

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications –  
Part 7: Symmetrical pair cables with transmission characteristics up to  
1 200 MHz – Sectional specification for digital and analogue communication  
cables**

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**MULTICORE AND SYMMETRICAL PAIR/QUAD CABLES  
FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS –****Part 7: Symmetrical pair cables with transmission  
characteristics up to 1 200 MHz –  
Sectional specification for digital and analogue  
communication cables**

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IEC 61156-7 has been prepared by subcommittee 46C: Wires and symmetrical cables, of IEC technical committee 46: Cables, wires, waveguides, RF connectors, RF and microwave passive components and accessories. It is an International Standard.

This part of IEC 61156 is to be read in conjunction with IEC 61156-1:2023.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2003 and Amendment 1:2012. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) restructure all text to comply with ISO/IEC Directives Part 2;
- b) align clauses with IEC 61156-1:2023;
- c) remove the clause related to screening attenuation as it is no longer a test to be performed (replaced by coupling attenuation);
- d) replace the IEC 62153-4-2 method (injection clamp) with IEC 61156-4-5 (absorbing clamp) for coupling attenuation measurement to be consistent with all other parts of the IEC 61156 series;
- e) include IEC 62153-4-9 test method (triaxial) for coupling attenuation measurement to be consistent with all other parts of the IEC 61156 series;
- f) incorporate the blank detail specification.

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

Draft	Report on voting
46C/1228/CDV	46C/1233/RVC

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/publications](http://www.iec.ch/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.



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# MULTICORE AND SYMMETRICAL PAIR/QUAD CABLES FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS –

## Part 7: Symmetrical pair cables with transmission characteristics up to 1 200 MHz – Sectional specification for digital and analogue communication cables

### ~~1~~ **General**

#### **1 Scope**

This part of IEC 61156 specifies cables that ~~may~~ can be used for various communication systems as well as for analogue systems, such as video, that exist or are under development and which may use as many as four pairs simultaneously. In this sense, this sectional specification provides the cable characteristics required by system developers to evaluate new systems as well as to enhance present systems.

It covers a cable having four individually screened (~~STPS~~/FTP) pairs. The cable ~~may~~ can be provided with a common screen over the cable core.

The transmission characteristics are specified up to a frequency of 1 200 MHz and at a temperature of 20 °C.

The cables covered by this sectional specification are intended to operate with voltages and currents normally encountered in communication systems and support the delivery of DC low voltage remote powering applications. These cables are not intended to be used in conjunction with low impedance sources, for example the electric power supply of public utility mains.

#### **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 60189-1:1986, 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 61156-1:2002, *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications – Part 1: Generic specification*

~~IEC 61156-7-1, Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications – Part 7-1: Symmetrical pair cables with transmission characteristics up to 1 200 MHz – Blank detail specification for digital and analog communication cables~~

~~IEC 62153-4-2, Metallic telecommunication cable test methods – Part 4-2: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Screening and coupling attenuation – Injection clamp method~~

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

IEC 62153-4-5, *Metallic communication cable 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*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 61156-1 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>

### 4 Installation consideration

~~Under consideration.~~

#### 4.1 General remarks

Installation considerations are defined in IEC 61156-1.

#### 4.2 Bending radius of installed cable

The bending radius of the installed cable shall not be less than 4 times the outside diameter of the cable.

#### 4.3 Climatic conditions

Under static conditions, the cables shall operate in the temperature range from –20 °C to +60 °C. The temperature dependence of the cables is specified for screened cables and should be taken into account for the design of actual cabling systems.

The recommended temperature range during installation should be indicated in the relevant detail specification.

When applications demand remote powering, the maximum temperature of the conductor shall not exceed the maximum operating temperature of the cable. Dielectric performance can be changed permanently due to over exposure of high temperatures.

### 5 Material and cable construction

#### 5.1 General remarks

The choice of materials and cable construction shall be suitable for the intended application and installation of the cable. Particular care ~~shall~~ should be taken to meet any special requirements for fire performance (such as burning properties, smoke generation, evolution of halogen gas, etc.) and remote powering. ~~A detail specification may be prepared.~~

## 5.2 Cable construction

### 5.2.1 General

The cable construction shall be in accordance with the materials, dimensions and assembly details given in the relevant detail specification.

### 5.2.2 Conductor

The conductor shall be a solid annealed copper conductor, in accordance with IEC 61156-1, and ~~shall~~ should have a nominal diameter between 0,5 mm and ~~0,8 mm~~ 0,65 mm.

A conductor diameter of up to 0,8 mm may be used.

### 5.2.3 Insulation

#### 5.2.3.1 Insulation material

The conductor shall be insulated with a suitable thermoplastic material. Examples of suitable materials are:

- polyolefin;
- fluoropolymer;
- low-smoke ~~zero~~-halogen-free thermoplastic material.

The insulation may be solid or cellular with or without a solid dielectric skin. The insulation shall be continuous and shall have a thickness such that the completed cable meets the specified requirements. The nominal thickness of the insulation shall be compatible with the method of conductor termination.

#### 5.2.3.2 Colour code of insulation

The colour code is not specified but shall be indicated in the relevant detail specification. The colours shall be readily identifiable and shall correspond reasonably with the standard colours shown in IEC 60304.

NOTE It is acceptable to mark or stripe the "a" wire with the colour of the "b" wire to facilitate pair identification.

### 5.2.4 Cable element

#### 5.2.4.1 Cable element type

The cable element shall be a ~~tested~~ screened twisted pair.

#### 5.2.4.2 Screening of the cable element

The screen for the cable element shall be in accordance with IEC 61156-1. If a braid is used, the minimum braid coverage shall be such as to meet the screening requirements of this document. The individual components used to screen the cable element shall be in electrical contact.

### 5.2.5 Cable make-up

The cable elements shall be assembled to form the cable core.

The core of the cable may be ~~protected by wrappings of a non-hygroscopic tape~~ wrapped with a protective layer of non-hygroscopic and non-wicking material.

### 5.2.6 Screening of the cable core

A screen for the cable core may be provided. The screen shall be in accordance with IEC 61156-1.

### 5.2.7 Sheath

The sheath material shall consist of a suitable thermoplastic material.

Examples of suitable materials are:

- polyolefin;
- PVC;
- fluoropolymer;
- low-smoke ~~zero~~-halogen-free thermoplastic material.

The sheath shall be continuous, having a ~~uniform~~ thickness as uniform as possible. A non-metallic ripcord may be provided. When provided, the ripcord shall be non-hygroscopic and non-wicking.

#### ~~2.2.11~~ Colour of sheath

The colour of the sheath is not specified but should be ~~stated~~ specified in the relevant detail specification.

### 5.2.8 Identification

#### 5.2.8.1 Cable marking

Each length of cable shall ~~be identified as to~~ bear the ~~manufacturer~~ name of the supplier and the cable type and, when ~~indicated in the relevant detail specification~~ provided, the year of manufacture, using one of the following methods:

- a) ~~appropriately~~ coloured threads or tapes;
- b) ~~with a~~ printed tape;
- c) printing on the cable core wrapping;
- d) marking on the sheath.

Additional markings, such as length marking, etc., are permitted ~~on the cable sheath. When~~. If used, such markings should be indicated in the relevant detail specification.

#### 5.2.8.2 Labelling

The following information shall be provided either on a label attached to each length of finished cable or on the outside of the product package:

- a) type of cable;
- b) supplier's name or logo;
- c) year of manufacture;
- d) length of cable in metres.

### 5.2.9 Finished cable

The finished cable shall be adequately protected for storage and shipment.

## 6 Characteristics and requirements

### 6.1 General remarks

Clause 6 lists the characteristics and minimum requirements of a cable complying with this document. Test methods shall be in accordance with IEC 61156-1. ~~A detail specification may be prepared to identify a specific product and its performance capabilities (see Clause 4).~~

### 6.2 Electrical characteristics and tests

~~The tests shall be carried out on a cable length of not less than 100 m unless otherwise specified.~~

#### 6.2.1 Conductor resistance

~~When measured in accordance with 5.1 of IEC 60189-1,~~ The maximum ~~loop~~ conductor resistance shall not exceed ~~17,0~~ 8,5  $\Omega$ /100 m of cable.

#### 6.2.2 Resistance unbalance within a pair

~~When measured in accordance with 2.1.1 of IEC 61156-1,~~ The resistance unbalance ~~of~~ within a pair shall not exceed 2,0 %.

#### 6.2.3 Dielectric strength

The test shall be performed on conductor/conductor and conductor/screen with 1,0 kV DC for 1 min or, alternately, with 2,5 kV DC for 2 s.

An AC voltage may be used. The AC voltage levels in these cases shall be 0,7 kV AC for 1 min or, alternately, 1,7 kV AC for 2 s.

~~NOTE~~—When installed in conjunction with power cables, local regulations may require a higher test voltage.

#### 6.2.4 Insulation resistance

The test, immediately after the dielectric strength test, shall be performed ~~both~~ on:

- conductor/conductor;
- conductor/screen.

The minimum insulation resistance at 20 °C shall not be less than 5 000 M $\Omega$ ·km.

#### 6.2.5 Mutual capacitance

The mutual capacitance is not specified but may be indicated in the relevant detail specification.

#### 6.2.6 Capacitance unbalance pair to ground

The maximum capacitance unbalance pair to ground shall not exceed 1 200 pF/km at a frequency of 1 kHz.

#### 6.2.7 Transfer impedance

When measured using the triaxial method (IEC 62153-4-3), the transfer impedance shall not exceed the values listed in Table 1 at the indicated frequencies.

**Table 1 – Transfer impedance**

Frequency MHz	Max. surface transfer impedance mΩ/m
1	10
10	10
30	30
100	60

Frequency range MHz	Maximum surface transfer impedance mΩ/m
1 to 10	10
10 to 100	$10 \times f/10$
NOTE Values in the range 10 MHz to 100 MHz are equal to IEC 61156-5, Grade 1.	

### 6.2.8 Coupling attenuation

When measured ~~according to IEC 62153-4-2, the coupling attenuation shall be equal to, or greater than, the values~~ using the absorbing clamp method (IEC 62153-4-5) or the triaxial method (IEC 62153-4-9), the coupling attenuation in the frequency range from 30 MHz to 1 200 MHz shall meet the requirements indicated in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Coupling attenuation**

Frequency range MHz	Minimum coupling attenuation dB
30 to 100	85,0
100 to 1 200	$85,0 - 20 \times \log_{10}(f/100)$

NOTE Values in the range 30 MHz to 1 000 MHz are equal to IEC 61156-5, Type I.

### 6.2.9 Current-carrying capacity

The maximum current-carrying capacity is not specified but may be indicated in the relevant detail specification. Further guidance with respect to current carrying capacity is provided by ISO/IEC TS 29125 and the test method described in IEC 61156-1-4.

### 6.2.10 Resistance of the screen

The maximum longitudinal DC resistance value of the individual screens or an overall screen shall be less than 15 mΩ/m.

## 6.3 Transmission characteristics

### 6.3.1 General remark

All the tests shall be carried out on a cable length of 100 m, unless otherwise specified.