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**Thermistors - Directly heated positive step-function temperature coefficient - Part 1: Generic specification (IEC 60738-1:1998)**

Thermistors - Directly heated positive step-function temperature coefficient -- Part 1: Generic specification

Direkt geheizte temperaturabhängige Widerstände mit positivem Temperaturkoeffizienten -- Teil 1: Rahmenspezifikation

Thermistances à basculement à coefficient de température positif à chauffage direct -- Partie 1: Spécification générique

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**ICS:**

31.040.30 Termistorji

Thermistors

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EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**EN 60738-1**

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ICS 31.040.30

Supersedes EN 144000:1993

English version

**Thermistors - Directly heated positive step-function temperature coefficient**  
**Part 1: Generic specification**  
(IEC 60738-1:1998)

Thermistances à basculement à  
coefficient de température positif  
à chauffage direct  
Partie 1: Spécification générique  
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Direkt geheizte temperaturabhängige  
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Teil 1: Rahmenspezifikation  
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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique  
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung  
Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 35, B - 1050 Brussels

### Foreword

The text of document 40/1080/FDIS, future edition 2 of IEC 60738-1, prepared by IEC TC 40, Capacitors and resistors for electronic equipment, was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and was approved by CENELEC as EN 60738-1 on 1999-01-01.

This European Standard supersedes EN 144000:1993.

The following dates were fixed:

- latest date by which the EN has to be implemented  
at national level by publication of an identical  
national standard or by endorsement (dop) 1999-10-01
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting  
with the EN have to be withdrawn (dow) 2001-10-01

Annexes designated "normative" are part of the body of the standard.

Annexes designated "informative" are given for information only.

In this standard, annexes A and ZA are normative and annexes B and C are informative.

Annex ZA has been added by CENELEC.

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Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 60738-1:1998 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

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**Annex ZA (normative)****Normative references to international publications  
with their corresponding European publications**

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

NOTE: When an international publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>EN/HD</u>	<u>Year</u>
IEC 60027-1	1992	Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology Part 1: General	-	-
IEC 60050	series	International electrotechnical vocabulary	-	-
IEC 60062	1992	Marking codes for resistors and capacitors	EN 60062	1993
IEC 60068-1	1988	Environmental testing Part 1: General and guidance	EN 60068-1 <sup>1)</sup>	1994
IEC 60068-2-1	1990	Part 2: Tests - Tests A: Cold	EN 60068-2-1	1993
IEC 60068-2-2	1974	Part 2: Tests - Test B: Dry heat	EN 60068-2-2 <sup>2)</sup>	1993
IEC 60068-2-3	1969	Part 2: Tests - Test Ca: Damp heat, steady state	HD 323.2.3 S2 <sup>3)</sup>	1987
IEC 60068-2-6 + corr. March	1995 1995	Part 2: Tests - Test Fc: Vibration (sinusoidal)	EN 60068-2-6	1995
IEC 60068-2-11	1981	Part 2: Tests - Test Ka: Salt mist	HD 323.2.11 S1	1988
IEC 60068-2-13	1983	Part 2: Tests - Test M: Low air pressure	HD 323.2.13 S1	1987
IEC 60068-2-14	1984	Part 2: Tests - Test N: Change of temperature	HD 323.2.14 S2 <sup>4)</sup>	1987
IEC 60068-2-20	1979	Part 2: Tests - Test T: Soldering	HD 323.2.20 S3 <sup>5)</sup>	1988
IEC 60068-2-21	1983	Part 2: Tests - Test U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices	EN 60068-2-21 <sup>6)</sup>	1997

1) EN 60068-1 includes the corrigendum October 1988 and A1:1992 to IEC 60068-1.

2) EN 60068-2-2 includes supplement A:1976 to IEC 60068-2-2.

3) HD 323.2.3 S2 includes A1:1984 to IEC 60068-2-3.

4) HD 323.2.14 S2 includes A1:1986 to IEC 60068-2-14.

5) HD 323.2.20 S3 includes A2:1987 to IEC 60068-2-20.

6) EN 60068-2-21 includes the corrigendum November 1991 and A1:1985 to IEC 60068-2-21.

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>EN/HD</u>	<u>Year</u>
IEC 60068-2-27	1987	Part 2: Tests - Test Ea and guidance: Shock	EN 60068-2-27	1993
IEC 60068-2-29 + corrigendum	1987	Part 2: Tests - Test Eb and guidance: Bump	EN 60068-2-29	1993
IEC 60068-2-30	1980	Part 2: Tests - Test Db and guidance: Damp heat, cyclic (12 + 12 hour cycle)	HD 323.2.30 S3 <sup>7)</sup>	1988
IEC 60068-2-45	1980	Part 2: Tests - Test Xa and guidance: Immersion in cleaning solvents	EN 60068-2-45	1992
IEC 60249-2-4	1987	Base materials for printed circuits Part 2: Specifications - Specification No. 4: Epoxide woven glass fabric copper-clad laminated sheet, general purpose grade	EN 60249-2-4 <sup>8)</sup> + corr. March	1994 1994
IEC 60294	1969	Measurement of the dimensions of a cylindrical component having two axial terminations	-	-
IEC 60410	1973	Sampling plans and procedures for inspection by attributes	-	-
IEC 60617	series	Graphical symbols for diagrams	EN 60617	series
IEC QC 001002-3	1998	Rules of procedure of the IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components (IECQ) Part 3: Approval procedures	-	-
IEC QC 001003	1988	Guidance Documents	-	-
ISO 1000	1992	SI units and recommendations for the use of their multiples and of certain other units	-	-

7) HD 323.2.30 S3 includes A1:1985 to IEC 60068-2-30.

8) EN 60249-2-4 includes A2:1992 to IEC 60249-2-4.

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**IEC**  
**60738-1**

QC 440000

Second edition  
1998-11

## **Thermistors – Directly heated positive step-function temperature coefficient –**

### **Part 1:**

**Generic specification**  
**PREVIEW**  
**(standards.iteh.ai)**

*Thermistances à basculement à coefficient de température  
positif à chauffage direct –*

### *Partie 1:*

*Spécification générique*

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International Electrotechnical Commission  
Telefax: +41 22 919 0300

3, rue de Varembé Geneva, Switzerland  
e-mail: inmail@iec.ch IEC web site <http://www.iec.ch>



Commission Electrotechnique Internationale  
International Electrotechnical Commission  
Международная Электротехническая Комиссия

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## THERMISTORS –

DIRECTLY HEATED POSITIVE STEP-FUNCTION  
TEMPERATURE COEFFICIENT –

## Part 1: Generic specification

## FOREWORD

- 1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, the IEC publishes International Standards. Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. The IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested National Committees.
- 3) The documents produced have the form of recommendations for international use and are published in the form of standards, technical reports or guides and they are accepted by the National Committees in that sense.
- 4) In order to promote international unification, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC International Standards transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional standards. Any divergence between the IEC Standard and the corresponding national or regional standard shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) The IEC provides no marking procedure to indicate its approval and cannot be rendered responsible for any equipment declared to be in conformity with one of its standards.
- 6) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. The IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 60738-1 has been prepared IEC technical committee 40: Capacitors and resistors for electronic equipment.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1982 and constitutes a technical revision.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
40/1080/FDIS	40/1096/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

Annex A forms an integral part of this standard.

Annexes B and C are for information only.

The QC number that appears on the front cover of this publication is the specification number in the IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components (IECQ).

## THERMISTORS – DIRECTLY HEATED POSITIVE STEP-FUNCTION TEMPERATURE COEFFICIENT –

### Part 1: Generic specification

## 1 General

### 1.1 Scope

This International Standard prescribes terms and methods of test for positive step-function temperature coefficient thermistors, insulated and non-insulated types, typically made from ferro-electric semi-conductor materials.

It establishes standard terms, inspection procedures and methods of test for use in detail specifications for Qualification Approval and for Quality Assessment Systems for electronic components.

### 1.2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All normative documents are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

In the case of IEC 60068 publications, the referenced edition shall be used, regardless of any subsequent new edition(s) and amendment(s).

IEC 60027-1:1992, *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology – Part 1: General*

IEC 60050: *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary*

IEC 60062:1992, *Marking codes for resistors and capacitors*

IEC 60068-1:1988, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-1:1990, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Tests A: Cold*

IEC 60068-2-2:1974, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Tests B: Dry heat*

IEC 60068-2-3:1969, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test Ca: Damp heat, steady state*

IEC 60068-2-6:1995, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test Fc and guidance: Vibration (sinusoidal)*

IEC 60068-2-11:1981, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test Ka: Salt mist*

IEC 60068-2-13:1983, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test M: Low air pressure*

IEC 60068-2-14:1984, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test N: Change of temperature*

IEC 60068-2-20:1979, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test T: Soldering*

IEC 60068-2-21:1983, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices*

IEC 60068-2-27:1987, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test Ea and guidance: Shock*

IEC 60068-2-29:1987, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test Eb and guidance: Bump*

IEC 60068-2-30:1980, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test Db and guidance: Damp heat, cyclic (12 + 12-hour cycle)*

IEC 60068-2-45:1980, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test XA and guidance: Immersion in cleaning solvents*

IEC 60249-2-4:1987, *Base materials for printed circuits – Part 2: Specifications – Specification No. 4: Epoxide woven glass fabric copper-clad laminated sheet, general purpose grade*

IEC 60294:1969, *Measurement of the dimensions of a cylindrical component having two axial terminations*

IEC 60410:1973, *Sampling plans and procedures for inspection by attributes*

IEC 60617: *Graphical symbols for diagrams*

IEC QC 001002-3:1998, *Rules of procedure of the IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components (IECQ) – Part 3: Approval procedures*

IEC QC 001003: *Guidance documents*

ISO 1000:1992, *SI units and recommendations for the use of their multiples and of certain other units*

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**2 Technical data**

### 2.1 Units and symbols

Units, graphical symbols, letter symbols and terminology shall, whenever possible, be taken from the following publications:

IEC 60027

IEC 60050

IEC 60617

ISO 1000

### 2.2 Definitions

When further items are required they shall be derived in accordance with the principles of the documents listed above.

#### 2.2.1

##### type

a group of components having similar design features and the similarity of whose manufacturing techniques enables them to be grouped together either for qualification approval or for quality conformance inspection

They are generally covered by a single detail specification.

NOTE – Components described in several detail specifications may, in some cases, be considered as belonging to the same type but they are generally covered by a single detail specification.

**2.2.2****style**

variation within a type having specific nominal dimensions and characteristics

**2.2.3****thermistor**

a thermally sensitive semiconducting resistor which exhibits a significant change in electrical resistance with a change in body temperature

**2.2.4****positive temperature coefficient thermistor**

a thermistor, the resistance of which increases with its increasing temperature throughout the useful part of its characteristic

**2.2.5****positive step-function temperature coefficient thermistor (PTC)**

a thermistor which shows a step-like increase in its resistance when the increasing temperature reaches a specific value

A PTC thermistor will show secondary effects which have to be taken into account.

**2.2.6****zero-power resistance ( $R_T$ )**

the value of the resistance of a PTC thermistor, at a given temperature, under conditions such that the change in resistance due to the internal generation of heat is negligible with respect to the total error of measurement

NOTE – Any resistance value of a PTC thermistor is dependent on the value and the mode of the applied voltage (a.c. or d.c.) and, when an a.c. source is used, on the frequency (see 2.2.8 and 2.2.9).

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**2.2.7****nominal zero-power resistance ( $R_n$ )**

the d.c. resistance value of a thermistor measured at a specified temperature, preferable at 25 °C, with a power dissipation low enough that any further decrease in power will result only in a negligible change in resistance. Zero-power resistance may also be measured using a.c. if required by the detail specification.

**2.2.8****voltage dependency**

a secondary effect, exhibiting a decreasing resistance with increasing voltage across the thermistor when measured at a constant body temperature

**2.2.9****frequency dependency**

a secondary effect exhibiting a substantial decrease of the positive temperature coefficient of the thermistor with increasing frequency

**2.2.10****resistance/temperature characteristics**

the relationship between the zero-power resistance of a thermistor and the temperature of the thermosensitive element when measured under specified reference conditions (see figure 1)

NOTE – PTC thermistors may have more than one resistance/temperature characteristic specified.

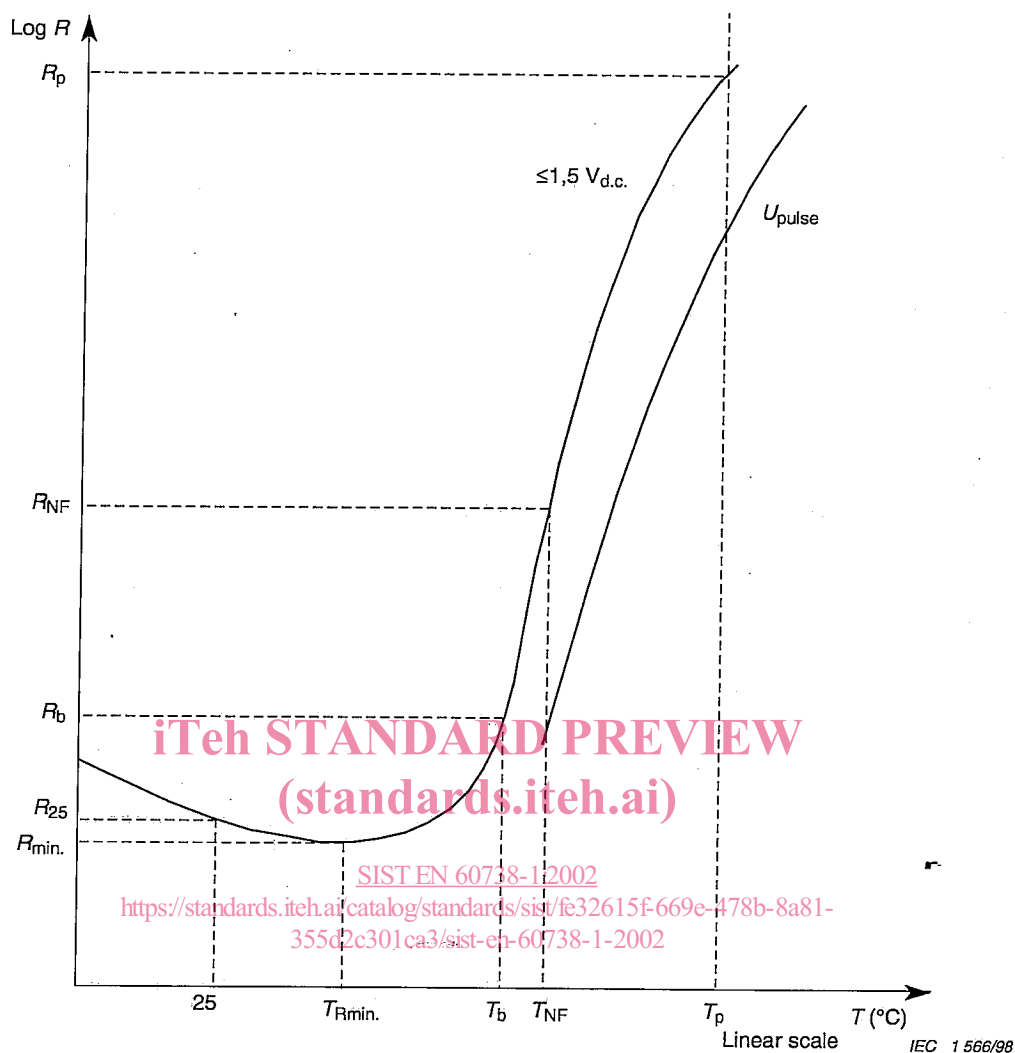
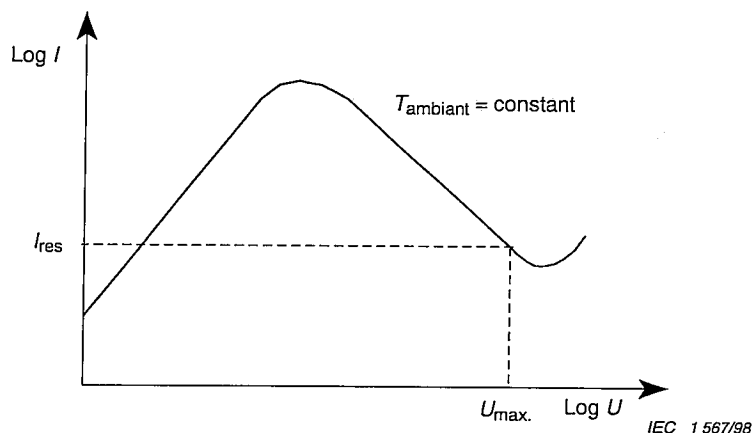


Figure 1 – Typical resistance-temperature characteristic and definitions for PTC thermistors (at zero-power)

### 2.2.11

#### current/voltage characteristic

the relationship in still air at  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  (unless otherwise stated) between the applied voltage (d.c. and/or a.c.), at the thermistor terminations and the current under steady state conditions (see figure 2)



NOTE 1 –  $U_{\text{max.}}$  will be specified by the manufacturer.

NOTE 2 – The breakdown voltage is the value beyond which the thermistor's voltage handling capability no longer exhibits its characteristic property.

Figure 2 – Typical current/voltage characteristic for PTC thermistors

**2.2.12****nominal functioning temperature ( $T_{NF}$ )**

the nominal temperature at the steep part of the resistance temperature characteristic at which the system controlled by the thermistor, is designed to operate

**2.2.13****switching temperature ( $T_b$ )**

the temperature at which the step-like function commences

**2.2.14****minimum resistance ( $R_{min.}$ )**

the minimum value of the zero-power resistance/temperature characteristic (see figure 1)

**2.2.15****resistance at switching temperature ( $R_b$ )**

the value of the zero-power resistance corresponding to the switching temperature

It is defined as  $R_b = 2 \times R_{min.}$  As an alternative definition  $R_b = 2 \times R_{25}$  can be used. If this definition is used, this shall be explicitly stated in the detail specification.

**2.2.16****temperature for minimum resistance ( $T_{Rmin.}$ )**

that temperature at which  $R_{min.}$  occurs

**2.2.17****temperature  $T_p$** 

that temperature, higher than  $T_b$ , in the PTC part of the resistance/temperature characteristic for which a minimum value  $R_p$  of the zero-power resistance is specified

**2.2.18****resistance  $R_p$** 

the zero-power resistance at temperature  $T_p$  measured at maximum voltage or a voltage specified in the detail specification and given as a minimum value

NOTE – The measurement should be made under such conditions that any change in resistance due to internal generation of heat is negligible with respect to the total error of measurement. The applied voltage and the characteristics of any pulse used should be given in the detail specification; when applying the maximum voltage, the maximum overload current may not be exceeded.

**2.2.19****average temperature coefficient of resistance at a stated voltage ( $\alpha_R$ )**

the rate of change of resistance with temperature expressed as %/K

It is calculated from the formula:

$$\alpha_R = \frac{100}{(T_p - T_b)} \times \ln \frac{R_p}{R_b}$$

where  $T_p$  exceeds  $T_b$  by a minimum of 10 K.

The temperatures  $T_p$  and  $T_b$  are to be given, if applicable, and the measurement conditions for  $R_b$  and  $R_p$  should be the same, unless otherwise specified in the detail specification.

NOTE – The detail specification may specify the measurement of the temperature coefficient of resistance in a narrow temperature range where its value is a maximum, together with a suitable test method.