

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Short-circuit currents in three-phase AC systems –  
Part 3: Currents during two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits  
and partial short-circuit currents flowing through earth**

**Courants de court-circuit dans les réseaux triphasés à courant alternatif –  
Partie 3: Courants durant deux courts-circuits monophasés simultanés séparés  
à la terre et courants de court-circuit partiels s'écoulant à travers la terre**

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
1 Scope and object.....	7
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Terms and definitions .....	8
4 Symbols .....	10
5 Calculation of currents during two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits .....	12
5.1 Initial symmetrical short-circuit current .....	12
5.1.1 Determination of $\underline{M}_{(1)}$ and $\underline{M}_{(2)}$ .....	12
5.1.2 Simple cases of two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits.....	13
5.2 Peak short-circuit current, symmetrical short circuit breaking current and steady-state short-circuit current .....	13
5.3 Distribution of the currents during two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits.....	14
6 Calculation of partial short-circuit currents flowing through earth in case of an unbalanced short circuit.....	14
6.1 General.....	14
6.2 Line-to-earth short circuit inside a station.....	15
6.3 Line-to-earth short circuit outside a station.....	16
6.4 Line-to-earth short circuit in the vicinity of a station.....	18
6.4.1 Earth potential $\underline{U}_{ETn}$ at the tower $n$ outside station B .....	19
6.4.2 Earth potential of station B during a line-to earth short circuit at the tower $n$ .....	19
7 Reduction factor for overhead lines with earth wires.....	20
8 Calculation of current distribution and reduction factor in case of cables with metallic sheath or shield earthed at both ends .....	21
8.1 Overview .....	21
8.2 Three-core cable .....	22
8.2.1 Line-to-earth short circuit in station B .....	22
8.2.2 Line-to-earth short circuit on the cable between station A and station B.....	23
8.3 Three single-core cables .....	26
8.3.1 Line-to-earth short circuit in station B .....	26
8.3.2 Line-to-earth short circuit on the cable between station A and station B.....	26
Annex A (informative) Example for the calculation of two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short-circuit currents.....	30
Annex B (informative) Examples for the calculation of partial short-circuit currents through earth .....	33
Annex C (informative) Example for the calculation of the reduction factor $r_1$ and the current distribution through earth in case of a three-core cable .....	43
Annex D (informative) Example for the calculation of the reduction factor $r_3$ and the current distribution through earth in case of three single-core cables .....	48

Figure 1 – Driving point impedance $Z_P$ of an infinite chain, composed of the earth wire impedance $Z_Q = Z'_Q d_T$ and the footing resistance $R_T$ of the towers, with equal distances $d_T$ between the towers .....	9
Figure 2 – Driving point impedance $Z_{Pn}$ of a finite chain with $n$ towers, composed of the earth wire impedance $Z_Q = Z'_Q d_T$ , the footing resistance $R_T$ of the towers, with equal distances $d_T$ between the towers and the earthing impedance $Z_{EB}$ of station B from Equation (29) .....	10
Figure 3 – Characterisation of two separate simultaneous line-to earth short circuits and the currents $I''_{KEE}$ .....	12
Figure 4 – Partial short-circuit currents in case of a line-to-earth short circuit inside station B .....	15
Figure 5 – Partial short-circuit currents in case of a line-to-earth short circuit at a tower T of an overhead line .....	16
Figure 6 – Distribution of the total current to earth $I_{ETtot}$ .....	17
Figure 7 – Partial short-circuit currents in the case of a line-to-earth short circuit at a tower $n$ of an overhead line in the vicinity of station B .....	18
Figure 8 – Reduction factor $r$ for overhead lines with non-magnetic earth wires depending on soil resistivity $\rho$ .....	21
Figure 9 – Reduction factor of three-core power cables .....	23
Figure 10 – Reduction factors for three single-core power cables .....	27
Figure A.1 – Two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits on a single fed overhead line (see Table 1) .....	30
Figure B.1 – Line-to-earth short circuit inside station B – System diagram for stations A, B and C .....	34
Figure B.2 – Line-to-earth short circuit inside station B – Positive-, negative- and zero-sequence systems with connections at the short-circuit location F within station B .....	34
Figure B.3 – Line-to-earth short circuit outside stations B and C at the tower T of an overhead line – System diagram for stations A, B and C .....	36
Figure B.4 – Line-to-earth short circuit outside stations B and C at the tower T of an overhead line – Positive-, negative- and zero-sequence systems with connections at the short-circuit location F .....	37
Figure B.5 – Earth potentials $u_{ETn} = U_{ETn}/U_{ET}$ with $U_{ET} = 1,912$ kV and $u_{EBn} = U_{EBn}/U_{EB}$ with $U_{EB} = 0,972$ kV, if the line-to-earth short circuit occurs at the towers $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ in the vicinity of station B .....	42
Figure C.1 – Example for the calculation of the cable reduction factor and the current distribution through earth in a 10-kV-network, $U_n = 10$ kV; $c = 1,1$ ; $f = 50$ Hz .....	44
Figure C.2 – Short-circuit currents and partial short-circuit currents through earth for the example in Figure C.1 .....	45
Figure C.3 – Example for the calculation of current distribution in a 10-kV-network with a short circuit on the cable between A and B (data given in C.2.1 and Figure C.1) .....	46
Figure C.4 – Line-to-earth short-circuit currents, partial currents in the shield and partial currents through earth .....	47
Figure D.1 – Example for the calculation of the reduction factor and the current distribution in case of three single-core cables and a line-to-earth short circuit in station B .....	49
Figure D.2 – Positive-, negative- and zero-sequence system of the network in Figure D.1 with connections at the short-circuit location (station B) .....	50
Figure D.3 – Current distribution for the network in Figure D.1, depending on the length, $\ell$ , of the single-core cables between the stations A and B .....	51

Figure D.4 – Example for the calculation of the reduction factors  $r_3$  and the current distribution in case of three single-core cables and a line-to-earth short circuit between the stations A and B ..... 52

Figure D.5 – Positive-, negative- and zero-sequence system of the network in Figure D.4 with connections at the short-circuit location (anywhere between the stations A and B) ..... 52

Figure D.6 – Current distribution for the cable in Figure D.4 depending on  $\ell_A$ ,  $R_{EF} \rightarrow \infty$  ..... 54

Figure D.7 – Current distribution for the cable in Figure D.4 depending on  $\ell_A$ ,  $R_{EF} = 5 \Omega$  ..... 56

Table 1 – Calculation of initial line-to-earth short-circuit currents in simple cases ..... 13

Table 2 – Resistivity of the soil and equivalent earth penetration depth ..... 20

Table C.1 – Results for the example in Figure C.1 ..... 45

Table C.2 – Results for the example in Figure C.3,  $\ell = 5$  km ..... 47

Table C.3 – Results for the example in Figure C.3,  $\ell = 10$  km ..... 47

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**SHORT-CIRCUIT CURRENTS IN THREE-PHASE AC SYSTEMS –****Part 3: Currents during two separate simultaneous  
line-to-earth short circuits and partial short-circuit  
currents flowing through earth**

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60909-3 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 73: Short-circuit currents.

This International Standard is to be read in conjunction with IEC 60909-0.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2003. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- New procedures are introduced for the calculation of reduction factors of the sheaths or shields and in addition the current distribution through earth and the sheaths or shields of three-core cables or of three single-core cables with metallic non-magnetic sheaths or shields earthed at both ends;
- The information for the calculation of the reduction factor of overhead lines with earth wires are corrected and given in the new Clause 7;

- A new Clause 8 is introduced for the calculation of current distribution and reduction factor of three-core cables with metallic sheath or shield earthed at both ends;
- The new Annexes C and D provide examples for the calculation of reduction factors and current distribution in case of cables with metallic sheath and shield earthed at both ends.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
73/148/FDIS	73/149/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.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60909 series, published under the general title *Short-circuit currents in three-phase a.c. systems*, 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.

The contents of the corrigendum of September 2013 have been included in this copy.

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## SHORT-CIRCUIT CURRENTS IN THREE-PHASE AC SYSTEMS –

### Part 3: Currents during two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits and partial short-circuit currents flowing through earth

#### 1 Scope and object

This part of IEC 60909 specifies procedures for calculation of the prospective short-circuit currents with an unbalanced short circuit in high-voltage three-phase a.c. systems operating at nominal frequency 50 Hz or 60 Hz, i. e.:

- a) currents during two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits in isolated neutral or resonant earthed neutral systems;
- b) partial short-circuit currents flowing through earth in case of single line-to-earth short circuit in solidly earthed or low-impedance earthed neutral systems.

The currents calculated by these procedures are used when determining induced voltages or touch or step voltages and rise of earth potential at a station (power station or substation) and the towers of overhead lines.

Procedures are given for the calculation of reduction factors of overhead lines with one or two earth wires.

The standard does not cover:

- a) short-circuit currents deliberately created under controlled conditions as in short circuit testing stations, or
- b) short-circuit currents in the electrical installations on board ships or aeroplanes, or
- c) single line-to-earth fault currents in isolated or resonant earthed systems.

The object of this standard is to establish practical and concise procedures for the calculation of line-to-earth short-circuit currents during two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits and partial short-circuit currents through earth, earth wires of overhead lines and sheaths or shields of cables leading to conservative results with sufficient accuracy. For this purpose, the short-circuit currents are determined by considering an equivalent voltage source at the short-circuit location with all other voltage sources set to zero. Resistances of earth grids in stations or footing resistances of overhead line towers are neglected, when calculating the short-circuit currents at the short-circuit location.

This standard is an addition to IEC 60909-0. General definitions, symbols and calculation assumptions refer to that publication. Special items only are defined or specified in this standard.

The calculation of the short-circuit currents based on the rated data of the electrical equipment and the topological arrangement of the system has the advantage of being possible both for existing systems and for systems at the planning stage. The procedure is suitable for determination by manual methods or digital computation. This does not exclude the use of special methods, for example the super-position method, adjusted to particular circumstances, if they give at least the same precision.

As stated in IEC 60909-0, short-circuit currents and their parameters may also be determined by system tests.

## 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 60909-0:2001, *Short-circuit currents in three-phase a.c. systems – Part 0: Calculation of currents*

IEC/TR 60909-2:2008, *Short-circuit currents in three-phase a.c. systems – Part 2: Data of electrical equipment for short-circuit current calculations*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### **two separate simultaneous line-to earth short circuits**

line-to-earth short circuits at different locations at the same time on different conductors of a three-phase a.c. network having a resonant earthed or an isolated neutral

### 3.2

#### **initial short-circuit currents during two separate simultaneous line-to-earth**

##### **short circuits $I_{kEE}''$**

r.m.s value of the initial short-circuit currents flowing at both short-circuit locations with the same magnitude

### 3.3

#### **partial short-circuit current through earth $I_{E\delta}$**

r.m.s. value of the current flowing through earth in a fictive line in the equivalent earth penetration depth  $\delta$

NOTE In case of overhead lines remote from the short-circuit location and the earthing system of a station, where the distribution of the current between earthed conductors and earth is nearly constant, the current through earth depends on the reduction factor of the overhead line (Figures 4 and 5). In case of cables with metallic sheaths or shields, earthed at both ends in the stations A and B, current through earth between the stations A and B (Figures 9a) and 10a)), respectively between the short-circuit location and the stations A or B (Figures 9b) and 10b)).

### 3.4

#### **total current to earth $I_{ETtot}$ at the short-circuit location on the tower T of an overhead line**

r. m. s. value of the current flowing to earth through the footing resistance of an overhead line tower far away from a station connected with the driving point impedances of the overhead line at both sides, see Figure 5

### 3.5

#### **total current to earth $I_{EBtot}$ at the short-circuit location in the station B**

r.m.s. value of the current flowing to earth through the earthing system of a station B (power station or substation) with connected earthed conductors (earth wires of overhead lines or sheaths or shields or armouring of cables or other earthed conductors as for instance metallic water pipes), see Figure 4

### 3.6

#### **current to earth $I_{ETn}$**

r.m.s. value of the current flowing to earth causing the potential rise at an overhead line tower  $n$  in the vicinity of a station

### 3.7

#### current to earth $I_{EBn}$

r.m.s. value of the current flowing to earth causing the potential rise  $U_{EBn}$  of a station B, in case of a line-to-earth short circuit at an overhead line tower  $n$  in the vicinity of the station B

### 3.8

#### reduction factor $r$

for overhead lines, which determines the part of the line-to-earth short-circuit current flowing through the earth remote from the short-circuit location and the earthing systems of the stations

### 3.9

#### reduction factor $r_1$

for three-core cables with metallic sheath or shield earthed at both ends

### 3.10

#### reduction factor $r_3$

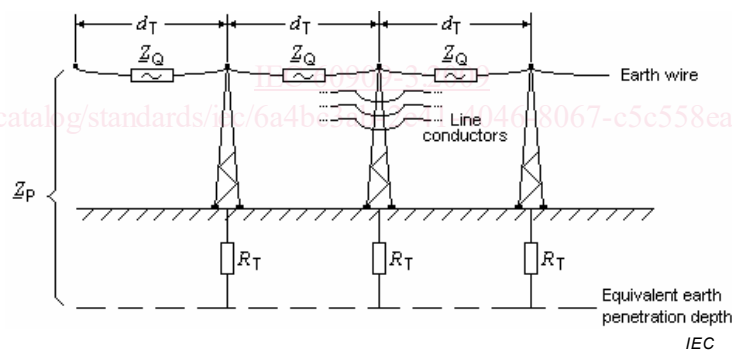
for three single-core cables with metallic sheaths or shields earthed at both ends

### 3.11

#### driving point impedance $Z_P$ of an infinite chain

composed of the earth-wire impedance  $Z_Q$  between two towers with earth return and the footing resistance  $R_T$  of the overhead line towers (Figure 1):

$$Z_P = 0,5Z_Q + \sqrt{(0,5Z_Q)^2 + R_T Z_Q} \quad (1)$$



**Figure 1 – Driving point impedance  $Z_P$  of an infinite chain, composed of the earth wire impedance  $Z_Q = Z_Q d_T$  and the footing resistance  $R_T$  of the towers, with equal distances  $d_T$  between the towers**

The driving point impedance  $Z_P$  can be assumed constant at a distance from the short-circuit location F longer than the far-from-station distance  $D_F$  defined by Equation (19).

### 3.12

#### driving point impedance $Z_{Pn}$ of a finite chain

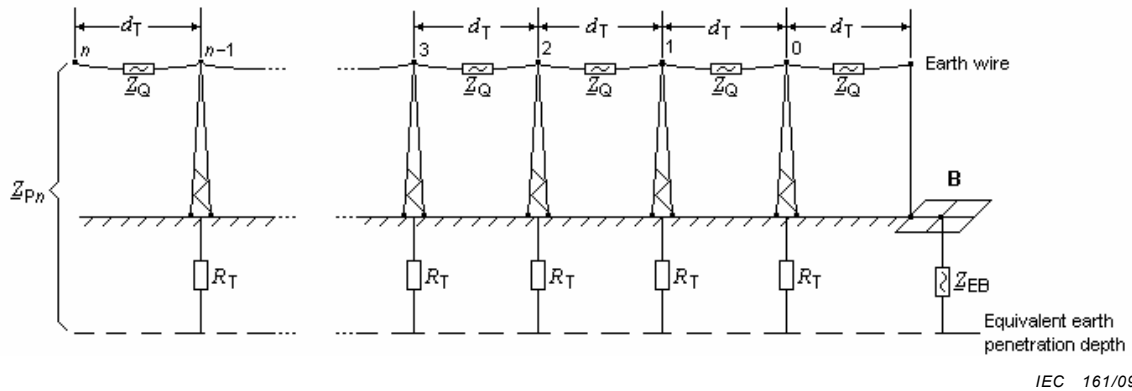
with  $n$  towers of an overhead line as given in Figure 2 and with the impedance  $Z_{EB}$  at the end, calculated according to Equation (2).

$$Z_{Pn} = \frac{Z_P(Z_{EB} + Z_P)k^n + (Z_P - Z_Q)(Z_{EB} - Z_P + Z_Q)k^{-n}}{(Z_{EB} + Z_P)k^n - (Z_{EB} - Z_P + Z_Q)k^{-n}} \quad (2)$$

with

$$\underline{k} = 1 + \frac{\underline{Z}_P}{R_T} \tag{3}$$

NOTE For  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , Equation (2) is leading to Equation (1). In practical cases, this is true already for  $n \approx 10 \dots 15$ .



**Figure 2 – Driving point impedance  $\underline{Z}_{Pn}$  of a finite chain with  $n$  towers, composed of the earth wire impedance  $\underline{Z}_Q = \underline{Z}'_Q d_T$ , the footing resistance  $R_T$  of the towers, with equal distances  $d_T$  between the towers and the earthing impedance  $\underline{Z}_{EB}$  of station B from Equation (29)**

#### 4 Symbols

All equations are written as quantity equations, in which the symbols represent physical quantities possessing both numerical values and dimensions. Symbols of complex quantities are underlined in the text and equations of this standard.

- $cU_n / \sqrt{3}$  Equivalent voltage source (IEC 60909-0)
- $D_F$  Far-from-station distance (Equation (19))
- $d_T$  Distance between two towers
- $d_{L1L2}$  Distance between the line conductors L1 and L2
- $d_{Q1Q2}$  Distance between the earth wires Q1 and Q2
- $I_{bEE}$  Short circuit breaking current in case of two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits
- $I_E$  Current flowing to earth ( $I_{EA}$ ,  $I_{EB}$ ,  $I_{EC}$  and  $I_{ET}$  in the Figures 4, 5, 7)
- $I_{EBn}$  Current to earth in station B with a short-circuited tower  $n$  in the vicinity of station B (Figure 7)
- $I_{EBtot}$  Total current to earth in the station B if a short circuit with earth connection occurs in station B (Figure 4)
- $I_{ETn}$  Current to earth at the short-circuited tower  $n$  in the vicinity of a station (Figure 7)
- $I_{ETtot}$  Total current to earth at a short-circuited tower T far away from stations (see Figure 5)
- $I''_{KEE}$  Initial symmetrical short-circuit current in case of two separate simultaneous line-to-earth short circuits
- $I''_{KE2E}$  Initial symmetrical short-circuit current flowing to earth in the case of a line-to-line short circuit with earth connection (IEC 60909-0)