IEC 61008-1

Edition 3.0 2010-02

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Residual current operated circuit-breakers without integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCCBs) –
Part 1: General rules

Interrupteurs automatiques à courant différentiel résiduel sans dispositif de protection contre les surintensités incorporé pour usages domestiques et analogues (ID) –
Partie 1: Règles générales

IEC 61008-1:2010

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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE
CODE PRIX XF

ICS 29.120.50 ISBN 978-2-88910-398-0

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS WITHOUT INTEGRAL OVERCURRENT PROTECTION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USES (RCCBs) –

Part 1: General rules

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61008-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 23E: Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

This third editions cancels and replaces the second edition published in 1996, amendment 1 (2002) and amendment 2 (2006). This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

– complete revision of EMC sequences, including the new test T.2.6 already approved in IEC 61543;
– clarification of RCDs current/time characteristics reported in Tables 1 and 2;
– revision of test procedure for $I_{\Delta n}$ between 5 A and 200 A;

– testing procedure regarding the 6mA d.c. current superimposed to the fault current;
– improvement highlighting RCDs with multiple sensitivity;
– tests for the use of RCCBs in IT systems.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
23E/681/FDIS	23E/685/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 61008 series, published under the general title, *Residual current operated circuit-breakers without integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCCBs)*, 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

This part includes definitions, requirements and tests, covering all types of RCCBs. For the applicability to a specific type this part applies in conjunction with the relevant part, as follows:

Part 2-1: Applicability of the general rules to RCCBs functionally independent of line voltage.

Part 2-2: Applicability of the general rules to RCCBs functionally dependent on line voltage.

RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS WITHOUT INTEGRAL OVERCURRENT PROTECTION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USES (RCCBs) –

Part 1: General rules

1 Scope

This International Standard applies to residual current operated circuit-breakers functionally independent of, or functionally dependent on, line voltage, for household and similar uses, not incorporating overcurrent protection (hereafter referred to as RCCBs), for rated voltages not exceeding 440 V a.c. with rated frequencies of 50 Hz, 60 Hz or 50/60 Hz and rated currents not exceeding 125 A, intended principally for protection against shock hazard.

These devices are intended to protect persons against indirect contact, the exposed conductive parts of the installation being connected to an appropriate earth electrode. They may be used to provide protection against fire hazards due to a persistent earth fault current, without the operation of the overcurrent protective device.

RCCBs having a rated residual operating current not exceeding 30 mA are also used as a means for additional protection in case of failure of the protective means against electric shock.

This standard applies to devices performing simultaneously the functions of detection of the residual current, of comparison of the value of this current with the residual operating value and of opening of the protected circuit when the residual current exceeds this value.

NOTE 1 The requirements for RCCBs are in line with the general requirements of IEC 60755. RCCBs are essentially intended to be operated by uninstructed persons and designed not to require maintenance. They may be submitted for certification purposes.

NOTE 2 Installation and application rules of RCCBs are given in the IEC 60364 series.

They are intended for use in an environment with pollution degree 2.

They are suitable for isolation.

RCCBs complying with this standard, with the exception of those with an uninterrupted neutral, are suitable for use in IT systems.

Special precautions (e.g. lightning arresters) may be necessary when excessive overvoltages are likely to occur on the supply side (for example in the case of supply through overhead lines) (see IEC 60364-4-44).

RCCBs of the general type are resistant to unwanted tripping including the case where surge voltages (as a result of switching transients or induced by lightning) cause loading currents in the installation without occurrence of flashover.

RCCBs of type S are considered to be sufficient proof against unwanted tripping even if the surge voltage causes a flashover and a follow-on current occurs.

NOTE 3 Surge arresters installed downstream of the general type of RCCBs and connected in common mode may cause unwanted tripping.

NOTE 4 For RCCBs having a degree of protection higher than IP20 special constructions may be required.

Particular requirements are necessary for

– residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection (see IEC 61009-1);
– RCCBs incorporated in or intended only for association with plugs and socket-outlets or with appliance couplers for household or similar general purposes;
– RCCBs intended to be used at frequencies other than 50 Hz or 60 Hz.

NOTE 5 For the time being, for RCCBs incorporated in, or intended only for socket-outlets or plugs, the requirements of this standard in conjunction with the requirements of IEC 60884-1 may be used as far as applicable.

NOTE 6 In DK, plugs and socket-outlets shall be in accordance with the requirements of the heavy current regulations, section 107.

NOTE 7 In the UK, the plug part of an RCCB shall comply with BS 1363-1 and the socket-outlet part(s) of an RCCB should comply with BS 1363-2. In the UK, the plug part and the socket-outlet part(s) of an RCCB need not comply with any IEC 60884-1 requirements.

The requirements of this standard apply for normal environmental conditions (see 7.1). Additional requirements may be necessary for RCCBs used in locations having severe environmental conditions.

RCCBs including batteries are not covered by this standard.

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 60038, *IEC standard voltages*

IEC 60051 (all parts), *Direct acting indicating analogue electrical measuring instruments and their accessories*

IEC 60060-1:1989, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60060-2:1994, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 2: Measuring systems*

IEC 60068-2-30:2005, *Environmental testing – Part 2-30: Tests – Test Db: Damp heat, cyclic (12 h + 12 h cycle)*

IEC 60068-3-4: 2001, *Environmental testing – Part 3-4: Supporting documentation and guidance – Damp heat tests*

IEC 60112:2003, *Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials*

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

IEC 60364-4-44:2007, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-44: Protection for safety – Protection against voltage disturbances and electromagnetic disturbances*

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

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*

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

IEC 60664-1:2007, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC 60695-2-10:2000, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-10: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire apparatus and common test procedure*

IEC 60884-1, *Plugs and socket-outlets for household and similar purposes – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61009-1, *Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCBOs) – Part 1: General rules*

IEC 61543:1995, *Residual current-operated protective devices (RCDs) for household and similar use – Electromagnetic compatibility*

CISPR 14-1:2005, *Electromagnetic compatibility –Requirements for household appliances, electric tools and similar apparatus – Part 1: Emission*

3 Terms and definitions

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

Where the terms "voltage" or "current" are used, they imply r.m.s. values, unless otherwise specified.

NOTE For a glossary of symbols see Annex IB.

3.1 Definitions relating to currents flowing from live parts to earth

3.1.1
earth fault current
current flowing to earth due to an insulation fault

3.1.2
earth leakage current
current flowing from the live parts of the installation to earth in the absence of an insulation fault

3.1.3
pulsating direct current
current of pulsating wave form which assumes, in each period of the rated power frequency, the value 0 or a value not exceeding 0,006 A d.c. during one single interval of time, expressed in angular measure, of at least 150°

3.1.4
current delay angle α
time, expressed in angular measure, by which the starting instant of current conduction is delayed by phase control

3.2 Definitions relating to the energization of a residual current circuit-breaker

3.2.1
energizing quantity
electrical excitation quantity which alone, or in combination with other such quantities, shall be applied to an RCCB to enable it to accomplish its function under specified conditions