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Third edition
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Low-frequency cables and wires with PVC insulation and PVC sheath –

Part 1: General test and measuring methods

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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

LOW-FREQUENCY CABLES AND WIRES WITH PVC INSULATION AND PVC SHEATH –

Part 1: General test and measuring methods

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60189-1 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.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 1986, amendment 1 (1988), amendment 2 (1989) and amendment 3 (1992). This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition is a significant revision of general tests and measuring methods.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
46C/820/FDIS	46C/828/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 60189 series, under the general title *Low-frequency cables and wires with PVC insulation and PVC sheath*, 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- withdrawn;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.

LOW-FREQUENCY CABLES AND WIRES WITH PVC INSULATION AND PVC SHEATH –

Part 1: General test and measuring methods

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60189 specifies mechanical, electrical and climatic test methods for low-frequency cables and wires designed for use in telecommunication inside plant and equipment and in electronic devices employing similar techniques.

NOTE The other parts of IEC 60189 describe the construction and characteristics of each type of cable and wire.

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 60068 (all parts), *Environmental testing*

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

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

IEC 60811-1-1:1998, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables and optical cables – Part 1-1: Methods for general application – 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 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 1-3: General application – 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 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 cables – Part 3: Methods specific to PVC compounds – Section One: Pressure test at high temperature – Tests for resistance to cracking*

IEC 60885-1:1987, *Electrical test methods for electric cables – Part 1: Electrical tests for cables, cords and wires for voltages up to and including 450/750 V*

ISO 6892:1998, *Metallic materials – Tensile testing at ambient temperature*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1
conductor
part of the cable or wire intended to carry electric current. The conductor may be

a) solid – made of a single strand of circular cross-section;

b) stranded – made of several strands of circular cross-section assembled either by laying up concentrically or by bunching, and without insulation between them.

The properties of the copper are in accordance with IEC 60028

3.2
low-frequency wire
insulated conductor or assembly of several insulated conductors, laid up together and which may be provided with a screen. The wire may be

a) single – consists of a single insulated conductor;

b) multiple – consists of several insulated conductors

NOTE The following designations are used:

pair – for multiple wire with two conductors;

triple – for multiple wire with three conductors;

quad – for multiple wire with four conductors;

quintuple – for multiple wire with five conductors.

3.3
low-frequency cables – sheathed cable
assembly of insulated conductors enclosed in a common continuous protective covering

4 Standard conditions for testing

Unless otherwise specified, all tests shall be carried out under the conditions specified in IEC 60068.

Unless otherwise specified, tests shall be made at room temperature.

When several test results have been obtained and ordered in an increasing or decreasing succession, the median value is the middle value if the number of available values is odd, and is the mean of the two middle values if the number is even.

5 Dimensions

5.1 Selection and preparation of samples

5.1.1 Insulation

Samples of insulated conductors, approximately 100 mm in length, shall be taken at both ends of the cable or wire.

One sample shall be taken at each end. Any covering(s) shall be removed from the insulation and the conductor withdrawn, care being taken not to damage the insulation. Each test piece

shall consist of a thin slice of insulation. The slice shall be cut with a suitable device along a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the conductor.

5.1.2 Sheath

Samples, approximately 100 mm in length, shall be taken from the finished cable at both ends.

One sample shall be taken at each end. The insulated conductors binding tapes and screening, if any, shall then be removed from the sheath, and each test piece shall be prepared by cutting with a suitable device a thin slice along a plane perpendicular to the axis of the cable. If necessary the planes of the cuts shall be carefully smoothed.

If a marking is stamped into the sheath, thus giving rise to a local reduction of thickness, the test piece shall be taken so as to include such marking. The test piece shall not include such a reduction of thickness if it is made by the rip cord.

5.1.3 Finished cable or wire

Samples of finished cable or wire, approximately 100 mm in length, shall be taken at both ends. One sample shall be taken at each end.

5.2 Measurement of dimensions

5.2.1 Minimum thickness of insulation or sheath

5.2.1.1 Insulation

Both samples (one at each end) shall be measured. Each test piece shall be placed under the measuring equipment with the plane of the cut perpendicular to the optical axis.

Each test piece shall be measured with equipment in accordance with 8.1.2 of IEC 60811-1-1.

The readings shall be made, in millimetres, to two decimal places, if the thickness of insulation is 0,5 mm or above, and to three estimated decimal places, if the thickness of insulation is less than 0,5 mm.

The minimum thickness shall be found and measured.

NOTE Alternative test methods may be used, provided that they give equivalent results.

5.2.1.2 Sheath

Both samples (one at each end) shall be measured. Each test piece shall be placed under the measuring equipment with the plane of the cut perpendicular to the optical axis.

Each test piece shall be measured with equipment in accordance with 8.1.2 of IEC 60811-1-1.

A micrometer applying a pressure of between 50 kPa and 80 kPa can also be used for measurement of samples of the sheath.

The readings shall be made in millimetres to two decimal places.

The minimum thickness shall be found and measured.

NOTE Alternative test methods may be used, provided that they give equivalent results.