

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

High-voltage switchgear and controlgear –
Part 315: Direct current (DC) transfer switches

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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 29.130.10

ISBN 978-2-8327-0244-4

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	7
1 Scope.....	9
2 Normative references	9
3 Terms and definitions	10
3.1 General terms and definitions	10
3.2 Assemblies of switchgear and controlgear	10
3.3 Parts of assemblies	10
3.4 Switching devices	10
3.5 Parts of switchgear and controlgear	12
3.6 Operational characteristics of DC transfer switches	13
3.7 Characteristic quantities	13
3.8 Index of definitions.....	14
4 Normal and special service conditions	15
5 Ratings.....	16
5.1 General.....	16
5.2 Rated direct voltage (U_{rd}).....	16
5.3 Rated insulation level (U_{dd} , U_p , U_s)	16
5.4 Rated continuous current (I_{rd})	17
5.5 Rated values of short-time withstand current.....	17
5.5.1 Typical waveform of short-circuit current.....	17
5.5.2 Rated short-time withstand direct current (I_{kd})	17
5.5.3 Rated peak withstand current (I_{pd})	17
5.5.4 Rated duration of short circuit (t_{kd}).....	17
5.6 Rated supply voltage of auxiliary and control circuits (U_a)	17
5.6.1 General	17
5.6.2 Rated supply voltage (U_a)	17
5.7 Rated supply frequency of auxiliary and control circuits	17
5.8 Rated pressure of compressed gas supply for controlled pressure systems	18
5.101 Rated direct voltage of transfer switch (U_{rts})	18
5.102 Rated transfer current (I_t)	18
5.103 Rated commutation voltage (U_c)	18
5.104 Rated dissipated energy during transfer operation (E_{rd}).....	18
5.105 Rated operating sequence	19
5.106 Rated open-close time	19
6 Design and construction	19
6.1 Requirements for liquids in switchgear and controlgear.....	19
6.2 Requirements for gases in switchgear and controlgear	19
6.3 Earthing of switchgear and controlgear	19
6.4 Auxiliary and control equipment and circuits	19
6.5 Dependent power operation	20
6.6 Stored energy operation.....	20
6.7 Independent unlatched operation (independent manual or power operation)	20
6.8 Manually operated actuators	20
6.9 Operation of releases.....	20

6.10	Pressure/level indication	20
6.11	Nameplates.....	20
6.12	Locking devices	22
6.13	Position indication.....	22
6.14	Degrees of protection by enclosures	22
6.15	Creepage distances for outdoor insulators	22
6.16	Gas and vacuum tightness	22
6.17	Tightness for liquid system	22
6.18	Fire hazard (flammability)	22
6.19	Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).....	22
6.20	X-ray emission	22
6.21	Corrosion	22
6.22	Filling levels for insulation, switching and operation	22
6.101	Seismic requirement for operation.....	22
6.102	Commutation switch.....	22
6.102.1	General requirement for operation	22
6.102.2	Pressure limits of fluids for operation.....	23
6.102.3	Vent outlets	23
6.102.4	Time quantities	23
6.102.5	Static mechanical loads	23
6.102.6	Classification	24
6.102.7	Arcing withstand capability	24
6.103	Insulated platform	25
6.104	Commutation capacitor	25
6.105	Energy dissipation device	25
6.106	Reactor.....	25
6.107	Making switch (if applicable)	25
6.108	Charging device (if applicable).....	25
7	Type tests	25
7.1	General.....	25
7.1.1	Basics	25
7.1.2	Information for identification of test objects.....	27
7.1.3	Information to be included in type-test reports	27
7.2	Dielectric tests	27
7.2.1	General	27
7.2.2	Ambient air conditions during tests	27
7.2.3	Wet test procedure	27
7.2.4	Arrangement of the equipment.....	27
7.2.5	Criteria to pass the test	27
7.2.6	Application of the test voltage and test conditions.....	27
7.2.7	Tests of switchgear and controlgear	28
7.2.8	Artificial pollution tests for outdoor insulators.....	29
7.2.9	Partial discharge tests	29
7.2.10	Dielectric tests on auxiliary and control circuits.....	29
7.2.11	Voltage test as condition check	29
7.3	Resistance measurement.....	29
7.3.1	Measurement of the resistance of auxiliary contacts class 1 and class 2.....	29
7.3.2	Measurement of the resistance of auxiliary contacts class 3	29
7.3.3	Electrical continuity of earthed metallic parts test	29

7.3.4	Resistance measurement of contacts and connections in the main circuit as a condition check.....	29
7.4	Continuous current tests	30
7.4.1	Condition of the test object	30
7.5	Short-time withstand current and peak withstand current tests	30
7.5.1	General	30
7.5.2	Arrangement of the equipment and of the test circuit	30
7.5.3	Test current and duration.....	30
7.5.4	Conditions of the test object after test.....	30
7.6	Verification of the protection	30
7.7	Tightness tests	30
7.8	Electromagnetic compatibility tests (EMC)	31
7.9	Additional tests on auxiliary and control circuits	31
7.10	X-radiation test for vacuum interrupters	31
7.101	Mechanical and environmental tests	31
7.101.1	Miscellaneous provisions for mechanical and environmental tests	31
7.101.2	Mechanical operation tests at ambient air temperature	33
7.101.3	Low and high temperature tests	35
7.101.4	Humidity test	40
7.101.5	Test to prove the operation under severe ice conditions	42
7.102	Seismic tests	42
7.103	Direct current commutation tests.....	42
7.103.1	General	42
7.103.2	Arrangement of the transfer switch during test.....	43
7.103.3	Test circuit.....	44
7.103.4	Test procedure	45
7.103.5	Behaviour of DC transfer switch during test	46
7.103.6	Criteria to pass the test	46
7.104	Direct arc withstand tests.....	46
7.104.1	General	46
7.104.2	Arrangement of the transfer switch during test.....	47
7.104.3	Test circuit.....	47
7.104.4	Test procedure	48
7.104.5	Behaviour of DC transfer switch during test	48
7.104.6	Criteria to pass the test	48
8	Routine tests	49
8.1	General.....	49
8.2	Dielectric test on the main circuit	49
8.3	Tests on auxiliary and control circuits	49
8.4	Measurement of the resistance of the main circuit.....	49
8.5	Tightness test	49
8.6	Design and visual checks.....	49
8.101	Mechanical operating tests	49
9	Guide to the selection of DC transfer switches (informative)	51
9.1	General.....	51
9.2	Selection of rated values.....	51
9.2.101	General	51
9.2.102	Selection of rated direct voltage of transfer switch and rated insulation level	51

9.2.103	Selection of rated operating sequence	51
9.2.104	Selection of rated continuous current	52
9.2.105	Selection of rated values of short time withstand current	52
9.2.106	Selection of rated transfer current	52
9.2.107	Selection of rated commutation voltage	52
9.3	Cable-interface considerations	52
9.4	Continuous or temporary overload due to changed service conditions	52
9.5	Environmental aspects	52
9.101	Selection of the application	52
9.101.1	MRTS	52
9.101.2	ERTS	53
9.101.3	NBS	53
9.101.4	NBES	54
10	Information to be given with enquiries, tenders and orders (informative)	55
10.1	General	55
10.2	Information with enquiries and orders	55
10.3	Information with tenders	56
11	Transport, storage, installation, operating instructions and maintenance	58
12	Safety	58
13	Influence of the product on the environment	58
Annex A (normative)	Test requirements for component of DC transfer switches	59
A.1	Commutation switch	59
A.2	Making switch	59
A.3	Commutation capacitor	59
A.4	Energy dissipation device	60
A.5	Reactor	60
A.6	Charging device	60
A.6.1	Type tests for charging device	60
A.6.2	Routine test for charging device	61
Annex B (informative)	Additional information about test circuit and measured signals for DC transfer switches having an oscillation branch	62
B.1	Test circuits for direct current transfer test	62
B.2	Test circuits for direct arc withstand test	64
Annex C (normative)	Tolerances on test quantities during tests	66
Annex D (normative)	Records and reports of type tests	69
D.1	Information and results to be recorded	69
D.2	Information to be included in type test reports	69
D.2.1	General	69
D.2.2	Apparatus tested	69
D.2.3	Rated characteristics of DC transfer switch, including its operating devices and auxiliary equipment	69
D.2.4	Test conditions (for each series of tests)	70
D.2.5	Direct current commutation tests	70
D.2.6	Direct arc withstand tests	70
D.2.7	Short-time withstand current test	70
D.2.8	No-load operation	71
D.2.9	Oscillographic and other records	71
Annex E (informative)	Extension of validity of type tests	72

E.1	General.....	72
E.2	Dielectric tests	72
E.3	Continuous current test.....	72
E.4	Electromagnetic immunity test on auxiliary and control circuits	72
E.5	Environmental tests on auxiliary and control circuits	73
E.6	DC transfer current test.....	73
	Bibliography.....	74
	Figure 1 – Test sequence for low temperature test.....	37
	Figure 2 – Test sequence for high temperature test	39
	Figure 3 – Humidity test.....	41
	Figure 4 – General layout of test circuit for direct current commutation test	44
	Figure 5 – Current commutation test with low-frequency alternating current.....	45
	Figure 6 – General layout of test circuit for direct arc withstand test.....	47
	Figure 7 – Equivalent transfer circuit of MRTS and ERTS	53
	Figure 8 – Equivalent transfer circuit of NBS.....	54
	Figure 9 – Equivalent transfer circuit of NBES	55
	Figure B.1 – Test circuit with measuring points	62
	Figure B.2 – Measured signals during test (overview).....	63
	Figure B.3 – Measured signals during test (expanded in time)	64
	Figure B.4 – Test circuit of direct arc withstand tests	65
	Table 1 – Rated insulation levels for transfer switches.....	17
	Table 2 – Nameplate information	21
	Table 3 – Classification of commutation switches and making switches	24
	Table 4 – Type tests	26
	Table 5 – Number of operating sequences for commutation switches.....	34
	Table 6 – Number of operating sequences for making switches	35
	Table B.1 – Legend of measuring points	65
	Table C.1 – Tolerances on test quantities for type test.....	66

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

HIGH-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

Part 315: Direct current (DC) transfer switches

FOREWORD

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IEC TS 62271-315 has been prepared by subcommittee 17A: Switching devices, of IEC technical committee 17: High-voltage switchgear and controlgear. It is a Technical Specification.

The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
17A/1412/DTS	17A/1417/RVDTS

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 Technical Specification 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/publications.

This document is to be read in conjunction with IEC TS 62271-5:2024, to which it refers and which is applicable unless otherwise specified. In order to simplify the indication of corresponding requirements, the same numbering of clauses and subclauses is used as in IEC TS 62271-5. Amendments to these clauses and subclauses are given under the same references whilst additional subclauses are numbered from 101.

A list of all parts of IEC 62271 series, under the general title *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear* 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 in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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HIGH-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

Part 315: Direct current (DC) transfer switches

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62271 is applicable to direct current (DC) transfer switches designed for indoor or outdoor installation and for operation on HVDC transmission systems having direct voltages of 100 kV and above.

DC transfer switches normally include metallic return transfer switches (MRTS), earth return transfer switches (ERTS), neutral bus switches (NBS) and neutral bus earthing switches (NBES).

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 60060-1:2010, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60068-2-1:2007, *Environmental testing – Part 2-1: Tests – Test A: Cold*

IEC 60068-2-2:2007, *Environmental testing – Part 2-2: Tests – Test B: Dry heat*

IEC 60068-2-30:2005, *Environmental testing – Part 2-30: Tests – Test Db: Damp heat, cyclic (12 h + 12 h cycle)*

IEC 60071-11:2022, *Insulation co-ordination – Part 11: Definitions, principles and rules for HVDC system*

IEC 60076-6, *Power transformers– Part 6: Reactors*

IEC 60099-9, *Surge arresters – Part 9: Metal-oxide surge arresters without gaps for HVDC converter stations*

IEC 60255-21-1:1988, *Electrical relays – Part 21: Vibration, shock, bump and seismic tests on measuring relays and protection equipment – Section One: Vibration tests (sinusoidal)*

IEC 60270:2000, *High-voltage test techniques – Partial discharge measurements*

IEC 60633, *High-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission – Vocabulary*

IEC 60871-1, *Shunt capacitors for a.c. power systems having a rated voltage above 1 000 V – Part 1: General*

IEC 61000-4-18:2019, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-18: Testing and measurement techniques – Damped oscillatory wave immunity test*

IEC TS 62271-5:2024, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 5: Common specifications for direct current switchgear and controlgear*

IEC 62271-100:2021, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 100: Alternating-current circuit-breakers*

IEC 62271-102:2018, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 102: Alternating-current disconnectors and earthing switches*

IEC 62271-207, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 207: Seismic qualification for gas-insulated switchgear assemblies for rated voltages above 52 kV*

IEC TS 63014-1, *High-voltage direct current (HVDC) power transmission – System requirements for DC-side equipment Part 1: Using line-commutated converters*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60633, IEC TS 63014-1 and the following apply.

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

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

3.1 General terms and definitions

Subclause 3.1 of IEC TS 62271-5:2024 is applicable.

3.2 Assemblies of switchgear and controlgear

Subclause 3.2 of IEC TS 62271-5:2024 is applicable.

3.3 Parts of assemblies

Subclause 3.3 of IEC TS 62271-5:2024 is applicable.

3.4 Switching devices

Subclause 3.4 of IEC TS 62271-5:2024 is applicable with the following additions:

3.4.101

active DC transfer switch

DC transfer switch with charging device in oscillating branch, installed in parallel to the commutation switch

3.4.102

blank DC transfer switch

DC transfer switch with a sole commutation switch only, without any additional external branches or components

Note 1 to entry: Some commutation switches use internal components to increase voltage drop across the switching units during transfer operation.

3.4.103**passive DC transfer switch**

DC transfer switch without charging device in oscillating branch, installed in parallel to the commutation switch

3.4.104**earth return transfer switch****ERTS**

DC transfer switch used to transfer direct current from a metallic return path to an earth return path

Note 1 to entry: “DC transfer switch” is used instead of “DC commutation switch” to refer to whole switch, including oscillating branch and energy dissipation branch.

Note 2 to entry: Although the term “earth return transfer breaker” (ERTB) has been widely used in the industry for many years, it is misleading since such switches have no ability to interrupt fault current.

[SOURCE: IEC 60633:2019, 9.23, modified – The terms “earth return transfer breaker” and “ERTB” have been removed, “DC commutation switch” has been replaced by “DC transfer switch”, DC current is replaced by direct current, Note 1 to entry and reference to Figure 7 have been deleted.]

3.4.105**metallic return transfer switch****MRTS**

DC transfer switch used to transfer direct current from an earth return path to a metallic return path

Note 1 to entry: “DC transfer switch” is used instead of “DC commutation switch” to refer to whole switch, including oscillating branch and energy dissipation branch.

Note 2 to entry: Although the term “metal return transfer breaker” (MRTB) has been widely used in the industry for many years, it is misleading since such switches have no ability to interrupt fault current.

[SOURCE: IEC 60633:2019, 9.22, modified – The terms “metallic return transfer breaker” and “MRTB” have been removed, “DC commutation switch” has been replaced by “DC transfer switch”, DC current is replaced by direct current, Note 1 to entry is moved to Note 2, and reference to Figure 7 has been deleted.]

3.4.106**neutral bus switch****NBS**

DC transfer switch connected in series with the neutral bus on a bipolar HVDC scheme, designed to commutate current out of the pole conductor or neutral bus and into the electrode line or dedicated metallic return conductor or earth e.g. in response to a fault in a converter or neutral bus

Note 1 to entry: “DC transfer switch” is used instead of “DC commutation switch” to refer to whole switch, including oscillating branch and energy dissipation branch.

[SOURCE: IEC 60633:2019, 9.26, modified, “DC commutation switch” has been replaced by “DC transfer switch” and Note 1 has been replaced by a new Note 1.]

3.4.107**neutral bus earthing switch****NBES**

DC transfer switch connected from the neutral bus to the station earth mat on a bipolar HVDC scheme, designed to provide a temporary earth connection, e.g. in the event of an open circuit fault on the electrode line until the imbalance of current between the two poles can be reduced to a safe minimum level or the electrode line connection can be restored

Note 1 to entry: Although the term “Neutral Bus Grounding Switch” (NBGS) has been widely used in the industry for many years.

Note 2 to entry: In some applications, NBES and high-speed earthing switch (HSES) are used in series.

[SOURCE: IEC 60633:2019, 9.27, modified – The terms “neutral bus grounding switch” and “NBGS” have been removed, “DC commutation switch” has been replaced by “DC transfer switch”, Note 1 and Note 2 have been replaced by new notes.]

3.5 Parts of switchgear and controlgear

Subclause 3.5 of IEC TS 62271-5:2024 is applicable with the following additions:

3.5.101**commutation switch**

mechanical switching device used in the main current path of DC transfer switches

Note 1 to entry: A single pole of an AC circuit-breaker or its modification was often used as commutation switch in DC transfer switch.

Note 2 to entry: Some commutation switches use internal components to increase voltage drop across the switching units during transfer operation.

3.5.102**oscillating branch**

circuit in parallel with the commutation switch in DC transfer switches, consisting of

- capacitors and reactors, in case of passive DC transfer switches;
- capacitors including a charging device and a making switch, in case of active DC transfer switches.

Note 1 to entry: The oscillating branch forces a current oscillation between itself and the commutation switch branch in order to produce current zeros in the last one.

Note 2 to entry: Depending on the stray inductance of the arrangement reactors are not necessarily needed to be installed.

Note 3 to entry: Passive DC transfer switches having a making device in series with the oscillating branch are also known.

3.5.103**current zero device**

oscillating circuit in case of passive DC transfer switch or current impulse generator in case of active DC transfer switch

3.5.104**energy dissipation branch**

impedance circuit in parallel with the commutation switch of DC transfer switches which dissipates the energy stored in the energy storage components (e.g. reactors, stray inductance, stray capacitance, etc.) in DC system after successful commutation of current from commutation switch branch to oscillating branch

Note 1 to entry: In real transfer switch, metal oxide surge arrester commonly is used as energy dissipation device.