

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes –  
Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications**

IEC 62133:2012

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes –**

**Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications**

**Accumulateurs alcalins et autres accumulateurs à électrolyte non acide –**

**Exigences de sécurité pour les accumulateurs portables étanches, et pour les batteries qui en sont constituées, destinés à l'utilisation dans des applications portables**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms and definitions .....	6
4 Parameter measurement tolerances .....	8
5 General safety considerations .....	8
5.1 General .....	8
5.2 Insulation and wiring .....	9
5.3 Venting.....	9
5.4 Temperature/voltage/current management .....	9
5.5 Terminal contacts .....	9
5.6 Assembly of cells into batteries .....	9
5.6.1 General .....	9
5.6.2 Design recommendation for lithium systems only.....	10
5.7 Quality plan .....	10
6 Type test conditions .....	10
7 Specific requirements and tests (nickel systems).....	11
7.1 Charging procedure for test purposes.....	11
7.2 Intended use .....	12
7.2.1 Continuous low-rate charging (cells).....	12
7.2.2 Vibration.....	12
7.2.3 Moulded case stress at high ambient temperature (batteries) .....	12
7.2.4 Temperature cycling .....	13
7.3 Reasonably foreseeable misuse.....	13
7.3.1 Incorrect installation (cells).....	13
7.3.2 External short circuit.....	14
7.3.3 Free fall.....	14
7.3.4 Mechanical shock (crash hazard).....	14
7.3.5 Thermal abuse (cells) .....	15
7.3.6 Crushing of cells.....	15
7.3.7 Low pressure (cells) .....	15
7.3.8 Overcharge.....	15
7.3.9 Forced discharge (cells) .....	16
8 Specific requirements and tests (lithium systems).....	16
8.1 Charging procedures for test purposes .....	16
8.1.1 First procedure .....	16
8.1.2 Second procedure .....	16
8.2 Intended use .....	17
8.2.1 Continuous charging at constant voltage (cells).....	17
8.2.2 Moulded case stress at high ambient temperature (battery) .....	17
8.3 Reasonably foreseeable misuse .....	17
8.3.1 External short circuit (cell).....	17
8.3.2 External short circuit (battery).....	17
8.3.3 Free fall.....	18
8.3.4 Thermal abuse (cells).....	18

8.3.5	Crush (cells).....	18
8.3.6	Over-charging of battery.....	18
8.3.7	Forced discharge (cells).....	19
8.3.8	Transport tests.....	19
8.3.9	Design evaluation – Forced internal short circuit (cells).....	19
9	Information for safety.....	21
10	Marking.....	21
10.1	Cell marking.....	21
10.2	Battery marking.....	22
10.3	Other information.....	22
11	Packaging.....	22
	Annex A (normative) Charging range of secondary lithium ion cells for safe use.....	23
	Annex B (informative) Recommendations to equipment manufacturers and battery assemblers.....	34
	Annex C (informative) Recommendations to the end-users.....	35
	Bibliography.....	36
	Figure 1 – Temperature profile for 7.2.4 – Temperature cycling test.....	13
	Figure 2 – Jig for pressing.....	21
	Figure A.1 – Typical of operating region of Li-ion cells with cobalt oxide cathode and carbon anode.....	24
	Figure A.2 – Shape of nickel particle.....	28
	Figure A.3 – Nickel particle insertion position between positive and negative active material coated area of cylindrical cell.....	29
	Figure A.4 – Nickel particle insertion position between positive aluminum foil and negative active material coated area of cylindrical cell.....	29
	Figure A.5 – Disassembly of cylindrical cell.....	30
	Figure A.6 – Nickel particle insertion position between positive and negative (active material) coated area of prismatic cell.....	31
	Figure A.7 – Nickel particle insertion position between positive aluminum foil and negative (active material) coated area of prismatic cell.....	32
	Figure A.8 – Disassembly of prismatic cells.....	33
	Table 1 – Sample size for type tests (nickel systems).....	11
	Table 2 – Sample size for type tests (lithium systems).....	11
	Table 3 – Conditions for vibration test.....	12
	Table 4 – Condition of charging procedure.....	16
	Table 5 – Ambient temperature for cell test <sup>a</sup> .....	20



## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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### **SECONDARY CELLS AND BATTERIES CONTAINING ALKALINE OR OTHER NON-ACID ELECTROLYTES –**

### **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTABLE SEALED SECONDARY CELLS, AND FOR BATTERIES MADE FROM THEM, FOR USE IN PORTABLE APPLICATIONS**

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International Standard IEC 62133 has been prepared by subcommittee 21A: Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes, of IEC technical committee 21: Secondary cells and batteries.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2002. It constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- update of assembly of cells into batteries (5.5);
- addition of design recommendations for lithium system only (5.6.2);
- separation of nickel systems and lithium systems (Clause 6);



- addition of specific requirements and tests for lithium systems (Clause 8);
- addition of charging of secondary lithium-ion cells for safe use (Annex A).

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

FDIS	Report on voting
21A/503/FDIS	21A/509/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 following difference exists in the countries indicated below:

Subclause 8.3.9: Design evaluation – Forced internal short circuit only applies to Korea, Japan, Switzerland and France.

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.

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

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# SECONDARY CELLS AND BATTERIES CONTAINING ALKALINE OR OTHER NON-ACID ELECTROLYTES –

## SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTABLE SEALED SECONDARY CELLS, AND FOR BATTERIES MADE FROM THEM, FOR USE IN PORTABLE APPLICATIONS

### 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements and tests for the safe operation of portable sealed secondary cells and batteries (other than button) containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolyte, under intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050-482, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 482: Primary and secondary cells and batteries*  
(<https://standards.iteh.ai>)

IEC 61951-1, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Portable sealed rechargeable single cells – Part 1: Nickel-cadmium*

IEC 61951-2, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Portable sealed rechargeable single cells – Part 2: Nickel-metal hydride*

IEC 61960, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Secondary lithium cells and batteries for portable applications*

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

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-482 and ISO/IEC Guide 51, as well as the following apply.

#### 3.1

##### **safety**

freedom from unacceptable risk

#### 3.2

##### **risk**

a combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

#### 3.3

##### **harm**

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

**3.4****hazard**

potential source of harm

**3.5****intended use**

use of a product, process or service in accordance with specifications, instructions and information provided by the supplier

**3.6****reasonably foreseeable misuse**

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

**3.7****secondary cell**

basic manufactured unit providing a source of electrical energy by direct conversion of chemical energy, that consists of electrodes, separators, electrolyte, container and terminals, and that is designed to be charged electrically

**3.8****secondary battery**

assembly of secondary cell(s) ready for use as a source of electrical energy characterized by its voltage, size, terminal arrangement, capacity and rate capability

**3.9****leakage**

visible escape of liquid electrolyte

**3.10****venting**

release of excessive internal pressure from a cell/battery in a manner intended by design to preclude rupture or explosion

**3.11****rupture**

mechanical failure of a cell container or battery case induced by an internal or external cause, resulting in exposure or spillage but not ejection of materials

**3.12****explosion**

failure that occurs when a cell container or battery case opens violently and major components are forcibly expelled

**3.13****fire**

the emission of flames from a cell or battery

**3.14****portable battery**

a battery for use in a device or appliance which is conveniently hand carried

**3.15****portable cell**

a cell intended for assembly in a portable battery

**3.16****polymer cell**

cell using gel polymer electrolyte or solid polymer electrolyte, not liquid electrolyte

**3.17****rated capacity**

quantity of electricity  $C_5$  Ah (ampere-hours) declared by the manufacturer which a single cell can deliver when discharged at the reference test current of  $0,2 I_t$  A to a specified final voltage, after charging, storing and discharging under specified conditions

**3.18****upper limit charging voltage**

the highest charging voltage in the cell operating region specified by the cell manufacturer

**3.19****maximum charging current**

the maximum charging current in the cell operating region which is specified by the cell manufacturer

**4 Parameter measurement tolerances**

The overall accuracy of controlled or measured values, relative to the specified or actual parameters, shall be within these tolerances.

- a)  $\pm 1$  % for voltage;
- b)  $\pm 1$  % for current;
- c)  $\pm 2$  °C for temperature;
- d)  $\pm 0,1$  % for time;
- e)  $\pm 1$  % for dimension;
- f)  $\pm 1$  % for capacity.

These tolerances comprise the combined accuracy of the measuring instruments, the measurement techniques used, and all other sources of error in the test procedure.

For assistance in selecting instrumentation see IEC 60051 series for analogue instruments and IEC 60485 for digital instruments. The details of the instrumentation used shall be provided in any report of results.

**5 General safety considerations****5.1 General**

The safety of secondary cells and batteries requires the consideration of two sets of applied conditions:

- intended use;
- reasonably foreseeable misuse.

Cells and batteries shall be so designed and constructed that they are safe under conditions of both intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse. It is expected that cells or batteries subjected to misuse may fail to function following such experience. They shall not however present significant hazards. It may also be expected that cells and batteries subjected to intended use shall not only be safe but shall continue to be functional in all respects.

Potential hazards which are the subject of this standard are:

- a) fire,
- b) burst/explosion,
- c) leakage of cell electrolyte,
- d) venting,
- e) burns from excessively high external temperatures,
- f) rupture of battery case with exposure of internal components.

Conformity with 5.2 to 5.7 is checked by inspection, by the tests of Clauses 7 and 8, and in accordance with the appropriate standard (see Clause 2).

## 5.2 Insulation and wiring

The insulation resistance between the positive terminal and externally exposed metal surfaces of the battery excluding electrical contact surfaces shall be not less than 5 M $\Omega$  at 500 V d. c. when measured 60 s after applying the voltage.

Internal wiring and its insulation shall be sufficient to withstand the maximum anticipated current, voltage and temperature requirements. The orientation of wiring shall be such that adequate clearances and creepage distances are maintained between connectors. The mechanical integrity of internal connections shall be sufficient to accommodate conditions of reasonably foreseeable misuse.

## 5.3 Venting

Battery cases and cells shall incorporate a pressure relief mechanism or shall be so constructed that they will relieve excessive internal pressure at a value and rate that will preclude rupture, explosion and self-ignition. If encapsulation is used to support cells within an outer case, the type of encapsulant and the method of encapsulation shall neither cause the battery to overheat during normal operation nor inhibit pressure relief.

## 5.4 Temperature/voltage/current management

The design of batteries shall be such that abnormal temperature-rise conditions are prevented. Batteries shall be designed to be within temperature, voltage and current limits specified by the cell manufacturer. Batteries shall be provided with specifications and charging instructions for equipment manufacturers so that associated chargers are designed to maintain charging within the temperature, voltage and current limits specified.

NOTE Where necessary, means can be provided to limit current to safe levels during charge and discharge.

## 5.5 Terminal contacts

Terminals shall have clear polarity marking on the external surface of the battery. The size and shape of the terminal contacts shall ensure that they can carry the maximum anticipated current. External terminal contact surfaces shall be formed from conductive materials with good mechanical strength and corrosion resistance. Terminal contacts shall be arranged so as to minimize the risk of short circuits.

NOTE Exception: Battery packs with keyed external connectors designed for connection to specific end products need not be marked with polarity markings if the design of the external connector prevents reverse polarity connections.

## 5.6 Assembly of cells into batteries

### 5.6.1 General

If there is more than one battery housed in a single battery case, cells used in the assembly of each battery shall have closely matched capacities, be of the same design, be of the same

chemistry and be from the same manufacturer. Each battery shall have an independent control and protection. Manufacturers of cells shall make recommendations about current, voltage and temperature limits so that the battery manufacturer/designer may ensure proper design and assembly. Batteries that are designed for the selective discharge of a portion of their series connected cells shall incorporate separate circuitry to prevent the cell reversal caused by uneven discharges. Protective circuit components should be added as appropriate and consideration given to the end-device application. When testing a battery, the manufacturer of the battery shall provide a test report confirming the compliance according to this standard. Conformity shall be checked by inspection.

### 5.6.2 Design recommendation for lithium systems only

The voltage of each cell, or each cellblock consisting of parallel-connected plural cells, should not exceed the upper limit of the charging voltage specified in Table 4, excepting the case where the portable electronic devices or the likes have the equivalent function.

The following should be considered at the battery pack level and by the device designer:

- for the battery consisting of a single cell or a single cellblock, it is recommended that the charging voltage of the cell does not exceed the upper limit of the charging voltage specified in Table 4;
- for the battery consisting of series-connected plural single cells or series-connected plural cellblocks, it is recommended that the voltages of any one of the single cells or single cellblocks does not exceed the upper limit of the charging voltage, specified in Table 4, by monitoring the voltage of every single cell or the single cellblocks;
- for the battery consisting of series-connected plural single cells or series-connected plural cellblocks, it is recommended that charging is stopped when the upper limit of the charging voltage is exceeded for any one of the single cells or single cellblocks by measuring the voltage of every single cell or the single cellblocks.

### 5.7 Quality plan

The manufacturer shall prepare and implement a quality plan that defines procedures for the inspection of materials, components, cells and batteries and which covers the whole process of producing each type of cell or battery. Manufacturers should understand their process capabilities and should institute the necessary process controls as they relate to product safety.

## 6 Type test conditions

Tests are made with the number of cells or batteries specified in Table 1 for nickel-cadmium and nickel-metal hydride systems and Table 2 for lithium systems, using cells or batteries that are not more than six months old. Unless otherwise specified, tests are carried out in an ambient temperature of  $20\text{ °C} \pm 5\text{ °C}$ .

NOTE Test conditions are for type tests only and do not imply that intended use includes operation under these conditions. Similarly, the limit of six months is introduced for consistency and does not imply that battery safety is reduced after six months.