

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

**Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural
electrification –
Part 9-1: Micropower systems**

IEC TS 62257-9-1:2008

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

**Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural
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Part 9-1: Micropower systems**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SMALL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND
HYBRID SYSTEMS FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION –****Part 9-1: Micropower systems**

FOREWORD

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Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC 62257-9-1, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This technical specification is based on IEC/PAS 62111 (1999); it cancels and replaces the relevant parts of IEC/PAS 62111.

This technical specification is to be used in conjunction with the IEC 62257 series and with future parts of this series as and when they are published.

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
82/501/DTS	82/526/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical specification 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 of the IEC 62257 series, under the general title *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification*, can be found on the IEC web site.

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

- transformed into an international standard;
- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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

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INTRODUCTION

The IEC 62257 series of documents intends to provide to the different players involved in rural electrification projects (such as project implementers, project contractors, project supervisors, installers, etc.) documents for the setting-up of renewable energy and hybrid systems with a.c. nominal voltage below 500 V, d.c. nominal voltage below 750 V and nominal power below 100 kVA.

These documents are recommendations:

- to choose the right system for the right place;
- to design the system;
- to operate and maintain the system.

These documents are focused only on rural electrification concentrating on, but not specific to, developing countries. They must not be considered as all-inclusive to rural electrification. The documents try to promote the use of renewable energies in rural electrification; they do not deal with clean mechanisms developments at this time (CO₂ emission, carbon credit, etc.). Further developments in this field could be introduced in future steps.

This consistent set of documents is best considered as a whole with different parts corresponding to items for safety, sustainability of systems and at the lowest life-cycle cost as possible. One of the main objectives is to provide the minimum sufficient requirements, relevant to the field of application, that is, small renewable energy and hybrid off-grid systems.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SMALL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND HYBRID SYSTEMS FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION –

Part 9-1: Micropower systems

1 Scope

Decentralized Rural Electrification Systems (DRES) are designed to supply electric power for sites which are not connected to a large interconnected system, or a national grid, in order to meet basic needs.

The majority of these sites are

- isolated dwellings;
- village houses;
- community services (public lighting, pumping, health centres, places of worship or cultural activities, administrative buildings, etc.);
- economic activities (workshops, micro-industry, etc.).

The DRES fall into the following three categories:

- process electrification systems (for example, for pumping);
- individual electrification systems (IES) for single users;
- collective electrification systems (CES) for multiple users.

Process or individual electrification systems exclusively consist of two subsystems:

- an electric energy generation subsystem;
- the user's electrical installation.

Collective electrification systems, however, consist of three subsystems:

- an electric energy generation subsystem;
- a distribution subsystem, also called microgrid;
- user's electrical installations including interface equipment between the installations and the microgrid.

This technical specification applies to a micropower plant which is the electric energy generation subsystem associated with a decentralized rural electrification system.

It provides general requirements for the design, erection and operation of micropower plants and general requirements to ensure the safety of persons and property.

The micropower plants covered by this specification are low-voltage a.c., three-phase or single-phase, with rated capacity less than, or equal to, 100 kVA. They do not include voltage transformation.

The low-voltage levels covered under this specification are

- the 230 V 1-Ø/400 V 3-Ø, the 220 V 1-Ø/380 V 3-Ø, and the 120 V 1-Ø/208 V 3-Ø systems at 60 Hz or 50 Hz;
- the ELV d.c. systems.

The requirements cover “centralized” micropower plants for application in

- process electrification;
- individual electrification systems and collective electrification systems.

It does not apply to distributed generation on microgrids.

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 60364 (all parts), *Low-voltage electrical installations*

IEC 60364-5-53:2001, *Electrical installations of buildings – Part 5-53: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Isolation, switching and control*

IEC 60529 (all parts), *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC/TS 62257-2:2004, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 2: From requirements to a range of electrification systems*

IEC/TS 62257-4:2005, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 4: System selection and design*

IEC/TS 62257-5:2005, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 5: Protection against electrical hazards*

IEC/TS 62257-6:2005, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 6: Acceptance, operation, maintenance and replacement*

IEC/TS 62257-7-1:2006, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 7-1: Generators – Photovoltaic arrays*

IEC/TS 62257-7-3:2008, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 7-3: Generator set – Selection of generator sets for rural electrification systems*

IEC/TS 62257-9-2:2006, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 9-2: Microgrids*

IEC/TS 62257-9-4:2006, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 9-4: Integrated system – User installation*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

generator set

equipment producing electricity from a fossil fuel; it consists basically of an internal combustion engine producing mechanical energy and a generator which converts the mechanical energy into electrical energy and mechanical transmission, support and assembly components

3.2

reference earth

reference ground (US)

conductive part of the earth, considered as conductive, the electric potential of which is conventionally taken as zero, being outside the zone of influence of any earthing arrangement

[IEV 826-13-01]

3.3

skilled person

person with relevant education or experience to enable him/her

- to perceive risks and to avoid hazards which electrical, chemical or mechanical equipment may create;
- to perform or supervise correctly the required task.

3.4

instructed person

person adequately advised or supervised by skilled persons to enable him/her

- to perceive risks and to avoid hazards which electrical, chemical or mechanical equipment may create;
- to perform correctly the required task.

3.5

ordinary person

person who is neither a skilled person nor an instructed person

3.6

licenced person

person who is authorized to perform electrical work under the appropriate state or territory statutes and regulations (only skilled or instructed persons can be licenced)

3.7

microgrid

subsystem of a DRES intended for power distribution of which the capacity does not exceed 100 kVA, the prefix "micro" being intended to express the low level of transmitting capacity

3.8

micropower plant

subsystem of a DRES for power generation up to 100 kVA, the prefix "micro" being intended to express the low power level generated (from a few kVA to a few tens of kVA)

3.9

protective conductor (identification: PE)

conductor provided for purposes of safety, for example protection against electric shock

[IEV 826-13-22]

3.10

PEN conductor

conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a neutral conductor

[IEV 826-13-25]

3.11**power line**

overhead or underground line installed to convey electrical energy for any purpose other than communication

3.12**renewable energy****RE**

energy generated from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, waves, tides, geothermal heat (list not exhaustive), which are renewable (naturally replenished). Renewable energy technologies include solar power, wind power, hydroelectricity, micro hydro, biomass, biofuels (list not exhaustive)

3.13**selectivity of protection**

ability of a protection to identify the faulty section and/or phase(s) of a power system

[IEV 448-11-06]

3.14**lightning arrester****surge diverter****surge arrester**

device intended to protect the electrical apparatus from high transient overvoltages and to limit the duration and frequently the amplitude of the follow-on current

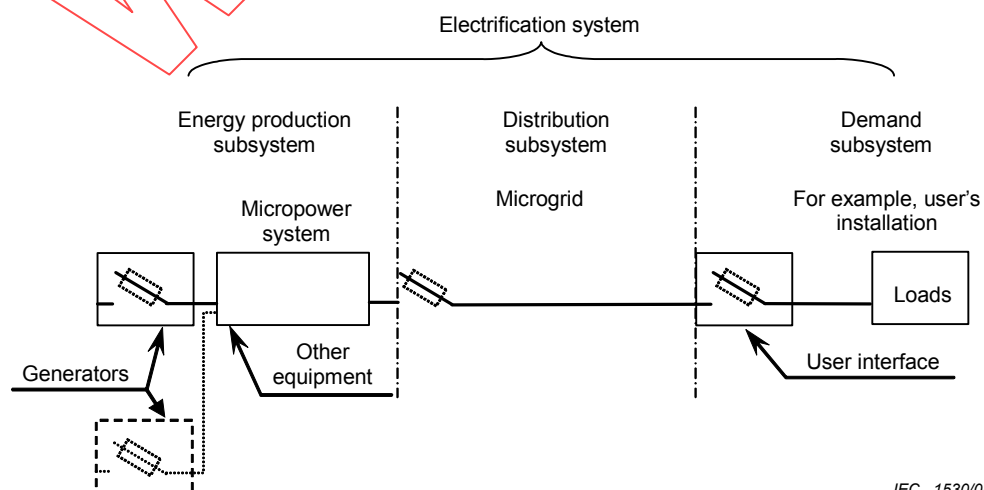
[IEV 811-31-09]

3.15**technical room/cabinet**

room or cabinet in which are located devices and apparatus dedicated to inter-connection of the different generators, protection of the different circuits, monitoring and control of the micropower plant and interfacing with the application

4 General**4.1 Boundary of a micropower plant**

The micropower plant is defined as illustrated in Figure 1.



IEC 1530/08

Figure 1 – Micropower system limits

The physical limits of the micropower plant are the upstream terminals of the main switch between the micropower plant and the microgrid.

4.2 Composition of a micropower plant

A micropower plant includes:

- one or several generators;
- storage devices (if needed) and associated charge controller;
- other equipment, such as
 - energy management device;
 - energy converter;
 - telecommunication equipment (if any);
 - main board;
 - interfaces:
 - between generators;
 - between the micropower plant and the microgrid or the application;
 - between the micropower plant and the operator;
 - switches;
 - protection devices;
- equipotential bonding;
- earthing system;
- civil works.

4.3 General functional layout of a micropower plant

Figure 2 illustrates an example of the general functional layout of a micropower plant combining the different equipment listed in 4.2.