IEC 61508-4

Edition 2.0 2010-04

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

PUBLICATION FONDAMENTALE DE SÉCURITÉ

Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems – Part 4: Definitions and abbreviations

Sécurité fonctionnelle des systèmes électriques/électroniques/électroniques programmables relatifs à la sécurité – Partie 4: Définitions et abréviations

IEC 61508-4:2010

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

COMMISSION ELECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE
CODE PRIX

V

ICS 25.040.40; 29.020

ISBN 978-2-88910-527-4

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

FUNCTIONAL SAFETY OF ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC/ PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRONIC SAFETY-RELATED SYSTEMS –

Part 4: Definitions and abbreviations

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61508-4 has been prepared by subcommittee 65A: System aspects, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement, control and automation.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1998. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition has been subject to a thorough review and incorporates many comments received at the various revision stages.

It has the status of a basic safety publication according to IEC Guide 104.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
65A/551/FDIS	65A/575/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 61508 series, published under the general title *Functional safety of electrical / electronic / programmable electronic safety-related systems*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication 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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

INTRODUCTION

Systems comprised of electrical and/or electronic elements have been used for many years to perform safety functions in most application sectors. Computer-based systems (generically referred to as programmable electronic systems) are being used in all application sectors to perform non-safety functions and, increasingly, to perform safety functions. If computer system technology is to be effectively and safely exploited, it is essential that those responsible for making decisions have sufficient guidance on the safety aspects on which to make these decisions.

This International Standard sets out a generic approach for all safety lifecycle activities for systems comprised of electrical and/or electronic and/or programmable electronic (E/E/PE) elements that are used to perform safety functions. This unified approach has been adopted in order that a rational and consistent technical policy be developed for all electrically-based safety-related systems. A major objective is to facilitate the development of product and application sector international standards based on the IEC 61508 series.

NOTE 1 Examples of product and application sector international standards based on the IEC 61508 series are given in the Bibliography (see references [1], [2] and [3]).

In most situations, safety is achieved by a number of systems which rely on many technologies (for example mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, electronic, programmable electronic). Any safety strategy must therefore consider not only all the elements within an individual system (for example sensors, controlling devices and actuators) but also all the safety-related systems making up the total combination of safety-related systems. Therefore, while this International Standard is concerned with E/E/PE safety-related systems, it may also provide a framework within which safety-related systems based on other technologies may be considered.

It is recognized that there is a great variety of applications using E/E/PE safety-related systems in a variety of application sectors and covering a wide range of complexity, hazard and risk potentials. In any particular application, the required safety measures will be dependent on many factors specific to the application. This International Standard, by being generic, will enable such measures to be formulated in future product and application sector international standards and in revisions of those that already exist.

This International Standard

– considers all relevant overall, E/E/PE system and software safety lifecycle phases (for example, from initial concept, though design, implementation, operation and maintenance to decommissioning) when E/E/PE systems are used to perform safety functions;
– has been conceived with a rapidly developing technology in mind; the framework is sufficiently robust and comprehensive to cater for future developments;
– enables product and application sector international standards, dealing with E/E/PE safety-related systems, to be developed; the development of product and application sector international standards, within the framework of this standard, should lead to a high level of consistency (for example, of underlying principles, terminology etc.) both within application sectors and across application sectors; this will have both safety and economic benefits;
– provides a method for the development of the safety requirements specification necessary to achieve the required functional safety for E/E/PE safety-related systems;
– adopts a risk-based approach by which the safety integrity requirements can be determined;
– introduces safety integrity levels for specifying the target level of safety integrity for the safety functions to be implemented by the E/E/PE safety-related systems;

NOTE 2 The standard does not specify the safety integrity level requirements for any safety function, nor does it mandate how the safety integrity level is determined. Instead it provides a risk-based conceptual framework and example techniques.

– sets target failure measures for safety functions carried out by E/E/PE safety-related systems, which are linked to the safety integrity levels;

– sets a lower limit on the target failure measures for a safety function carried out by a single E/E/PE safety-related system. For E/E/PE safety-related systems operating in

  – a low demand mode of operation, the lower limit is set at an average probability of a dangerous failure on demand of 10^{-5};

  – a high demand or a continuous mode of operation, the lower limit is set at an average frequency of a dangerous failure of 10^{-9} [h^{-1}];

NOTE 3 A single E/E/PE safety-related system does not necessarily mean a single-channel architecture.

NOTE 4 It may be possible to achieve designs of safety-related systems with lower values for the target safety integrity for non-complex systems, but these limits are considered to represent what can be achieved for relatively complex systems (for example programmable electronic safety-related systems) at the present time.

– sets requirements for the avoidance and control of systematic faults, which are based on experience and judgement from practical experience gained in industry. Even though the probability of occurrence of systematic failures cannot in general be quantified the standard does, however, allow a claim to be made, for a specified safety function, that the target failure measure associated with the safety function can be considered to be achieved if all the requirements in the standard have been met;

– introduces systematic capability which applies to an element with respect to its confidence that the systematic safety integrity meets the requirements of the specified safety integrity level;

– adopts a broad range of principles, techniques and measures to achieve functional safety for E/E/PE safety-related systems, but does not explicitly use the concept of fail safe However, the concepts of “fail safe” and “inherently safe” principles may be applicable and adoption of such concepts is acceptable providing the requirements of the relevant clauses in the standard are met.

FUNCTIONAL SAFETY OF ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC/ PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRONIC SAFETY-RELATED SYSTEMS –

Part 4: Definitions and abbreviations

1 Scope

1.1 This part of IEC 61508 contains the definitions and explanation of terms that are used in parts 1 to 7 of the IEC 61508 series of standards.

1.2 The definitions are grouped under general headings so that related terms can be understood within the context of each other. However, it should be noted that these headings are not intended to add meaning to the definitions.

1.3 IEC 61508-1, IEC 61508-2, IEC 61508-3 and IEC 61508-4 are basic safety publications, although this status does not apply in the context of low complexity E/E/PE safety-related systems (see 3.4.3 of IEC 61508-4). As basic safety publications, they are intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles contained in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51. IEC 61508-1, IEC 61508-2, IEC 61508-3 and IEC 61508-4 are also intended for use as stand-alone publications. The horizontal safety function of this international standard does not apply to medical equipment in compliance with the IEC 60601 series.

1.4 One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. In this context, the requirements, test methods or test conditions of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the publications prepared by those technical committees.

1.5 Figure 1 shows the overall framework of the IEC 61508 series and indicates the role that IEC 61508-4 plays in the achievement of functional safety for E/E/PE safety-related systems.

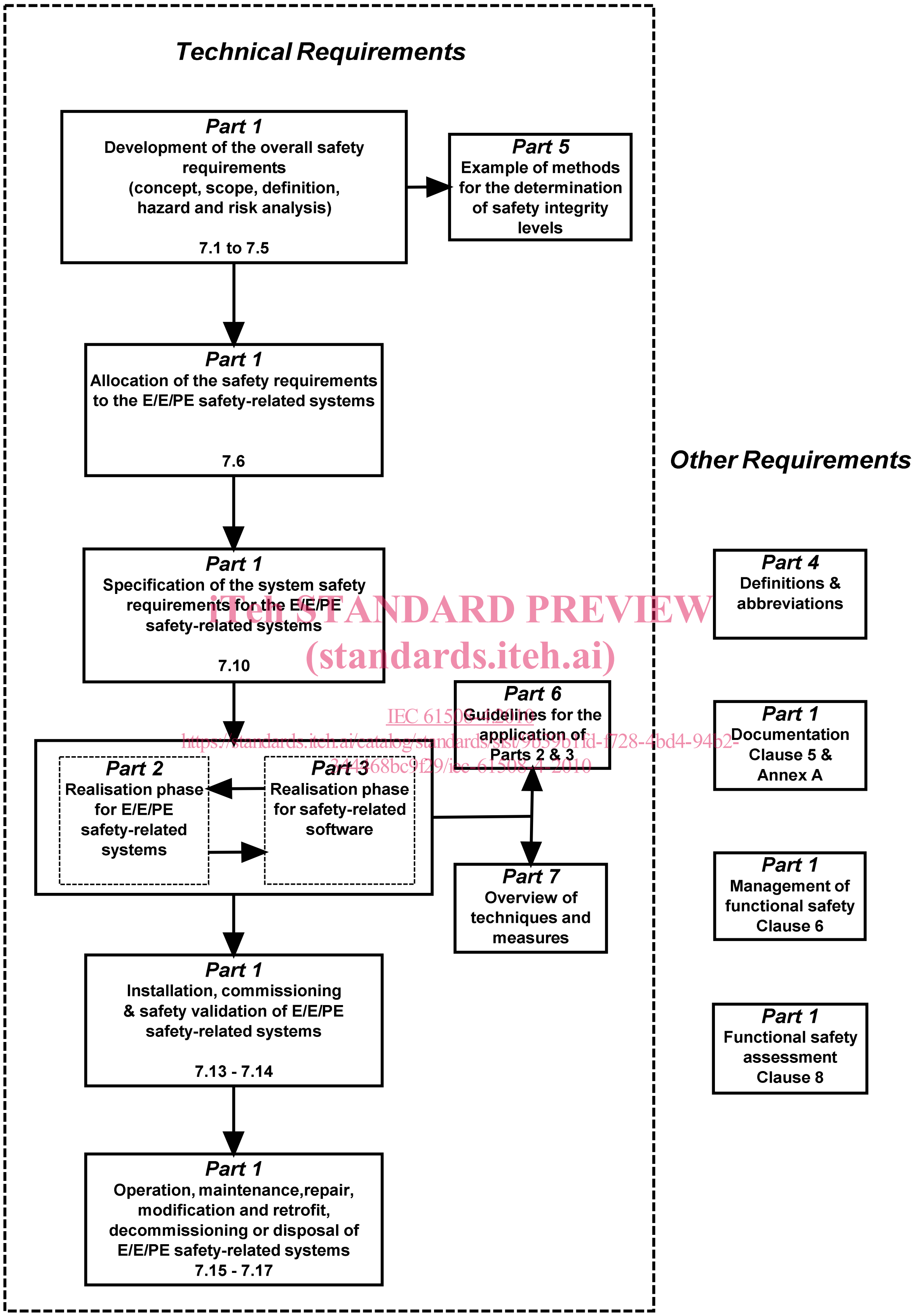

Figure 1 – Overall framework of the IEC 61508 series

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 Guide 104:1997, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*

3 Definitions and abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the definitions and the abbreviations given in Table 1 below, as well as the following apply.

Table 1 – Abbreviations used in this standard

Abbreviation	Full expression	Definition and/or explanation of term
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable	IEC 61508-5, Annex C
ASIC	Application Specific Integrated Circuit	3.2.15
CCF	Common Cause Failure	3.6.10
CPLD	Complex Programmable Logic Device	
DC	Diagnostic Coverage	3.8.6
(E)EPLD	(Electrically) Erasable Programmable Logic Device	
E/E/PE	Electrical/Electronic/Programmable Electronic	3.2.13, example: E/E/PE safety-related system
E/E/PE (system)	Electrical/Electronic/Programmable Electronic System	3.3.2
EEPROM	Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory	
EPROM	Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory	
EUC	Equipment Under Control	3.2.1
FPGA	Field Programmable Gate Array	
GAL	Generic Array Logic	
HFT	Hardware Fault Tolerance	7.4.4 of IEC 61508-2
MooN	M out of N channel architecture (for example 1oo2 is 1 out of 2 architecture, where either of the two channels can perform the safety function)	IEC 61508-6, Annex B
MooND	M out of N channel architecture with Diagnostics	IEC 61508-6, Annex B
MTBF	Mean Time Between Failures	3.6.19, NOTE 3
MTTR	Mean Time To Repair	3.6.21
MRT	Mean Repair Time	3.6.22
PAL	Programmable Array Logic	
PE	Programmable Electronic	3.2.12
PE(system)	Programmable Electronic	3.3.1
PFD	Probability of Dangerous Failure on Demand	3.6.17
PFD_{avg}	Average Probability of dangerous Failure on Demand	3.6.18
PFH	Average frequency of dangerous failure [h^{-1}]	3.6.19
PLA	Programmable Logic Array	

Abbreviation	Full expression	Definition and/or explanation of term
PLC	Programmable Logic Controller	IEC 61508-6, Annex E
PLD	Programmable Logic Device	
PLS	Programmable Logic Sequencer	
PML	Programmable Macro Logic	
RAM	Random Access Memory	
ROM	Read-Only Memory	
SFF	Safe Failure Fraction	3.6.15
SIL	Safety Integrity Level	3.5.8
VHDL	Very High Speed Integrated Circuit Hardware Description Language	IEC 61508-2, Annex F, Note 5

3.1 Safety terms

3.1.1
harm
physical injury or damage to the health of people or damage to property or the environment

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.3]

3.1.2
hazard
potential source of harm

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.5]

NOTE The term includes danger to persons arising within a short time scale (for example, fire and explosion) and also those that have a long-term effect on a person's health (for example, release of a toxic substance).

3.1.3
hazardous situation
circumstance in which people, property or the environment are exposed to one or more hazards

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.6, modified]

3.1.4
hazardous event
event that may result in harm

NOTE Whether or not a hazardous event results in harm depends on whether people, property or the environment are exposed to the consequence of the hazardous event and, in the case of harm to people, whether any such exposed people can escape the consequences of the event after it has occurred.

3.1.5
harmful event
occurrence in which a hazardous situation or hazardous event results in harm

NOTE Adapted from ISO/IEC Guide 51, definition 3.4, to allow for a hazardous event.

3.1.6
risk
combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.2]

NOTE For more discussion on this concept see Annex A of IEC 61508-5.

3.1.7
tolerable risk
risk which is accepted in a given context based on the current values of society

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.7]

NOTE See Annex C of IEC 61508-5.

3.1.8
residual risk
risk remaining after protective measures have been taken

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.9]

3.1.9
EUC risk
risk arising from the EUC or its interaction with the EUC control system

NOTE 1 The risk in this context is that associated with the specific harmful event in which E/E/PE safety-related systems and other risk reduction measures are to be used to provide the necessary risk reduction, (i.e. the risk associated with functional safety).

NOTE 2 The EUC risk is indicated in Figure A.1 of IEC 61508-5. The main purpose of determining the EUC risk is to establish a reference point for the risk without taking into account E/E/PE safety-related systems and other risk reduction measures.

NOTE 3 Assessment of this risk will include associated human factor issues.

3.1.10
target risk
risk that is intended to be reached for a specific hazard taking into account the EUC risk together with the E/E/PE safety-related systems and the other risk reduction measures

3.1.11
safety
freedom from unacceptable risk

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.1]

3.1.12
functional safety
part of the overall safety relating to the EUC and the EUC control system that depends on the correct functioning of the E/E/PE safety-related systems and other risk reduction measures

3.1.13
safe state
state of the EUC when safety is achieved

NOTE In going from a potentially hazardous condition to the final safe state, the EUC may have to go through a number of intermediate safe states. For some situations a safe state exists only so long as the EUC is continuously controlled. Such continuous control may be for a short or an indefinite period of time.

3.1.14
reasonably foreseeable misuse
use of a product, process or service in a way not intended by the supplier, but which may result from readily predictable human behaviour

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.14]

3.2 Equipment and devices

3.2.1
equipment under control
EUC
equipment, machinery, apparatus or plant used for manufacturing, process, transportation, medical or other activities

NOTE The EUC control system is separate and distinct from the EUC.

3.2.2
environment
all relevant parameters that can affect the achievement of functional safety in the specific application under consideration and in any safety lifecycle phase

NOTE This would include, for example, physical environment, operating environment, legal environment and maintenance environment.

3.2.3
functional unit
entity of hardware or software, or both, capable of accomplishing a specified purpose
[ISO/IEC 2382-1, 01-01-40]

NOTE In IEV 191-01-01 the more general term “item” is used in place of functional unit. An item may sometimes include people.

3.2.4
application
task related to the EUC rather than to the E/E/PE system

3.2.5
software
intellectual creation comprising the programs, procedures, data, rules and any associated documentation pertaining to the operation of a data processing system

NOTE 1 Software is independent of the medium on which it is recorded.

NOTE 2 This definition without Note 1 differs from ISO/IEC 2382-1 (reference [7] in the Bibliography) by the addition of the word data.

3.2.6
system software
part of the software of a PE system that relates to the functioning of, and services provided by, the programmable device itself, as opposed to the application software that specifies the functions that perform a task related to the safety of the EUC

NOTE Refer to IEC 61508-7 for examples.

3.2.7
application software
application data
configuration data
part of the software of a programmable electronic system that specifies the functions that perform a task related to the EUC rather than the functioning of, and services provided by the programmable device itself

3.2.8
pre-existing software
software element which already exists and is not developed specifically for the current project or safety-related system.

NOTE The software could be a commercially available product, or it could have been developed by some organisation for a previous product or system. Pre-existing software may or may not have been developed in accordance with the requirements of this standard.

3.2.9
data
information represented in a manner suitable for communication, interpretation, or processing by computers

NOTE 1 Data may take the form of static information (for example configuration of a set point or a representation of geographical information) or it may take the form of instructions to specify a sequence of pre-existing functions.

NOTE 2 Refer to IEC 61508-7 for examples.

3.2.10
software on-line support tool
software tool that can directly influence the safety-related system during its run time

3.2.11
software off-line support tool
software tool that supports a phase of the software development lifecycle and that cannot directly influence the safety-related system during its run time. Software off-line tools may be divided into the following classes:

– **T1**
generates no outputs which can directly or indirectly contribute to the executable code (including data) of the safety related system;

NOTE 1 T1 examples include: a text editor or a requirements or design support tool with no automatic code generation capabilities; configuration control tools.

– **T2**
supports the test or verification of the design or executable code, where errors in the tool can fail to reveal defects but cannot directly create errors in the executable software;

NOTE 2 T2 examples include: a test harness generator; a test coverage measurement tool; a static analysis tool.

– **T3**
generates outputs which can directly or indirectly contribute to the executable code of the safety related system.

NOTE 3 T3 examples include: an optimising compiler where the relationship between the source code program and the generated object code is not obvious; a compiler that incorporates an executable run-time package into the executable code.

3.2.12
programmable electronic
PE
based on computer technology which may be comprised of hardware, software, and of input and/or output units

NOTE This term covers microelectronic devices based on one or more central processing units (CPUs) together with associated memories, etc.

EXAMPLE The following are all programmable electronic devices:

– microprocessors;

– micro-controllers;

– programmable controllers;

– application specific integrated circuits (ASICs);

– programmable logic controllers (PLCs);

– other computer-based devices (for example smart sensors, transmitters, actuators).