

IEC TR 63482

Edition 1.0 2024-07

TECHNICAL REPORT

Maintenance of low voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies

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IEC Secretariat 3, rue de Varembé CH-1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11 info@iec.ch www.iec.ch

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

MAINTENANCE OF LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR AND THEIR ASSEMBLIES

FOREWORD

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IEC TR 63482 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 121: Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage. It is a Technical Report.

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

Draft	Report on voting
121/160/DTR	121/165A/RVDTR

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 Report 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.

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INTRODUCTION

In the low-voltage domain, the evolution of the IEC 61439 series of standards (low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies) incorporating devices according to IEC 60947 series (low-voltage switchgear and controlgear) have contributed significantly to improve safety, the performance and reliability of assemblies and power availability of low-voltage energy.

The IEC 61439 series is essentially dedicated to design and verification of assemblies up to the delivery to the customer. Most applications use assemblies to run 20 years or more. Over such long periods, without suitable maintenance, the performance of an assembly can be affected and unacceptably deteriorate with serious consequences for the safety of people and the application.

To minimize the risk of malfunction due to ageing of the low-voltage assemblies some type of maintenance is implemented depending on local rules, customer maintenance policy or assembly manufacturer instruction relating to the assembly or the built-in components within the assembly. Traditionally, maintenance is scheduled and has been predefined using a fixed schedule. To avoid malfunctions, the schedules are usually conservative.

As new technologies emerge, providing new functionalities and possibilities, for example measurement of equipment temperatures, loads including harmonic content, currents interrupted, climatic conditions, alternative and more effective maintenance approaches are possible. A preventive maintenance approach using such technologies can be more cost effective and less disruptive than the traditional schedule-based maintenance arrangements.

This document sets out the basic maintenance considerations for low-voltage switchgear, controlgear and their assemblies, which is supplemented by the assembly manufacturer's instructions. It recognises that the traditional basic approach of maintenance can be improved and enhanced. This document shows that it is possible to provide one suitable maintenance approach depending on the current customer's application, but it is also possible to move to a more advanced maintenance approach, if an assembly is suitably upgraded.

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NOTE It is beneficial to refer to individual product standards and/or manufacturer instruction for further information on devices incorporated in an assembly.

MAINTENANCE OF LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR AND THEIR ASSEMBLIES

1 Scope

This document provides guidance for the specification and selection of the appropriate approach and for the planning and the execution of the maintenance of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies having a rated voltage up to and including 1 000 V AC or 1 500 V DC, and designed for a nominal frequency of the incoming supply or supplies not exceeding 1000 Hz.

This document provides guidance on the safety precautions for personnel designed to carry out maintenance services, with the aim to minimize the safety risks, optimize service continuity (power availability) and contribute to the environment of a low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies. It recognises there are different approaches to maintenance, e.g. scheduled maintenance, condition-based maintenance and predictive maintenance. This document does not consider specifically corrective maintenance but many of the recommendations included would apply when carrying out corrective maintenance. It provides additional recommendations to comply with validation requirements in IEC 60364-6.

This document explains how the use of preventive maintenance improves the efficiency and lifetime of built-in components and consequently the assemblies themselves. All parties (specifiers, owners, designers, manufacturers, maintenance personnel) involved with low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies can benefit from this document.

This document applies to both stationary and movable switchgear and controlgear assemblies with or without an enclosure. It is also applicable to switchgear and controlgear assemblies intended for use under special service conditions, possibly with additional recommendations, for example in ships and rail vehicles. It also applies to low-voltage assembly upgrades which can have additional considerations to ensure modifications are fully verified to the appropriate

assembly standard.

This document does not apply to low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies used in potentially explosive atmospheres.

Finally, this document is not a substitute for national regulations regarding the safety of electrical equipment and for the manufacturer's maintenance instructions. These are required to complement the overall principles defined in this document.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in the IEC 61439 series, the IEC 60947 series 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

maintenance

combination of all technical and management actions intended to retain an item in, or restore it to, a state in which it can perform as required

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Note 1 to entry: Management is assumed to include supervision activities.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-192:2015, 192-06-01]

3.2

corrective maintenance

maintenance carried out after fault detection to effect restoration

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-192:2015, 192-06-06]

3.3

preventive maintenance

maintenance carried out to mitigate degradation and reduce the probability of failure (of an item)

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-192:2015, 192-06-05]

3.3.1

scheduled maintenance

preventive maintenance carried out in accordance with a specified time schedule

Note 1 to entry: Scheduled maintenance may identify the need for some corrective maintenance action.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-192:2015, 192-06-12, modified: the term preventive has been added]

3.3.2

condition-based maintenance IEC TR 63482:20

preventive maintenance based on the assessment of physical condition

Note 1 to entry: The condition assessment may be by operator observation, conducted according to a schedule, or by condition monitoring of system parameters.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-192:2015, 192-06-07]

3.3.3

predictive maintenance

advanced form of preventive maintenance using data analysis tools and techniques to predict anomalies in operation and anticipate malfunction to extrapolate the residual time before the failure

3.4

digital twin

virtual representation in a digital format of a product or a system

Note 1 to entry: In this document, digital twin can be used for design, simulation, optimization or maintenance purposes using real time data throughout lifetime of product or system.

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3.5 mean time to restoration MTTR DEPRECATED: mean time to repair DEPRECATED: mean time to recovery expectation of the time to restoration

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-192:2015, 192-07-23]

4 Recommended safety measures

4.1 Local regulations

Local regulations can differ from country to country. When local regulations and legal obligations are in place, they take precedence over this document and the manufacturer's maintenance instructions.

See Annex B for list of notes concerning certain countries.

4.2 Appropriate skill level for maintenance

Unless required otherwise by national or local regulations, maintenance tasks are carried out by people with the appropriate level of competency: instructed persons, skilled persons or skilled persons mandated by the assembly manufacturer. See Table 1.

4.3 Good practice and procedures for establishing a safe working environment

4.3.1 Working procedures

The risk assessment prior to commencing work is the recognized method of identifying safety risks. For maintenance activities on equipment, there is usually a written system of rules and procedures and all personnel involved with maintenance activities are aware of their existence.

The level of detail and complexity of the rules and procedures is dependent on the organisation, personnel, working environment and equipment to be used. The risk assessment process is used to ensure that hazards specific to maintenance activities have been adequately addressed in the development of the associated rules and procedures. For example, different working practices and competencies are required for work on DC systems than are required for AC systems. Safety rules set out the principles and practices expected clearly and in a format that can be understood by those expected to use them. The rules and procedures reflect the requirements of an overall electrical safety policy. In most circumstances a policy for working on electrical equipment requires equipment to be deenergised and isolated prior to work commencing.

Safety rules addressing specific issues such as circuits associated with:

- interlocking and padlocking supplies;
- auto-reclosing devices;
- alternative supplies including generators, battery supplies, photovoltaic (PV), wind power;
- mechanically stored energy;
- capacitively stored energy; and/or
- control supplies (AC and DC).

All personnel are made aware to take notice of warning signs and follow instructions provided by the assembly manufacturer.

Product standards are recommended to include minimum requirements for the maintenance instructions to be provided by the manufacturer.