

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Electrostatics –  
Part 5-1: Protection of electronic devices from electrostatic phenomena –  
General requirements**

**Électrostatique –  
Partie 5-1: Protection des dispositifs électroniques contre les phénomènes  
électrostatiques – Exigences générales**

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ICS 17.220.99, 29.020

ISBN 978-2-8322-8889-4

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IEC 61340-5-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 101: Electrostatics. It is an International Standard.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2016. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) definitions have been added to the document;
- b) updates to product qualification requirements;
- c) subclause 5.3.3 now includes a reference to groundable static control garment systems;
- d) Table 2 was replaced;

- e) subclause 5.3.4.2 was updated to define what an insulator is;
- f) subclause 5.3.4.3 was updated to include a definition for isolated conductor;
- g) Table 3 was updated, technical items added, including a reference to IEC 61340-5-4 for compliance verification testing;
- h) Table 4 was added as a summary of the requirements in IEC 61340-5-3 and to include requirements for compliance verification of packaging;
- i) Annex A was replaced: the former Annex is no longer required. Annex A are examples of tailoring.

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

Draft	Report on voting
101/705A/FDIS	101/710/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.

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).

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## INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 61340 covers the requirements necessary to design, establish, implement and maintain an electrostatic discharge (ESD) control program for activities that: manufacture, process, assemble, install, package, label, service, test, inspect, transport, or otherwise handle electrical or electronic parts, assemblies, and equipment susceptible to damage by electrostatic discharges greater than or equal to 100 V human body model (HBM), 200 V charged device model (CDM), and 35 V on isolated conductors. The 35 V limit is related to the level achievable using ionizers specified in this document.

Any contact and physical separation of materials or flow of solids, liquids, or particle-laden gases can generate electrostatic charges. Common sources of ESD include charged: personnel, conductors, common polymeric materials, and processing equipment. ESD damage can occur when:

- a charged person or object comes into contact with an ESD sensitive device (ESDS);
- an ESDS comes into direct contact with a conductive surface while exposed to an electrostatic field;
- a charged ESDS comes into contact with another conductive surface which is at a different electrical potential. This surface can be grounded or ungrounded.

Examples of ESDS are microcircuits, discrete semiconductors, thick and thin film resistors, hybrid devices, printed circuit boards and piezoelectric crystals. It is possible to determine device and item susceptibility by exposing the device to simulated ESD events. The ESD withstand voltage determined by sensitivity tests using simulated ESD events does not necessarily represent the ability of the device to withstand ESD from real sources at that voltage level. However, the levels of sensitivity are used to establish a baseline of susceptibility data for comparison of devices with equivalent part numbers from different manufacturers. Three different models have been used for qualification of electronic components – HBM, MM, and CDM. In current practice devices are qualified only using HBM and CDM susceptibility tests.

This document covers the ESD control program requirements necessary for setting up a program to handle ESDS, based on the historical experience of both military and commercial organizations. The fundamental ESD control principles that form the basis of this document are as follows.

- Avoid a discharge from any charged, conductive object (personnel and especially automated handling equipment) into the ESDS. This can be accomplished by bonding or electrically connecting all conductors in the environment, including personnel, to a known ground or contrived ground (as on board ship or on aircraft). This attachment creates an equipotential balance between all conducting objects and personnel. Electrostatic protection can be maintained at a potential different from a “zero” voltage ground potential as long as all conductive objects in the system are at the same potential.
- Avoid a discharge from any charged ESD sensitive device. Charging can result from direct contact and separation or it can be induced by an electric field. Necessary insulators in the environment cannot lose their electrostatic charge by attachment to ground. Ionization systems provide neutralization of charges on these necessary insulators (circuit board materials and some device packages are examples of necessary insulators). The ESD hazard created by electrostatic charges on the necessary insulators in the workplace is assessed to ensure that appropriate actions are implemented, according to the risk.

- Once outside of an electrostatic discharge protected area (hereinafter referred to as an EPA) it is generally not possible to control the above items; therefore, ESD protective packaging can be required. ESD protection can be achieved by enclosing ESD sensitive products in static protective materials, although the type of material depends on the situation and destination. Inside an EPA, static dissipative materials can provide adequate protection. Outside an EPA, static discharge shielding materials are recommended. Whilst all of these materials are not discussed in this document, it is important to recognize the differences in their application. For more information see IEC 61340-5-3 and IEC TR 61340-5-5 [1]<sup>1</sup>.

Each organization has different processes, and so will require a different blend of ESD prevention measures for an optimum ESD control program. Measures should be selected, based on technical necessity, and carefully documented in an ESD control program plan, so that all concerned can be sure of the program requirements.

Training is an essential part of an ESD control program in order to ensure that the personnel involved understand the equipment and procedures they are to use in order to be in compliance with the ESD control program plan. Training is also essential in raising awareness and understanding of ESD issues. Without training, personnel are often a major source of ESD risk. With training, they become an effective first line of defence against ESD damage. Product qualification ensures that equipment sourced for use in the ESD control program meets the technical requirements before it is placed in service.

A product qualification plan details the criteria to be used for selection of ESD control items.

Regular compliance verification checks and tests are essential to ensure that equipment remains effective and that the ESD control program is correctly implemented in compliance with the ESD control program plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.



## ELECTROSTATICS –

### Part 5-1: Protection of electronic devices from electrostatic phenomena – General requirements

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61340 applies to organizations that: manufacture, process, assemble, install, package, label, service, test, inspect, transport, or otherwise handle electrical or electronic parts, assemblies and equipment with withstand voltages greater than or equal to 100 V human body model (HBM) and 200 V charge device model (CDM). Also, protection from isolated conductors is addressed by limiting the voltage on isolated conductors to less than 35 V. ESDS with lower withstand voltages can require additional control elements or adjusted limits. Processes designed to handle items that have lower ESD withstand voltage(s) can still claim compliance to this document.

This document provides the requirements for an ESD control program. IEC TR 61340-5-2 [2] provides guidance on the implementation of this document.

This document does not apply to electrically initiated explosive devices, flammable liquids, gases, and powders.

The purpose of this document is to provide the administrative and technical requirements for establishing, implementing, and maintaining an ESD control program (hereinafter referred to as the “program”).

#### 2 Normative references

[IEC 61340-5-1:2024](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iec/707ad0ac-f147-41e8-bac5-9d86cd744a59/iec-61340-5-1-2024)

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 61340-2-3, *Electrostatics – Part 2-3: Methods of test for determining the resistance and resistivity of solid materials used to avoid electrostatic charge accumulation*

IEC 61340-4-1, *Electrostatics – Part 4-1: Standard test methods for specific applications – Electrical resistance of floor coverings and installed floors*

IEC 61340-4-3, *Electrostatics – Part 4-3: Standard test methods for specific applications – Footwear*

IEC 61340-4-5, *Electrostatics – Part 4-5: Standard test methods for specific applications – Methods for characterizing the electrostatic protection of footwear and flooring in combination with a person*

IEC 61340-4-6, *Electrostatics – Part 4-6: Standard test methods for specific applications – Wrist straps*

IEC 61340-4-7, *Electrostatics – Part 4-7: Standard test methods for specific applications – Ionization*

IEC 61340-4-8, *Electrostatics – Part 4-8: Standard test methods for specific applications – Electrostatic discharge shielding – Bags*

IEC 61340-4-9, *Electrostatics – Part 4-9: Standard test methods for specific applications – Garments*

IEC 61340-5-3, *Electrostatics – Part 5-3: Protection of electronic devices from electrostatic phenomena – Properties and requirements classification for packaging intended for electrostatic discharge sensitive devices*

IEC TS 61340-5-4, *Electrostatics – Part 5-4: Protection of electronic devices from electrostatic phenomena – Compliance verification*

### 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological 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>

NOTE For the purposes of this document “earth” and “ground” have the same meaning.

##### 3.1.1 charged device model CDM

ESD stress model that approximates the discharge event that occurs when a charged component is quickly discharged to another object at a different electrostatic potential

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Note 1 to entry: Charged device model is described in IEC 60749-28 [3].

Note 2 to entry: This note only applies to the French language.

##### 3.1.2 common ground point

grounded device or location where the conductors of two or more ESD control items are bonded

##### 3.1.3 common connection point

device or location where the conductors of two or more ESD control items are connected in order to bring the ESD control items to the same electrical potential through equipotential bonding

##### 3.1.4 equipotential bonding

electrical connection of items used to control ESD so that they are at substantially the same voltage under normal and fault conditions

##### 3.1.5 electrostatic discharge ESD

rapid transfer of charge between bodies that are at different electrostatic potentials

**3.1.6****ESD control items**

materials or products designed to either prevent the generation of static charge or dissipate static charges that have been generated, or both, so as to prevent damage to ESD sensitive devices

**3.1.7****ESD protected area****EPA**

area in which an ESDS can be handled with accepted risk of damage as a result of electrostatic discharge or fields

**3.1.8****ESD sensitive device****ESDS**

sensitive device, integrated circuit or assembly that can be damaged by electrostatic discharge

**3.1.9****ESD withstand voltage**

highest voltage level in an ESD stress model test that does not cause failure

Note 1 to entry: The device passes all tested lower voltages.

**3.1.10****functional ground**

terminal used to connect parts to ground for reasons other than safety

**3.1.11****human body model****HBM**

ESD stress model that approximates the discharge from the fingertip of a typical human being onto a pin of a device with another pin grounded

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**3.1.12****organization**

company, group or body that handles ESDS

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document an organization can be an individual person.

**3.1.13****protective earth**

terminal used to connect parts to earth for safety reasons

**3.1.14****unprotected ESDS**

ESDS without ESD protective packaging or coverings

**3.1.15****worksurface**

surface where any type of work or processing can be performed on an unprotected ESDS

**3.2 Abbreviated terms**

CDM	charge device model
EPA	electrostatic protected area
ESD	electrostatic discharge
ESDS	ESD sensitive devices

HBM	human body model
MM	machine model
$R_g$	resistance to ground
$R_{gp}$	resistance to groundable point
$R_{p-p}$	resistance point to point
$V_{offset}$	offset voltage

## 4 Personnel safety

The procedures and equipment described in this document can expose personnel to hazardous electrical conditions. Users of this document are responsible for selecting equipment that complies with applicable laws, regulatory codes and both external and internal policy. Users are cautioned that this document cannot replace or supersede any requirements for personnel safety.

Electrical hazard reduction practices shall be exercised and proper grounding instructions for equipment shall be followed.

## 5 ESD control program

### 5.1 General

#### 5.1.1 ESD control program requirements

The ESD control program shall include all the administrative and technical requirements of this document. The organization shall establish, document, implement, maintain, and verify the compliance of the program in accordance with the requirements of this document.

#### 5.1.2 ESD control program manager or coordinator

The organization shall assign an ESD control program manager or coordinator with the responsibility for implementing the requirements of this document including establishing, documenting, maintaining, and verifying the compliance of the program. The roles may be delegated to other sub-ordinate personnel appropriate to an organization's requirements, provided the ESD control program manager or coordinator retains managerial responsibility.

#### 5.1.3 Tailoring

It is possible that for some applications, some of the requirements of this document are not applicable. Tailoring is accomplished by evaluating the applicability of each requirement for the specific application. Upon completion of the evaluation, requirements may be modified, or deleted. Tailoring decisions, including rationale and technical justification, shall be documented. See Annex A for more information.

### 5.2 ESD control program administrative requirements

#### 5.2.1 ESD control program plan

The ESD control program shall document the lowest ESD withstand voltage(s) that can be handled. By default, the values given in Clause 1 shall apply. The organization shall prepare an ESD control program plan that addresses each of the requirements of the program. Those requirements are:

- training,
- product qualification,