IEC 61156-1

Edition 4.0 2023-03

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications – Part 1: Generic specification

Câbles multiconducteurs à paires symétriques et quartes pour transmissions numériques – Partie 1: Spécification générique

IEC 61156-1:2023-03(en-fr)

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MULTICORE AND SYMMETRICAL PAIR/QUAD CABLES FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS –

Part 1: Generic specification

FOREWORD

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IEC 61156-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 46C: Wires and symmetric cables, of IEC technical committee 46: Cables, wires, waveguides, RF connectors, RF and microwave passive components and accessories. It is an International Standard.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2007 and Amendment 1 published in 2009. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) modification of the scope in Clause 1 and updating of normative references documents in Clause 2;
b) addition of PoE-related definitions in Clause 3;
c) clarification of differential-mode and common-mode resistors, correction of formulae and addition of IEC 62153-4-9 test method for coupling attenuation in Clause 6;

d) introduction of balunless measurement method in 6.3.1, modification of equipment requirements of unbalance attenuation in 6.3.5 and updating of balun's performance in Table 1;

e) deletion of 'three layers of cables on a drum' method in alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk measurement in 6.3.8 and addition of terminated input impedance in 6.3.11.4.

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

Draft	Report on voting
46C/1242/FDIS	46C/1249/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 and French.

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.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61156 series, published under the general title *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications*, 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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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MULTICORE AND SYMMETRICAL PAIR/QUAD CABLES FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS –

Part 1: Generic specification

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61156 specifies the definitions, requirements and test methods of multicore, symmetrical pair and quad cables.

This document is applicable to communication systems such as local area networks (LANs) and data communication cables. It is also applicable to cables used for industrial applications, customer premises wiring and generic cabling comprising installation cables and cables for work area wiring which are defined in ISO/IEC 11801 (all parts).

The cables covered by this document are intended to operate with voltages and currents normally encountered in communication systems. While these cables are not intended to be used in conjunction with low impedance sources, for example the electric power supplies of public utility mains, they are intended to be used to support the delivery of low voltage remote powering applications including but not restricted to Power over Ethernet as specified in ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-3. More information on the capacity to support these applications according to the installation practices are given in IEC 61156-1-4, IEC TR 61156-1-6 and ISO/IEC TS 29125.

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 60028, *International standard of resistance for copper*

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

IEC 60189-1:2018, *Low-frequency cables and wires with PVC insulation and PVC sheath – Part 1: General test and measuring methods*

IEC 60304, *Standard colours for insulation for low-frequency cables and wires*

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for 1 kW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60332-2-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 2-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single small insulated wire or cable – Procedure for diffusion flame*

IEC 60332-3-24, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C*

IEC 60332-3-25, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 3-25: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category D*

IEC 60708, *Low-frequency cables with polyolefin insulation and moisture barrier polyolefin sheath*

IEC 60754-2, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 2: Determination of acidity (by pH measurement) and conductivity*

IEC 60794-1-21:2015, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-21: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Mechanical test methods*

IEC 60811-201, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 201: General tests – Measurement of insulation thickness*

IEC 60811-202, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 202: General tests – Measurement of thickness of non-metallic sheath*

IEC 60811-203, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 203: General tests – Measurement of overall dimensions*

IEC 60811-401, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 401: Miscellaneous tests – Thermal ageing methods – Ageing in an air oven*

IEC 60811-501, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 501: Mechanical tests – Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulating and sheathing compounds*

IEC 60811-502, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 502: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for insulations*

IEC 60811-504, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 504: Mechanical tests – Bending tests at low temperature for insulation and sheaths*

IEC 60811-506, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 506: Mechanical tests – Impact test at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-508, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 508: Mechanical tests – Pressure test at high temperature for insulation and sheaths*

IEC 60811-509, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 509: Mechanical tests – Test for resistance of insulations and sheaths to cracking (heat shock test)*

IEC 60811-510, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 510: Mechanical tests – Methods specific to polyethylene and polypropylene compounds – Wrapping test after thermal ageing in air*

IEC 61034 (all parts), *Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions*

IEC TR 61156-1-2[1], *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications – Part 1-2: Electrical transmission characteristics and test methods of symmetrical pair/quad cables*

[1] IEC TR 61156-1-2 is due to become a TS in 2023.

IEC TR 61156-1-5, *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications – Part 1-5: Correction procedures for the measurement results of return loss and input impedance*

IEC 61196-1-105, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-105: Electrical test methods – Test for withstand voltage of cable dielectric*

IEC 62012-1:2002, *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications to be used in harsh environments – Part 1: Generic specification*

IEC 62153-4-3:2013, *Metallic communication cables test methods – Part 4-3: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Surface transfer impedance – Triaxial method*

IEC 62153-4-5, *Metallic communication cables test methods – Part 4-5: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Screening or coupling attenuation – Absorbing clamp method*

IEC 62153-4-9, *Metallic communication cable test methods – Part 4-9: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Coupling attenuation of screened balanced cables, triaxial method*

IEC 62255 (all parts), *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for broadband digital communications (high bit rate digital access telecommunication networks) – Outside plant cables*

ISO/IEC TS 29125:2017, *Information technology – Telecommunications cabling requirements for remote powering of terminal equipment*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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
resistance unbalance
difference in resistance of the conductors within a pair or one side of a quad or between pairs or quads

Note 1 to entry: Resistance unbalance is expressed as a percentage (%).

3.2
mutual capacitance
electrical charge storage parameter of a pair of conductors (or with respect to the side of a quad)

Note 1 to entry: Mutual capacitance is one of the four primary transmission line parameters: mutual capacitance, mutual inductance, resistance and conductance.

Note 2 to entry: Mutual capacitance is expressed in pF/m..

3.3
capacitance unbalance to earth
arithmetic difference of the capacitance to earth of the conductors of a pair or one side of a quad

Note 1 to entry: Capacitance unbalance is expressed in pF/m.

3.4
screen
continuous conducting layer or assembly of conducting layers having the function of reducing the penetration of an electric, magnetic or electromagnetic field into a given region

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021,195-02-37, modified – "continuous conducting layer or assembly of conducting layers having the function of reducing " has replaced "device intended to reduce "]

3.5
balun
device to provide impedance transformation between balanced and unbalanced components

[SOURCE:ISO/IEC 11801-4:2017, 3.1.2]

3.6
balunless
virtual balun used instead of the physical transformers, achieved by mathematical algorithm, and calculated from lumped parameters or distributed parameter network

3.7
transfer impedance
Z_T
quotient of the longitudinal voltage of an electrically short uniform cable, induced in the outer circuit – formed by the screen under test and the measuring jig – and the current fed into the inner circuit – the cable under test itself or vice versa, related to unit length

Note 1 to entry: Transfer impedance is expressed in mΩ/m.

[SOURCE: IEC 62153-4-3:2013, 3.3, modified – "of an electrically short uniform cable" has been added, "outer circuit" has replaced “matched outer circuit", “the cable under test itself" has been added, “related to unit length" has replaced "(see Figure 1)".]

3.8
coupling attenuation
a_C
for a screened balanced cable, the sum of the effects of the unbalance attenuation a_U of the symmetric pair and the screening attenuation α_s of the screen of the cable under test

Note 1 to entry: For electrically long devices, i.e. above the cut-off frequency, the coupling attenuation α_C is defined as the logarithmic ratio of the feeding power P_1 and the periodic maximum values of the coupled power $P_{r, max}$ in the outer circuit.

Note 2 to entry: Coupling attenuation is expressed in dB.

[SOURCE: IEC 62153-4-7:2021, 3.4, modified –“cable" has replaced “device", “sum of the effects’" has replaced “sum", Note 2 has been added.]

3.9
current carrying capacity
maximum current a cable circuit (one or several conductors) can support resulting in a specified increase of the surface temperature of the conductor beyond the ambient temperature, not exceeding the maximum allowed operating temperature of the cable

3.10
velocity of propagation
phase velocity
speed at which a sinusoidal signal propagates on a pair in the cable

Note 1 to entry: Velocity of propagation is expressed in m/s.

3.11
phase delay
delay
time duration between the instants that the wave front of a sinusoidal travelling wave, defined by a specified phase, passes two given points in a cable

Note 1 to entry: Phase delay is expressed in s/m.

3.12
differential phase delay
delay skew
difference in phase delay between any two pairs in the cable

Note 1 to entry: Differential phase delay (skew) is expressed in s.

3.13
attenuation
decrease in magnitude of power of a signal that propagates along a pair of a cable

Note 1 to entry: Attenuation is expressed in dB/m.

3.14
ambient temperature
temperature of the room or space surrounding the cable

Note 1 to entry: Ambient temperature is expressed in degree Celsius (°C).

3.15
operating temperature
surface temperature of the conductors of a cable

Note 1 to entry: The operating temperature is the sum of the ambient temperature and of the temperature increase due to the carried power.

Note 2 to entry: Operating temperature is expressed in degree Celsius (°C).

3.16
unbalance attenuation
UA
logarithmic ratio of the differential mode power to the common mode power in a balanced line, or vice versa

Note 1 to entry: Unbalance attenuation is expressed in dB.

Note 2 to entry: Unbalance attenuation is also often referred to as conversion loss: TCL (transverse conversion loss), TCTL (transverse conversion transfer loss), LCL (longitudinal conversion loss), LCTL (longitudinal conversion transfer loss), EL TCTL (equal level transverse conversion transfer loss) and EL LCTL (equal level longitudinal conversion loss transfer loss).

3.17
transverse conversion loss
TCL
logarithmic ratio of the differential-mode circuit power at the near end and the common-mode coupling power measured at the near end

3.18
equal level transverse conversion transfer loss
EL TCTL
output-to-output measurement of the logarithmic ratio of the differential-mode circuit power at the near end and the common-mode coupling power measured at the far end

Note 1 to entry: EL TCTL is calculated by the difference between the measured TCTL and the differential-mode insertion loss of the disturbed pair.

3.19
near-end crosstalk
NEXT
magnitude of the signal power coupling from a disturbing pair at the near end to a disturbed pair measured at the near end

Note 1 to entry: Near-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.20
far-end crosstalk
FEXT
magnitude of the signal power coupling from a disturbing pair at the near end to a disturbed pair measured at the far end

Note 1 to entry: Far-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.21
power sum of crosstalk
PS
summation of the crosstalk power from all disturbing pairs into a disturbed pair

Note 1 to entry: The summation is applicable to near-end and far-end crosstalk.

Note 2 to entry: The power sum of crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.22
attenuation to crosstalk ratio, far-end
ACR-F
arithmetic difference between the far-end crosstalk and the attenuation of the disturbed pair

Note 1 to entry: Attenuation to crosstalk ratio, far-end, is expressed in dB.

3.23
alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk
ANEXT
near-end crosstalk where the disturbing and disturbed pairs are contained in different cables

Note 1 to entry: Alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.24
alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk
AFEXT
far-end crosstalk where the disturbing and disturbed pairs are contained in different cables

Note 1 to entry: Alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.25
alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk
AACR-F
far-end crosstalk where the disturbing and disturbed pairs are contained in different cables

Note 1 to entry: Alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.26
power sum of alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk
PS ANEXT
summation of the near-end alien (exogenous) crosstalk power from all disturbing pairs into a disturbed pair in different cables

Note 1 to entry: The power sum of alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.27
power sum of alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk
PS AACR-F
summation of the alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk power from all disturbing pairs into a disturbed pair in different cables

Note 1 to entry: The power sum of far-end alien (exogenous) crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.28
characteristic impedance
Z_C
impedance at the input of a homogeneous line of infinite length

Note 1 to entry: The impedance value is expressed in Ω, at relevant frequencies, as the square root of the product of the impedance measured at the near end (input) of a cable pair when the far end is terminated by an open circuit load and then an short circuit load.

Note 2 to entry: The asymptotic value at high frequencies is denoted as Z_∞.

Note 3 to entry: The characteristic impedance of a homogeneous cable pair is given by the quotient of a voltage wave and current wave which are propagating in the same direction, either forwards or backwards.

Note 4 to entry: For homogeneous ideal cables, this test method yields a flat smooth curve over the whole frequency range. Real cables with distortions give curves with some roughness.

3.29
terminated input impedance
Z_{in}
impedance value, expressed in Ω, at relevant frequencies, measured at the near end (input) when the far end is terminated with the system nominal impedance, Z_R

3.30
fitted characteristic impedance
Z_m
impedance value, expressed in Ω, calculated by applying a least squares function fitting algorithm to the measured characteristic impedance values

3.31
mean characteristic impedance
Z_∞
asymptotic value at which the characteristic impedance approaches at sufficiently high frequencies (≈100 MHz) such that the imaginary part (phase angle) is insignificant

Note 1 to entry: Normally measured from the capacitance and time delay.

Note 2 to entry: Applicable for cables with frequency independence of mutual capacitance.

3.32
return loss
RL
ratio of reflected power to input power at the input terminals of a cable pair

Note 1 to entry: Return loss is expressed in dB.