

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear –
Part 7-1: Ancillary equipment – Terminal blocks for copper conductors
(standards.iteh.ai)

Appareillage à basse tension –
Partie 7-1: Matériels accessoires – Blocs de jonction pour conducteurs en cuivre
IEC 60947-7-1:2009
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LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

**Part 7-1: Ancillary equipment –
Terminal blocks for copper conductors**

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International Standard IEC 60947-7-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 17B: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear, of IEC technical committee 17: Switchgear and controlgear.

This third edition of IEC 60947-7-1 cancels and replaces the second edition, published in 2002, and constitutes a technical revision.

The main technical modifications of this standard since this previous publication are listed below:

- added in the scope that this standard may be used as a guide for special types of terminal blocks, for example with diodes or varistors or similar component holders;
- the conventional free air thermal current added in 5.2 in the list of information to be stated by the manufacturer;
- update of 7.1.4 that the colour combination green-yellow is not allowed for terminal blocks;
- the consequences in case of failed single tests and failed tests within test sequences specified in 8.2;

- requirements regarding clearances and creepage distances replaced by reference to Annex H of IEC 60947-1, Annex A deleted;
- requirements for tightening torques for the tests improved and referenced to Table 4 of IEC 60947-1, Annex C deleted;
- in 8.3.3.3 changed reference for pull-out force to IEC 60947-1;
- the wording of the test of the voltage drop improved in 8.4.4;
- the wording of the short-time withstand current test improved in 8.4.6;
- Annex D with additional requirements for test disconnect terminal blocks added. The scope modified accordingly.

This standard shall be read in conjunction with IEC 60947-1. The provisions of the general rules dealt with in IEC 60947-1 are applicable to this standard, where specifically called for. Clauses and subclauses, tables, figures and annexes thus applicable are identified by reference to IEC 60947-1, e.g. 1.2 of IEC 60947-1, Table 4 of IEC 60947-1 or Annex A of IEC 60947-1.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
17B/1654/FDIS	17B/1668/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 the parts in the IEC 60947 series, under the general title *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear*, 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.

LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

Part 7-1: Ancillary equipment – Terminal blocks for copper conductors

1 General

1.1 Scope

This part of IEC 60947 specifies requirements for terminal blocks with screw-type or screw-less-type clamping units primarily intended for industrial or similar use and to be fixed to a support to provide electrical and mechanical connection between copper conductors. It applies to terminal blocks intended to connect round copper conductors, with or without special preparation, having a cross-section between 0,2 mm² and 300 mm² (AWG 24/600 kcmil), intended to be used in circuits of a rated voltage not exceeding 1 000 V a.c. up to 1 000 Hz or 1 500 V d.c.

NOTE AWG is the abbreviation of “American Wire Gage” (Gage (US) = Gauge (UK))

kcmil = 1 000 cmil;

1 cmil = 1 circular mil = surface of a circle having a diameter of 1 mil

1 mil = 1/1 000 inch

This standard may be used as a guide for

- terminal blocks requiring the fixing of special devices to the conductors, for example quick connect terminations or wrapped connections, etc.;
- terminal blocks providing direct contact to the conductors by means of edges or points penetrating the insulation, for example insulation displacement connections, etc.;
- special types of terminal blocks, for example with diodes or varistors or similar component holders, etc.

Where applicable in this standard, the term “clamping unit” has been used instead of the term “terminal”. This is taken into account in case of reference to IEC 60947-1.

1.2 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 60695-11-5:2004, *Fire hazard testing – Part 11-5: Test flames – Needle-flame test method – Apparatus, confirmatory test arrangement and guidance*

IEC 60947-1:2007, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 1: General rules*

ISO 4046-4:2002, *Paper, board, pulp and related terms – Vocabulary – Part 4: Paper and board grades and covered products*

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the definitions given in IEC 60947-1, together with the following definitions, apply.

2.1

terminal block

insulating part carrying one or more mutually insulated terminal assemblies and intended to be fixed to a support

2.2

rated cross-section

value of the maximum cross-section of all connectable types of conductors, rigid (solid and stranded) and flexible, stated by the manufacturer, and to which certain thermal, mechanical and electrical requirements are referred

2.3

rated connecting capacity

range of cross-sections and, if applicable, the number of connectable conductors, for which the terminal block is designed

2.4

terminal assembly

two or more clamping units fixed to the same conductive part

3 Classification

Distinction is made between various types of terminal blocks as follows:

- method of fixing the terminal block to the support;
- number of poles;
- type of clamping units: screw-type clamping units or screwless-type clamping units;
- ability to receive prepared conductors (see 2.3.27 of IEC 60947-1);
- terminal assemblies with identical or dissimilar clamping units;
- number of clamping units on each terminal assembly;
- service conditions.

4 Characteristics

4.1 Summary of characteristics

The characteristics of a terminal block are as follows:

- type of terminal block (see 4.2);
- rated and limiting values (see 4.3).

4.2 Type of terminal block

The following shall be stated:

- type of clamping units (e.g. screw-type, screwless-type);
- number of clamping units.

4.3 Rated and limiting values

4.3.1 Rated voltages

Subclauses 4.3.1.2 and 4.3.1.3 of IEC 60947-1 apply.

4.3.2 Short-time withstand current

A specified r.m.s. value of current which a terminal block shall be able to withstand during a specified short-time under prescribed conditions of use and behaviour (see 7.2.3 and 8.4.6).

4.3.3 Standard cross-sections

The standard values of cross-sections of round copper conductors to be used are contained in Table 1.

Table 1 – Standard cross-sections of round copper conductors

Metric size ISO mm ²	Comparison between AWG/kcmil and metric sizes	
	Size AWG/kcmil	Equivalent metric area mm ²
0,2	24	0,205
0,34	22	0,324
0,5	20	0,519
0,75	18	0,82
1	–	–
1,5	16	1,3
2,5	14	2,1
4	12	3,3
6	10	5,3
10	8	8,4
16	6	13,3
25	4	21,2
35	2	33,6
50	0	53,5
70	00	67,4
95	000	85
–	0000	107,2
120	250 kcmil	127
150	300 kcmil	152
185	350 kcmil	177
240	500 kcmil	253
300	600 kcmil	304

4.3.4 Rated cross-section

The rated cross-section shall be selected from the standard cross-sections given in Table 1.

4.3.5 Rated connecting capacity

For terminal blocks with a rated cross-section between 0,2 mm² and 35 mm² inclusive, the minimum range contained in Table 2 applies. The conductors may be rigid (solid or stranded) or flexible. The manufacturer shall state the types and the maximum and minimum cross-sections of conductors that can be connected and, if applicable, the number of conductors simultaneously connectable to each clamping unit. The manufacturer shall also state any necessary preparation of the end of the conductor.

Table 2 – Relationship between rated cross-section and rated connecting capacity of terminal blocks

Rated cross-section		Rated connecting capacity	
mm ²	AWG	mm ²	AWG
0,2	24	0,2	24
0,34	22	0,2 – 0,34	24 – 22
0,5	20	0,2 – 0,34 – 0,5	24 – 22 – 20
0,75	18	0,34 – 0,5 – 0,75	22 – 20 – 18
1	–	0,5 – 0,75 – 1	–
1,5	16	0,75 – 1 – 1,5	20 – 18 – 16
2,5	14	1 – 1,5 – 2,5	18 – 16 – 14
4	12	1,5 – 2,5 – 4	16 – 14 – 12
6	10	2,5 – 4 – 6	14 – 12 – 10
10	8	4 – 6 – 10	12 – 10 – 8
16	6	6 – 10 – 16	10 – 8 – 6
25	4	10 – 16 – 25	8 – 6 – 4
35	2	16 – 25 – 35	6 – 4 – 2

5 Product information

5.1 Marking

A terminal block shall be marked in a durable and legible manner with the following:

- the name of the manufacturer or a trade mark by which the manufacturer can be readily identified;
- a type reference permitting its identification in order to obtain relevant information from the manufacturer or his catalogue.

5.2 Additional information

The following information shall be stated by the manufacturer, if applicable, e.g. in the manufacturer's data sheet or his catalogue or on the packing unit:

- IEC 60947-7-1, if the manufacturer claims compliance with this standard;
- the rated cross-section;
- the rated connecting capacity, if different from Table 2, including the number of conductors simultaneously connectable;
- the rated insulation voltage (U_i);
- the rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp}), when determined;
- service conditions, if different from those of Clause 6;

g) conventional free air thermal current (I_{th}).

NOTE The conventional free air thermal current (I_{th}) is the maximum value of test current to be used for temperature-rise tests of unenclosed equipment in free air, see 4.3.2.1 of IEC 60947-1.

6 Normal service, mounting and transport conditions

Clause 6 of IEC 60947-1 applies.

7 Constructional and performance requirements

7.1 Constructional requirements

7.1.1 Clamping units

Subclause 7.1.8.1 of IEC 60947-1 applies with the following additions.

The clamping units shall allow the conductors to be connected by means ensuring that a reliable mechanical linkage and electrical contact is properly maintained.

NOTE Screw-type clamping units are not suitable for the connection of flexible conductors with tin soldered ends.

The clamping units shall be able to withstand the forces that can be applied through the connected conductors.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the tests of 8.3.3.1, 8.3.3.2 and 8.3.3.3.

No contact pressure shall be transmitted through insulating materials other than ceramic, or other material with characteristics not less suitable, unless there is sufficient resiliency in the metallic parts to compensate for any possible shrinkage of the insulating material.

The corresponding test is under consideration.

7.1.2 Mounting

Terminal blocks shall be provided with means that allow them to be securely attached to a rail or a mounting surface.

Tests shall be made in accordance with 8.3.2.

NOTE Information on mounting on rails can be found in IEC 60715.

7.1.3 Clearances and creepage distances

For terminal blocks for which the manufacturer has stated values of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp}) and rated insulation voltage (U_i), minimum values of clearances and creepage distances are given in Tables 13 and 15 of IEC 60947-1.

For terminal blocks for which the manufacturer has not declared a value of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp}), guidance for minimum values is given in Annex H of IEC 60947-1.

Electrical requirements are given in 7.2.2.

7.1.4 Terminal identification and marking

Subclause 7.1.8.4 of IEC 60947-1 applies with the following addition.

A terminal block shall have provision, or at least space, for identification marks or numbers for each clamping unit or terminal assembly related to the circuit of which it forms a part.

For the identification of the terminal blocks the colour combination green-yellow is not allowed.

NOTE Such provision may consist of separate marking items, such as marking tags, identification labels, etc.

7.1.5 Resistance to abnormal heat and fire

The insulation materials of terminal blocks shall not be adversely affected by abnormal heat and fire.

Subclause 7.1.2.2 of IEC 60947-1 does not apply except for the Note.

Compliance is checked by the needle flame test according to IEC 60695-11-5 as specified in 8.5 of this standard.

7.1.6 Rated cross-section and rated connecting capacity

Terminal blocks shall be so designed that conductors of the rated cross-section and the rated connecting capacity, if applicable, can be accepted.

Compliance is checked by the test described in 8.3.3.4.

The verification of the rated cross-section may be performed by the special test according to 8.3.3.5.

7.2 Performance requirements [IEC 60947-7-1:2009](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1d1e4521-c2c9-4bf5-9c84-8be14e5cce673/iec-60947-7-1-2009)

7.2.1 Temperature rise <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/1d1e4521-c2c9-4bf5-9c84-8be14e5cce673/iec-60947-7-1-2009>

Terminal blocks shall be tested in accordance with 8.4.5. The temperature-rise of the terminals shall not exceed 45 K.

7.2.2 Dielectric properties

If the manufacturer has declared a value of the rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp}) (see 4.3.1.3 of IEC 60947-1), the requirements of 7.2.3 and 7.2.3.1 of IEC 60947-1 apply. If applicable, the impulse withstand voltage test shall be carried out in accordance with 8.4.3 a).

For the verification of solid insulation, the requirements of 7.2.3, 7.2.3.2 and 7.2.3.5 of IEC 60947-1 apply. The power-frequency withstand voltage test shall be carried out in accordance with 8.4.3 b).

The verification of sufficient clearances and creepage distances shall be made in accordance with 8.4.2.

For terminal blocks for which the manufacturer has not declared a value of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp}), guidance for minimum values is given in Annex H of IEC 60947-1.

7.2.3 Short-time withstand current

A terminal block shall be capable of withstanding for 1 s the short-time withstand current which corresponds to 120 A/mm² of its rated cross-section, in accordance with 8.4.6.

7.2.4 Voltage drop

The voltage drop on a terminal block caused by the conductor connection, measured according to 8.4.4, shall not exceed the values specified in 8.4.4 and, where applicable, in 8.4.7.

7.2.5 Electrical performance after ageing (for screwless-type terminal blocks only)

Terminal blocks shall be capable of withstanding the ageing test comprising 192 temperature cycles in accordance with 8.4.7.

7.3 Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC)

Subclause 7.3 of IEC 60947-1 applies.

8 Tests

8.1 Kinds of test

Subclause 8.1.1 of IEC 60947-1 applies with the following addition.

No routine tests are specified. The verification of the rated cross-section according to 8.3.3.5 is a special test. All other tests are type tests.

8.2 General

Unless otherwise specified, terminal blocks are tested in new and in clean condition, and installed as for normal use (see 6.3 of IEC 60947-1) at an ambient temperature of (20 ± 5) °C.

NOTE "Normal use" means that five terminal blocks are mounted on their support, the remaining open side closed by an end plate and fixed by end brackets, if applicable.

The tests are carried out in the same order in which the subclauses describe them.

Each test is made on new separate specimens.

The tests of 8.3.3.2 and 8.3.3.3 are made on the same specimens.

The surface of the conductors shall be free of contamination and corrosion which degrades performance.

Care shall be taken when stripping conductors to avoid cutting, nicking, scraping or otherwise damaging the conductors.

In cases where the manufacturer has stated that special preparation of the end of the conductor is necessary, the test report shall indicate the method of preparation used.

The tests are carried out with the type of conductor (rigid or flexible) as stated by the manufacturer.

If one of the terminal blocks does not withstand one of the tests, this test shall be repeated on a second set of terminal blocks, all of which shall then comply with the repeated test. If this test is part of a test sequence, the complete test sequence shall be repeated.

8.3 Verification of mechanical characteristics

8.3.1 General

The verification of mechanical characteristics includes the following tests:

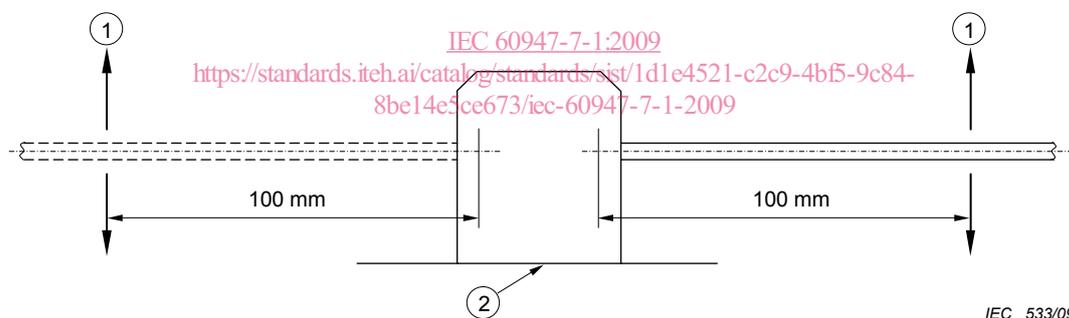
- attachment of the terminal block on its support (see 8.3.2);
- mechanical strength of clamping units (see 8.3.3.1);
- attachment of the conductors to the clamping units (see 8.3.3.2 and 8.3.3.3);
- rated cross-section and rated connecting capacity (see 8.3.3.4 and 8.3.3.5).

8.3.2 Attachment of the terminal block on its support

The test shall be made on two clamping units at the centre terminal block out of five terminal blocks mounted as in normal use on the appropriate support according to the manufacturer's instructions.

A steel pin of 150 mm length and of a diameter as specified in Table 3 is clamped successively in each clamping unit. The tightening torque shall be in accordance with Table 4 of IEC 60947-1 or, alternatively, in accordance with the higher torque value stated by the manufacturer. A force corresponding to the values of Table 3 is applied to the pin regularly and without shocks at a distance of 100 mm from the centre of the clamping unit, according to Figure 1.

During the test, no terminal block shall work free from its rail or support, nor suffer any other damage.



Key

- 1 Force
- 2 Rail or support

Figure 1 – Arrangement for test according to 8.3.2