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Third edition
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Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications –

Part 1: Generic specification

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD 5

1 Scope 7
2 Normative references 7
3 Terms and definitions 9
4 Installation considerations 12
5 Materials and cable construction 12
5.1 General remarks 12
5.2 Cable construction 12
5.2.1 Conductor 12
5.2.2 Insulation 13
5.2.3 Cable element 13
5.2.4 Cable make-up 14
5.2.5 Screening of the cable core 14
5.2.6 Sheath 14
5.2.7 Identification 14
5.2.8 Finished cable 15
6 Characteristics and requirements 15
6.1 General remarks – Test configurations 15
6.2 Electrical characteristics and tests 15
6.2.1 Conductor resistance 15
6.2.2 Resistance unbalance 16
6.2.3 Dielectric strength 16
6.2.4 Insulation resistance 16
6.2.5 Mutual capacitance 16
6.2.6 Capacitance unbalance to earth 16
6.2.7 Transfer impedance 17
6.2.8 Coupling attenuation 17
6.2.9 Current-carrying capacity 17
6.3 Transmission characteristics 17
6.3.1 Velocity of propagation (phase velocity) 17
6.3.2 Phase delay and differential delay (delay skew) 18
6.3.3 Attenuation 18
6.3.4 Unbalance attenuation 21
6.3.5 Near-end crosstalk 26
6.3.6 Far-end crosstalk 27
6.3.7 Alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk 30
6.3.8 Alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk 34
6.3.9 Alien (exogenous) crosstalk of bundled cables 34
6.3.10 Mean characteristic impedance and input impedance 35
6.3.11 Return loss 36
6.4 Mechanical and dimensional characteristics and requirements 37
6.4.1 Measurement of dimensions 37
6.4.2 Elongation at break of the conductor 37
6.4.3 Tensile strength of the insulation 37
6.4.4 Elongation at break of the insulation 37

6.4.5 Adhesion of the insulation to the conductor 37
6.4.6 Elongation at break of the sheath 37
6.4.7 Tensile strength of the sheath 37
6.4.8 Crush test of the cable 37
6.4.9 Impact test of the cable 38
6.4.10 Bending under tension 38
6.4.11 Repeated bending of the cable 40
6.4.12 Tensile performance of the cable 42
6.4.13 Shock test of the cable 42
6.4.14 Bump test of the cable 42
6.4.15 Vibration test of the cable 42
6.5 Environmental characteristics 42
6.5.1 Shrinkage of the insulation 42
6.5.2 Wrapping test of the insulation after thermal ageing 42
6.5.3 Bending test of the insulation at low temperature 42
6.5.4 Elongation at break of the sheath after ageing 42
6.5.5 Tensile strength of the sheath after ageing 42
6.5.6 Sheath pressure test at high temperature 43
6.5.7 Cold bend test of the cable 43
6.5.8 Heat shock test 43
6.5.9 Damp heat steady state 43
6.5.10 Solar radiation 44
6.5.11 Solvents and contaminating fluids 44
6.5.12 Salt mist and sulphur dioxide 44
6.5.13 Water immersion 44
6.5.14 Hygroscopicity 44
6.5.15 Wicking 44
6.5.16 Flame propagation characteristics of a single cable 45
6.5.17 Flame propagation characteristics of bunched cables 45
6.5.18 Halogen gas evolution 45
6.5.19 Smoke generation 45
6.5.20 Toxic gas emission 45
6.5.21 Integrated fire test method for cables in environmental air handling spaces 45

Bibliography 46

Figure 1 – Test set-up for the measurement of attenuation, velocity of propagation and phase delay 19
Figure 2 – Test set-up for the measurement of the differential-mode loss of the baluns 22
Figure 3 – Test set-up for the measurement of the common-mode loss of the baluns 23
Figure 4 – Test set-up for unbalance attenuation at near end (*TCL*) 24
Figure 5 – Test set-up for unbalance attenuation at far end (*TCTL*) 25
Figure 6 – Test set-up for near-end crosstalk 27
Figure 7 – Test set-up for far-end crosstalk 28
Figure 8 – Test set-up for alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk 31
Figure 9 – Test assembly cross-section; six cables around one cable 33
Figure 10 – Test assembly layout; six cables around one cable 33

Figure 11 – Test assembly cross-section; four parallel cables 34
Figure 12 – Test assembly on drum; four parallel cables 34
Figure 13 – Test set-up for mean characteristic impedance, input impedance and return loss 35
Figure 14 – U-bend test configuration 39
Figure 15 – S-bend test configuration 39
Figure 16 – Repeated bending test configuration 41
Figure 17 – Wicking test configuration 45

Table 1 – Test balun performance characteristics 21

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

MULTICORE AND SYMMETRICAL PAIR/QUAD CABLES FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS –

Part 1: Generic specification

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61156-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 46C: Wires and symmetric cables, of IEC technical committee 46: Cables, wires, waveguides, r.f. connectors, r.f. and microwave passive components and accessories.

The cables are classified in the study of generic cabling for information technology being produced by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 25.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2002 and it includes its Corrigendum 1 (2004) This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) inclusion of definitions and test methods in support of the MICE table in ISO 24702;
b) inclusion of definitions and test methods in support of new cable categories 6_A and 7_A;
c) inclusion of definitions in support of PoEP.

The text of this standard is based on the second edition, its amendment 3 and on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
46C/815/FDIS	46C/823/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.

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

The list of all the parts of the IEC 61156 series, under the general title *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communication*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result 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.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

The contents of the corrigendum of August 2015 have been included in this copy.

MULTICORE AND SYMMETRICAL PAIR/QUAD CABLES FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS –

Part 1: Generic specification

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61156 is applicable to communication systems such as ISDN, local area networks and data communication systems and specifies the definitions, requirements and test methods of multicore, symmetrical pair and quad cables.

This standard is also applicable to cables used for customer premises wiring.

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 60028, *International standard of resistance for copper*

IEC 60050-726, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 726: Transmission lines and wave guides*

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

IEC 60169-22, *Radio-frequency connectors – Part 22: RF two-pole bayonet coupled connectors for use with shielded balanced cables having twin inner conductors (Type BNO)*

IEC 60189-1:1986, *Low-frequency cables and wires with PVC insulation and PVC sheath – Part 1: General test and measuring methods*

IEC 60304, *Standard colours for insulation for low-frequency cables and wires*

IEC 60332-1-1, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-1: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Apparatus*

IEC 60332-2-1, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 2-1: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single small insulated wire or cable – Apparatus*

IEC 60332-3-10, *Tests on electric cables under fire conditions – Part 3-10: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Apparatus*

IEC 60332-3-24, *Tests on electric cables under fire conditions – Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C*

IEC 60708, *Low-frequency cables with polyolefin insulation and moisture barrier polyolefin sheath*

IEC 60754-2, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of electric cables – Part 2: Determination of the degree of acidity of gases evolved during the combustion of materials taken from electric cables by measuring pH and conductivity*

IEC 60794-1-2:2003, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-2: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures*

IEC 60811-1-1:1993, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables and optical cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section 1: Measurement of thickness and overall dimensions – Tests for determining the mechanical properties*

IEC 60811-1-2:1985, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric and optical cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section Two: Thermal ageing methods*

IEC 60811-1-3:1993, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric and optical cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section Three: Methods for determining the density – Water absorption tests – Shrinkage test*

IEC 60811-1-4:1985, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric and optical cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section Four: Test at low temperature*

IEC 60811-3-1:1985, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric and optical cables – Part 3: Methods specific to PVC compounds – Section One: Pressure test at high temperature – Tests for resistance to cracking*

IEC 60811-4-2:2004, *Insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Common test methods – Part 4-2: Methods specific to polyethylene and polypropylene compounds – Tensile strength and elongation at break after conditioning at elevated temperature – Wrapping test after conditioning at elevated temperature – Wrapping test after thermal ageing in air – Measurement of mass increase – Long-term stability test – Test method for copper-catalyzed oxidative degradation*

IEC 61034 (all parts), *Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions*

IEC 61196-1-105, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-105: Electrical test methods – Test for withstand voltage of cable dielectric*

IEC 62012-1:2002, *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications to be used in harsh environments – Part 1: Generic specification*

IEC 62153-4-3, *Metallic communication cables test methods – Part 4-3: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Surface transfer impedance – Triaxial method*

IEC 62153-4-4, *Metallic communication cables test methods – Part 4-4: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Shielded screening attenuation, test method for measuring of the screening attenuation a_s up to and above 3 GHz*

IEC 62153-4-5, *Metallic communication cables test methods – Part 4-5: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Coupling or screening attenuation – Absorbing clamp method*

IEC 62255 (all parts), *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for broadband digital communications (high bit rate digital access telecommunication networks) – Outside plant cables*

ITU-T Recommendation G.117:1996, *Transmission aspects of unbalance about earth*

ITU-T Recommendation O.9:1999, *Measuring arrangements to assess the degree of unbalance about earth*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions, as well as those given in IEC 60050-726, apply.

3.1
resistance unbalance
difference in resistance of the conductors within a pair or one side of a quad or between pairs or quads

NOTE Resistance unbalance is expressed as a percentage (%).

3.2
capacitance unbalance to earth
arithmetic difference of the capacitance to earth of the conductors of a pair or one side of a quad

NOTE Capacitance unbalance is expressed in pF/m.

3.3
mutual capacitance
electrical charge storage parameter of a pair of conductors (or with respect to the side of a quad)

NOTE 1 Mutual capacitance is one of the four primary transmission line parameters; mutual capacitance, mutual inductance, resistance and conductance.

NOTE 2 Mutual capacitance is expressed in pF/m.

3.4
velocity of propagation (phase velocity)
speed at which a sinusoidal signal propagates on a pair in the cable

NOTE Velocity of propagation is expressed in m/s.

3.5
delay (phase delay)
time duration between the instants that the wave front of a sinusoidal travelling wave, defined by a specified phase, passes two given points in a cable

NOTE Phase delay is expressed in s/m.

3.6
differential phase delay (skew)
difference in phase delay between any two pairs in the cable

NOTE Differential phase delay (skew) is expressed in s.

3.7
attenuation
decrease in magnitude of power of a signal that propagates along a pair of a cable

NOTE Attenuation is expressed in dB/m.

3.8
unbalance attenuation
magnitude of power of a signal that propagates between the common-mode circuit and the differential-mode circuit of a cable

NOTE Unbalance attenuation is expressed in dB.

3.9
near-end crosstalk
NEXT
magnitude of the signal power coupling from a disturbing pair at the near end to a disturbed pair measured at the near end

NOTE Near-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.10
far-end crosstalk
FEXT
magnitude of the signal power coupling from a disturbing pair at the near end to a disturbed pair measured at the far end

NOTE Far-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.11
power sum of crosstalk
PS
summation of the crosstalk power from all disturbing pairs into a disturbed pair

NOTE 1 The summation is applicable to near-end and far-end crosstalk.

NOTE 2 The power sum of crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.12
attenuation to crosstalk ratio, near-end
ACR-N
arithmetic difference between the near-end crosstalk and the attenuation of the disturbed pair

NOTE Attenuation to crosstalk ratio, near-end, is expressed in dB.

3.13
attenuation to crosstalk ratio, far-end
ACR-F
arithmetic difference between the far-end crosstalk and the attenuation of the disturbed pair

NOTE Attenuation to crosstalk ratio, far-end, is expressed in dB.

3.14
alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk
ANEXT
near-end crosstalk where the disturbing and disturbed pairs are contained in different cables

NOTE Alien (exogenous) near-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.15
alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk
AFEXT
far-end crosstalk where the disturbing and disturbed pairs are contained in different cables

NOTE Alien (exogenous) far-end crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.16
power sum of alien (exogenous) crosstalk
PSA
summation of the alien (exogenous) crosstalk power from all disturbing pairs into a disturbed pair in different cables

NOTE 1 The summation is applicable to near-end and far-end alien (exogenous) crosstalk.

NOTE 2 The power sum of alien (exogenous) crosstalk is expressed in dB.

3.17
characteristic impedance
Z_C
impedance at the input of a homogeneous line of infinite length

NOTE 1 The asymptotic value at high frequencies is denoted as Z_∞.

NOTE 2 The characteristic impedance of a homogeneous cable pair is given by the quotient of a voltage wave and current wave which are propagating in the same direction, either forwards or backwards.

NOTE 3 Characteristic impedance is expressed in Ω.

3.18
mean characteristic impedance
Z_{Cm}
impedance calculated as the geometric mean of the product of the impedances obtained at the input terminals of a cable pair when the far end is terminated by an open- and short-circuit load

NOTE Mean characteristic impedance is expressed in Ω.

3.19
input impedance
Z_{in}
impedance at the input terminals of a cable pair

NOTE 1 The pair is terminated with its reference impedance, Z_R (system nominal impedance), at the near and far end. See IEC/TR 62152.

NOTE 2 Input impedance is expressed in Ω.

3.20
fitted input impedance
impedance calculated from a least squares function fitting algorithm

NOTE Fitted input impedance is expressed in Ω.

3.21
return loss
RL
ratio of reflected power to input power at the input terminals of a cable pair

NOTE Return loss is expressed in dB.

3.22
balun
balanced to unbalanced impedance matching transformer

3.23
bundled cable
grouping or assembly of several individual cables that are systematically laid up

NOTE Bundled cables are also referred to as speed-wrap, whip, or loomed cables.

3.24
current-carrying capacity
capacity of a conductor that results in a specified increase of the surface temperature of the conductor beyond the ambient temperature

NOTE The conductor may be bare, insulated or enclosed in a cable.

3.25
hygroscopic
characteristic of a material to absorb moisture from the atmosphere

3.26
wicking
longitudinal flow of a liquid in a material due to capillary action

3.27
coupling attenuation
ratio between the transmitted power through the conductors and the maximum radiated peak power, conducted and generated by the exited common-mode currents

4 Installation considerations

The cables shall be designed to meet the installation conditions encountered for each area as follows.

a) Equipment cables

The cables are used between work stations and peripheral equipment (for example, printer).

b) Work area cables

The cables are used between the work station and the communication outlets.

c) Horizontal floor wiring cables

The cables are used between the work area communication outlet and the communication closet.

d) Riser cables and building back-bone cables

The cables are used for horizontal installation or vertically between floors.

e) Campus cables

These cables are used to interconnect buildings and shall be suitable for outdoor installation. The cables should be sheathed and protected in accordance with IEC 62255.

5 Materials and cable construction

5.1 General remarks

The choice of materials and cable construction shall be suitable for the intended application and installation of the cable. Particular care shall be taken to meet any special requirements for EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) or fire performance.

5.2 Cable construction

The cable construction shall be in accordance with the details and dimensions given in the relevant detail specification.

5.2.1 Conductor

The conductor shall consist of annealed copper, uniform in quality and free from defects. The properties of the copper shall be in accordance with IEC 60028.

The conductor may be either solid or stranded. The solid conductor shall be circular in section and may be plain or metal-coated. The solid conductor shall be drawn in one piece. Joints in the solid conductor are permitted, provided that the breaking strength of a joint is not less than 85 % of the unjointed solid conductor.