

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION  
PUBLICATION GROUPEE DE SÉCURITÉ

**Low-voltage electrical installations –  
Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock**

**Installations électriques à basse tension –  
Partie 4-41: Protection pour assurer la sécurité – Protection contre les chocs  
électriques**

[IEC 60364-4-41:2005](#)

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### LOW-VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS –

#### Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock

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**In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.**

International Standard IEC 60364-4-41 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 64: Electrical installations and protection against electric shock.

This fifth edition constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- adoption of IEC 61140 terminology;
- layout rationalized on basis of complete protective measures (i.e. appropriate practical combinations of protective provision in normal service (direct contact protection) and protective provision in case of a fault (indirect contact protection);
- requirements of 471 and 481, which were included in the fourth edition have been rationalized
- disconnection requirements for TT systems clarified;
- IT systems considered more fully;
- requirements in certain cases for additional protection of socket-outlets by means of a 30 mA RCD, where the protective measure is automatic disconnection of supply.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

It has the status of a group safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

The Part 4 series comprises the following parts under the general title *Low-voltage electrical installations*:

Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock

Part 4-42: Protection for safety – Protection against thermal effects

Part 4-43: Protection for safety – Protection against overcurrent

Part 4-44: Protection for safety – Protection against voltage disturbances and electromagnetic disturbances

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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

The contents of the corrigendum of February 2018 have been included in this copy.

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## 410 Introduction

This Part 4-41 of IEC 60364 deals with protection against electric shock as applied to electrical installations. It is based on IEC 61140 which is a basic safety standard that applies to the protection of persons and livestock. IEC 61140 is intended to give fundamental principles and requirements that are common to electrical installations and equipment or are necessary for their co-ordination.

The fundamental rule of protection against electric shock, according to IEC 61140, is that hazardous-live-parts must not be accessible and accessible conductive parts must not be hazardous live, neither under normal conditions nor under single fault conditions.

According to 4.2 of IEC 61140, protection under normal conditions is provided by basic protective provisions and protection under single fault conditions is provided by fault protective provisions. Alternatively, protection against electric shock is provided by an enhanced protective provision, which provides protection under normal conditions and under single fault conditions.

This standard has the status of a group safety publication (GSP) for protection against electric shock.

In the fourth edition of IEC 60364 (2001):

- protection under normal conditions (now designated basic protection) was referred to as protection against direct contact and
- protection under fault conditions (now designated fault protection) was referred to as protection against indirect contact.

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## LOW-VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS –

### Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock

#### 410.1 Scope

Part 4-41 of IEC 60364 specifies essential requirements regarding protection against electric shock, including basic protection (protection against direct contact) and fault protection (protection against indirect contact) of persons and livestock. It deals also with the application and co-ordination of these requirements in relation to external influences.

Requirements are also given for the application of additional protection in certain cases.

#### 410.2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60364-5-52, *Low-voltage electrical installations – of buildings – Part 5-52: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Wiring systems*<sup>4)</sup>

IEC 60364-5-54, *Electrical installations of buildings – Part 5-54: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Earthing arrangements, protective conductors and protective bonding conductors*

IEC 60364-6, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 6: Verification* <sup>2)</sup>

~~IEC 60439-1, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies – Part 1: Type-tested and partially type-tested assemblies*~~

IEC 60449, *Voltage bands for electrical installations of buildings*

IEC 60614 (all parts), *Conduits for electrical installations – Specification*

IEC 61084 (all parts), *Cable trunking and ducting systems for electrical installations*

IEC 61140, *Protection against electric shock – Common aspects for installation and equipment*

IEC 61386 (all parts), *Conduit systems for electrical installations*

IEC 61439 (all parts), *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies*

IEC 61558-2-6, *Safety of power transformers, power supply units and similar – Part 2-6: Particular requirements for safety isolating transformers for general use*

IEC 62477-1, *Safety requirements for power electronic converter systems and equipment – Part 1: General*

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<sup>4)</sup> ~~A new edition is currently under consideration.~~

<sup>2)</sup> To be published.

### 410.3 General requirements

**410.3.1** In this standard the following specification of voltages is intended unless otherwise stated:

- a.c. voltages are r.m.s.;
- d.c. voltages are ripple-free.

Ripple-free is conventionally defined as an r.m.s. ripple voltage of not more than 10 % of the d.c. component.

**410.3.2** A protective measure shall consist of

- an appropriate combination of a provision for basic protection and an independent provision for fault protection, or
- an enhanced protective provision which provides both basic protection and fault protection.

Additional protection is specified as part of a protective measure under certain conditions of external influences and in certain special locations (see the corresponding Part 7 of IEC 60364).

NOTE 1 For special applications, protective measures which do not follow this concept are permitted (see 410.3.5 and 410.3.6).

NOTE 2 An example of an enhanced protective measure is reinforced insulation.

**410.3.3** In each part of an installation one or more protective measures shall be applied, taking account of the conditions of external influence.

The following protective measures generally are permitted:

- automatic disconnection of supply (Clause 411),
- double or reinforced insulation (Clause 412),
- electrical separation for the supply of one item of current-using equipment (Clause 413),
- extra-low-voltage (SELV and PELV) (Clause 414).

The protective measures applied in the installation shall be considered in the selection and erection of equipment.

For particular installations see 410.3.4 to 410.3.9.

NOTE In electrical installations the most commonly used protective measure is automatic disconnection of supply.

**410.3.4** For special installations or locations, the particular protective measures in the corresponding Part 7 of IEC 60364 shall be applied.

**410.3.5** The protective measures, specified in Annex B, i.e. the use of obstacles and placing out of reach, shall only be used in installations accessible to

- skilled or instructed persons, or
- persons under the supervision of skilled or instructed persons.

**410.3.6** The protective measures, specified in Annex C, i.e.

- non-conducting location,

- earth-free local equipotential bonding,
- electrical separation for the supply of more than one item of current-using equipment,

may be applied only when the installation is under the supervision of skilled or instructed persons so that unauthorized changes cannot be made.

**410.3.7** If certain conditions of a protective measure cannot be met, supplementary provisions shall be applied so that the protective provisions together achieve the same degree of safety.

NOTE An example of the application of this rule is given in 411.7.

**410.3.8** Different protective measures applied to the same installation or part of an installation or within equipment shall have no influence on each other such that failure of one protective measure could impair the other protective measures.

**410.3.9** The provision for fault protection (protection against indirect contact) may be omitted for the following equipment:

- metal supports of overhead line insulators which are attached to the building and are placed out of arm's reach;
- steel reinforced concrete poles of overhead lines in which the steel reinforcement is not accessible;
- exposed-conductive-parts which, owing to their reduced dimensions (approximately 50 mm x 50 mm) or their disposition cannot be gripped or come into significant contact with a part of the human body and provided that connection with a protective conductor could only be made with difficulty or would be unreliable.

NOTE 1 This exemption applies, for example, to bolts, rivets, nameplates and cable clips.

NOTE 2 In the USA, all exposed-conductive-parts are bonded to the protective conductor.

- metal tubes or other metal enclosures protecting equipment in accordance with Clause 412.

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## **411 Protective measure: automatic disconnection of supply**

### **411.1 General**

Automatic disconnection of supply is a protective measure in which

- basic protection is provided by basic insulation of live parts or by barriers or enclosures, in accordance with Annex A, and
- fault protection is provided by protective equipotential bonding and automatic disconnection in case of a fault in accordance with 411.3 to 411.6.

NOTE 1 Where this protective measure is applied, Class II equipment may also be used.

Where specified, additional protection is provided by a residual current protective device (RCD) with rated residual operating current not exceeding 30 mA in accordance with 415.1.

NOTE 2 Residual current monitors (RCMs) are not protective devices but they may be used to monitor residual currents in electrical installations. RCMs produce an audible or audible and visual signal when a preselected value of residual current is exceeded

### **411.2 Requirements for basic protection**

All electrical equipment shall comply with one of the provisions for basic protection (protection against direct contact) described in Annex A or, where appropriate, Annex B.

### 411.3 Requirements for fault protection

#### 411.3.1 Protective earthing and protective equipotential bonding

##### 411.3.1.1 Protective earthing

Exposed-conductive-parts shall be connected to a protective conductor under the specific conditions for each type of system earthing as specified in 411.4 to 411.6.

Simultaneously accessible exposed-conductive-parts shall be connected to the same earthing system individually, in groups or collectively.

Conductors for protective earthing shall comply with IEC 60364-5-54.

Each circuit shall have available a protective conductor connected to the relevant earthing terminal.

##### 411.3.1.2 Protective equipotential bonding

In each building, ~~the earthing conductor, the main earthing terminal and the following conductive parts shall be connected to the protective equipotential bonding~~ incoming metallic parts which are liable to introduce a dangerous potential difference and do not form part of the electrical installation shall be connected to the main earthing terminal by protective bonding conductors; examples of such metallic parts may include:

- ~~metallic~~ pipes supplying services into the building, for example gas, water, district heating systems;
- structural extraneous-conductive-parts ~~if accessible in normal use, metallic central heating and air-conditioning systems;~~
- ~~metallic~~ accessible reinforcements of construction reinforced concrete, ~~if reasonably practicable.~~

Where such conductive parts originate outside the building, they shall be bonded as close as practicable to their point of entry within the building.

~~Conductors for protective equipotential bonding shall comply with IEC 60364-5-54.~~

~~Any metallic sheath of telecommunication cables shall be connected to the protective equipotential bonding, taking account of the requirements of the owners or operators of these cables.~~

Metallic pipes entering the building having an insulating section installed at their entrance need not be connected to the protective equipotential bonding.

NOTE Subclause 542.4.1 of IEC 60364-5-54:2011 lists other connections which are to be made to the main earthing terminal.

##### 411.3.2 Automatic disconnection in case of a fault

~~411.3.2.1 Except as provided by 411.3.2.5 and 411.3.2.6,~~ A protective device shall automatically ~~interrupt~~ switch off the supply to the line conductor of a circuit or equipment in the event of a fault of negligible impedance between the line conductor and an exposed-conductive-part or a protective conductor in the circuit or equipment within the disconnection time required in 411.3.2.2, 411.3.2.3 or 411.3.2.4.

The device shall be suitable for isolation of at least the line conductor(s).

NOTE 1 ~~Higher values of disconnection time than those required in this subclause may be admitted in systems for electricity distribution to the public and power generation and transmission for such systems.~~

~~NOTE 2—Lower values of disconnection time may be required for special installations or locations according to the relevant Part 7 of IEC 60364.~~

~~NOTE 4—In Belgium 411.3.2.3 is not applicable. The Belgian Wiring Rules (AREI-RCIE) do not specify differences in automatic disconnection times between distribution circuits and final circuits.~~

~~NOTE 5—In Norway for an installation forming part of an IT system and supplied from a public network, automatic disconnection at the first fault is required~~

NOTE For IT systems, automatic disconnection is not ~~usually~~ necessarily required on the occurrence of a first fault (see 411.6.1). For the requirements for disconnection ~~after the first fault see 411.6.4~~ in the event of a second fault, occurring on a different live conductor, see 411.6.3.2 following the rules of this subclause.

**411.3.2.2** The maximum disconnection time stated in Table 41.1 shall be applied to final circuits with a rated current not exceeding

- 63 A with one or more socket-outlets, and
- 32 A supplying only fixed connected current-using equipment.

**Table 41.1 – Maximum disconnection times**

System	50 V < $U_o$ ≤ 120 V <sub>s</sub>		120 V < $U_o$ ≤ 230 V <sub>s</sub>		230 V < $U_o$ ≤ 400 V <sub>s</sub>		$U_o$ > 400 V <sub>s</sub>	
	a.c.	d.c.	a.c.	d.c.	a.c.	d.c.	a.c.	d.c.
TN	0,8	Note 4 <sup>a</sup>	0,4	5 1	0,2	0,4	0,1	0,1
TT	0,3	Note 4 <sup>a</sup>	0,2	0,4	0,07	0,2	0,04	0,1

Where in TT systems the disconnection is achieved by an overcurrent protective device and the protective equipotential bonding is connected with all extraneous-conductive-parts within the installation, the maximum disconnection times applicable to TN systems may be used.

$U_o$  is the nominal a.c. or d.c. line to earth voltage.

NOTE 2 Where disconnection is provided by an RCD see Note to 411.4.4, Note 4 to 411.5.3 and Note to 411.6.4 b).

NOTE 4<sup>a</sup> Disconnection may be required for reasons other than protection against electric shock.

~~NOTE 3—In Belgium, the last column  $U_o > 400$  V is not applicable. Above 400 V, the Belgian safety curve as given in the Belgian Wiring Rules applies.~~

~~NOTE 4—In the Netherlands the maximum disconnection time stated in Table 41.1 is applied to all circuits not exceeding 32 A and all circuits supplying socket-outlets.~~

~~NOTE 5—In China the maximum disconnecting time stated in Table 41.1 is applied to final circuits which supply hand-held equipment or portable equipment.~~

**411.3.2.3** In TN systems, a disconnection time not exceeding 5 s is permitted for distribution circuits, and for circuits not covered by 411.3.2.2.

**411.3.2.4** In TT systems, a disconnection time not exceeding 1 s is permitted for distribution circuits and for circuits not covered by 411.3.2.2.

~~**411.3.2.5** For systems with nominal voltage  $U_o$  greater than 50 V a.c. or 120 V d.c., automatic disconnection in the time required by 411.3.2.2, 411.3.2.3 or 411.3.2.4 as appropriate is not required if in the event of a fault to a protective conductor or earth, the output voltage of the source is reduced in not more than 5 s to 50 V a.c. or 120 V d.c. or less. In such cases consideration shall be given to disconnection as required for reasons other than electric shock.~~

Where it is not feasible for an overcurrent protective device to interrupt the supply in accordance with 411.3.2 or the use of an RCD for this purpose is not appropriate, see Annex D.

However, disconnection may be required for reasons other than protection against electric shock.