

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Exposure to electric or magnetic fields in the low and intermediate frequency range – Methods for calculating the current density and internal electric field induced in the human body –**

**Part 3-1: Exposure to electric fields – Analytical and 2D numerical models**

**Exposition aux champs électriques ou magnétiques à basse et moyenne fréquence – Méthodes de calcul des densités de courant induit et des champs électriques induits dans le corps humain –**

**Partie 3-1: Exposition à des champs électriques – Modèles analytiques et numériques 2D**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**EXPOSURE TO ELECTRIC OR MAGNETIC FIELDS  
IN THE LOW AND INTERMEDIATE FREQUENCY RANGE –  
METHODS FOR CALCULATING THE CURRENT DENSITY AND  
INTERNAL ELECTRIC FIELD INDUCED IN THE HUMAN BODY –**

**Part 3-1: Exposure to electric fields –  
Analytical and 2D numerical models**

FOREWORD

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**IEC 62226-3-1 edition 1.1 contains the first edition (2007-05) [documents 106/125/FDIS and 106/128/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2016-10) [documents 106/376/FDIS and 106/378/RVD].**

**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 62226-3-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 106: Methods for the assessment of electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields associated with human exposure.

This standard is to be used in conjunction with the first edition of IEC 62226-1:2004, *Exposure to electric or magnetic fields in the low and intermediate frequency range – Methods for calculating the current density and internal electric field induced in the human body – Part 1: General*.

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

This International Standard constitutes Part 3-1 of IEC 62226 series, which will regroup several international standards and technical reports within the framework of the calculation of induced current densities and internal electric fields.

A list of all parts of the IEC 62226 series, published under the general title *Exposure to electric or magnetic fields in the low and intermediate frequency range – Methods for calculating the current density and internal electric field induced in the human body*, can be found on the IEC website.

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

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## INTRODUCTION

Public interest concerning human exposure to electric and magnetic fields has led international and national organisations to propose limits based on recognised adverse effects.

This standard applies to the frequency range for which the exposure limits are based on the induction of voltages or currents in the human body, when exposed to electric and magnetic fields. This frequency range covers the low and intermediate frequencies, up to 100 kHz. Some methods described in this standard can be used at higher frequencies under specific conditions.

The exposure limits based on biological and medical experimentation about these fundamental induction phenomena are usually called “basic restrictions”. They include safety factors.

The induced electrical quantities are not directly measurable, so simplified derived limits are also proposed. These limits, called “reference levels” are given in terms of external electric and magnetic fields. They are based on very simple models of coupling between external fields and the body. These derived limits are conservative.

Sophisticated models for calculating induced currents in the body have been used and are the subject of a number of scientific publications. These models use numerical 3D electromagnetic field computation codes and detailed models of the internal structure with specific electrical characteristics of each tissue within the body. However such models are still developing; the electrical conductivity data available at present has considerable shortcomings; and the spatial resolution of models is still progressing. Such models are therefore still considered to be in the field of scientific research and at present it is not considered that the results obtained from such models should be fixed indefinitely within standards. However it is recognised that such models can and do make a useful contribution to the standardisation process, specially for product standards where particular cases of exposure are considered. When results from such models are used in standards, the results should be reviewed from time to time to ensure they continue to reflect the current status of the science.

# EXPOSURE TO ELECTRIC OR MAGNETIC FIELDS IN THE LOW AND INTERMEDIATE FREQUENCY RANGE – METHODS FOR CALCULATING THE CURRENT DENSITY AND INTERNAL ELECTRIC FIELD INDUCED IN THE HUMAN BODY –

## Part 3-1: Exposure to electric fields – Analytical and 2D numerical models

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 62226 applies to the frequency range for which exposure limits are based on the induction of voltages or currents in the human body when exposed to electric fields.

This part defines in detail the coupling factor  $K$  – introduced by the IEC 62226 series to enable exposure assessment for complex exposure situations, such as non-uniform magnetic field or perturbed electric field – for the case of simple models of the human body, exposed to uniform electric fields. The coupling factor  $K$  has different physical interpretations depending on whether it relates to electric or magnetic field exposure. It is the so called “shape factor for electric field”.

This part of IEC 62226 can be used when the electric field can be considered to be uniform, for frequencies up to at least 100 kHz.

This situation of exposure to a “uniform” electric field is mostly found in the vicinity of high voltage overhead power systems. For this reason, illustrations given in this part are given for power frequencies (50 Hz and 60 Hz).

### 2 Exposure to electric field

Alternating electric fields are generated by energised conductors (i.e. under voltage). In the immediate vicinity of domestic electrical equipment, such as lights, switches, food mixers and irons, local electric-field strengths about 100 V/m may be found. Such fields are non-uniform, but their strengths are far below the levels recommended in safety guidelines, so there is no need of calculation of induced currents in such exposure situations.

Higher electric-field strengths may be found in the vicinity of high voltage equipment such as electric power line. In the frequency range covered by this standard, it is considered that exposure from power lines is the only significant exposure source for public regarding safety guidelines limits.

Guidelines on human exposure to electric fields are generally expressed in terms of induced current density or internal electric field. These quantities cannot be measured directly and the purpose of this document is to give guidance on how to assess these quantities induced in the human body by external (environmental) electric fields  $E_0$ .

The induced current density  $J$  and the internal electric field  $E_i$  are closely linked by the simple relation:

$$J = \sigma \cdot E_i \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the conductivity of the body tissue under consideration.

Although some guidelines on human exposure to electric fields adopt internal electric field as a limiting parameter, for reason of simplification, the content of this standard is presented mainly in terms of induced current densities  $J$ , from which values of internal electric field  $E_i$  can be easily derived using the previous formula.

All the calculation developed in this document use the low frequency approximation in which displacement currents are negligible, such that  $\epsilon\omega/\sigma$  is less than 1 in the body. This approximation has been checked using published tissue data [29,31] <sup>1)</sup> in the low frequency range and it has been found to be valid for frequencies up to at least 100 kHz and is probably valid at higher frequencies.

Computations based on sophisticated numerical models of the human body [24] also demonstrate that this assumption is valid at frequencies up to more than 100 kHz by showing that the relationship between the induced current density in the body and the product of frequency and external electric field hardly varies at all between 50 Hz and 1 MHz, and is only slightly altered at 10 MHz.

Analytical models can be used for simple cases of calculations.

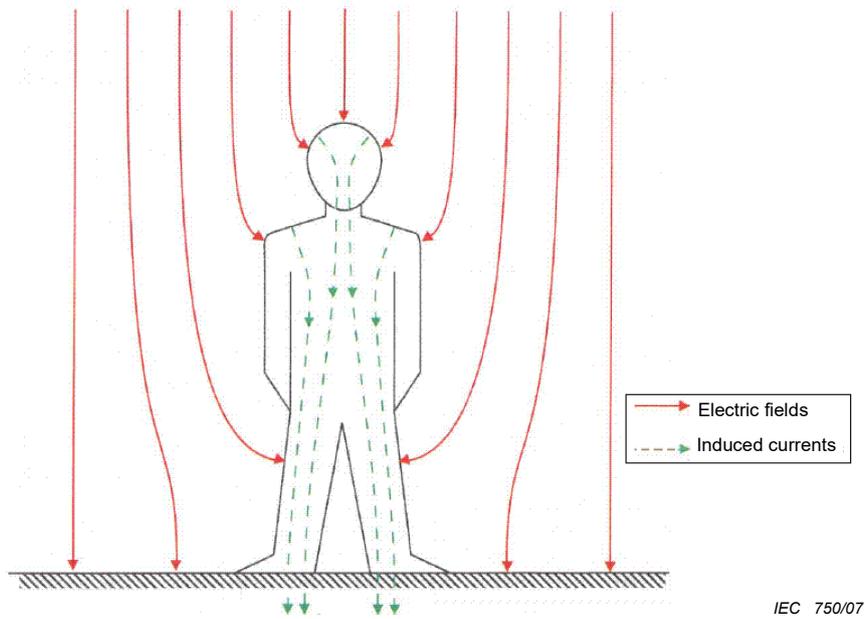
Electric fields cause displacement of electric charges in conductive objects (including living bodies) and, because these fields are alternating, the electric charges move backwards and forwards. The result is an "induced" alternating current inside the conductive object. This current depends only on:

- the shape and size of the conducting object;
- the characteristics (magnitude, polarisation, degree of non-uniformity, etc.) of the unperturbed field (field which is measured in the absence of any conducting object);
- the frequency of the field
- the variation of conductivity of the object (in homogeneous media, the current density induced by electric fields does not depend on conductivity).

Figure 1 illustrates this induction phenomenon for the case where the body is in electrical contact with the ground.

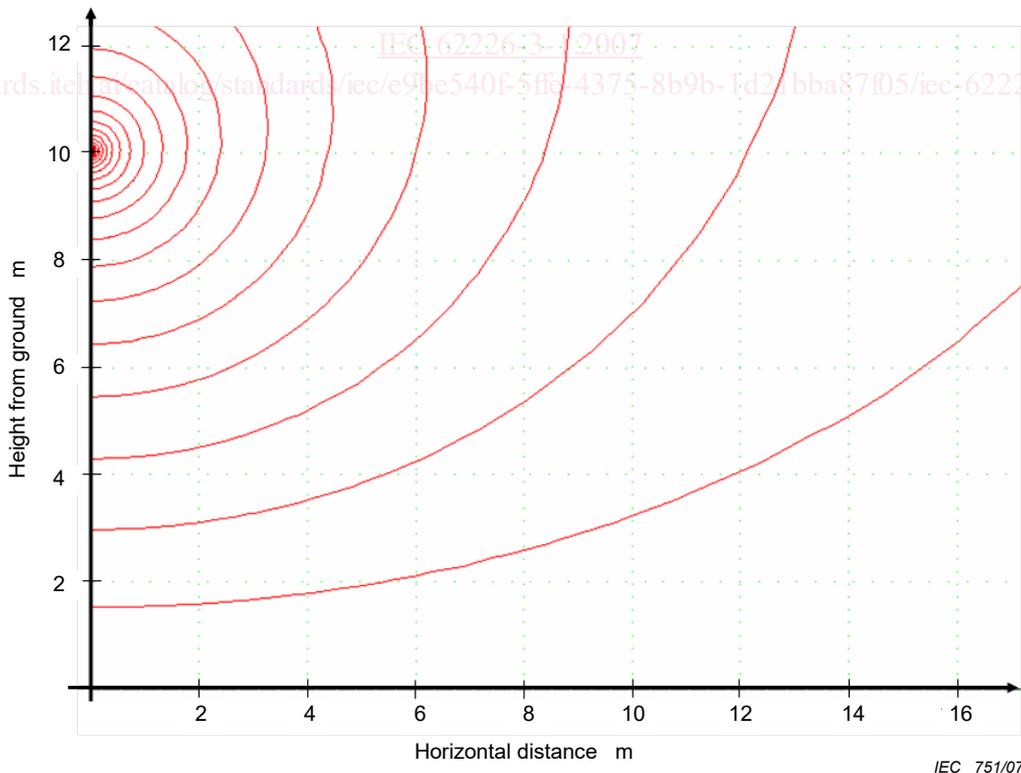
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<sup>1)</sup> Figures in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.



**Figure 1 – Illustration of the phenomenon of currents induced by an electric field in a human body standing on the ground**

The typical case of public exposure to an electric field is under high voltage power transmission lines. In this case, the distance between the source of field and the human body is large and the field in the zone close to the ground, in the absence of any conductive object, can be considered to be uniform (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2 – Potential lines of the electric field generated by an energised wire in the absence of any objects (all distances in metres)**