference to Figure 1 has been added.]

### 3.3

#### **rewirable ~~accessory~~ appliance coupler**

accessory so constructed that a cable or cord can be replaced

### 3.4

#### **non-rewirable ~~accessory~~ appliance coupler**

accessory so constructed that it forms a complete unit with flexible supply cable or cord after connection and assembly by the manufacturer of the accessory

### 3.5

#### **cord set**

assembly consisting of one cable or cord fitted with one non-rewirable plug and one non-rewirable connector, intended for the connection of an electrical appliance or equipment to the electrical supply

SEE: Figure 1.

### 3.6

#### **interconnection cord set**

assembly consisting of one cable or cord fitted with one non-rewirable plug connector and one non-rewirable connector, intended for the interconnection between two electrical appliances

SEE: Figure 1

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Note 1 to entry: The definition is based on that of IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-07-06.

~~[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-07-06, modified – “a” has been changed to “one” in two places and a reference to Figure 1 has been added.]~~

### 3.7

#### **integrated appliance coupler**

appliance coupler which is formed by the housing or enclosure of the appliance or equipment and that cannot be tested separately

### 3.8

#### **~~incorporated appliance coupler~~**

~~appliance coupler built in or fixed to an appliance or equipment, but that can be tested separately~~

### 3.8 **2**

#### **standardized appliance coupler**

appliance coupler with dimensions in accordance with the standard sheets of IEC 60320-3

### 3.9 **2**

#### **non-standardized appliance coupler**

appliance coupler with dimensions not in accordance with the standard sheets of IEC 60320-3