



# SLOVENSKI STANDARD

## SIST EN 50160:2008

01-junij-2008

Nadomešča:  
SIST EN 50160:2000

---

### Značilnosti napetosti v javnih distribucijskih omrežjih

Voltage characteristics of electricity supplied by public distribution networks

Merkmale der Spannung in öffentlichen Elektrizitätsversorgungsnetzen

Caractéristiques de la tension fournie par les réseaux publics de distribution

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
(standards.iteh.ai)

Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: ~~ST EN 50160:2007~~ **EN 50160:2007**

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/303252f-4706-49b0-825a-73906d3eb4/sist-en-50160-2008>

---

#### **ICS:**

|           |                                                                  |                                                         |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 29.240.01 | Omrežja za prenos in distribucijo električne energije na splošno | Power transmission and distribution networks in general |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

**SIST EN 50160:2008**

**en,fr**

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
**(standards.iteh.ai)**

SIST EN 50160:2008

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/30325f2f-4706-49b0-825a-739f06f93cb4/sist-en-50160-2008>

EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**EN 50160**

September 2007

ICS 29.020

Supersedes EN 50160:1999

English version

## **Voltage characteristics of electricity supplied by public distribution networks**

Caractéristiques de la tension  
fournie par les réseaux publics  
de distribution

Merkmale der Spannung  
in öffentlichen  
Elektrizitätsversorgungsnetzen

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on 2007-06-01. CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CENELEC member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

CENELEC members are the national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

# CENELEC

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique  
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

**Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 35, B - 1050 Brussels**

## Foreword

This European Standard was prepared by the Working Group 1, Physical characteristics of electrical energy, of the Technical Committee CENELEC TC 8X, System aspects for electrical energy supply.

The text of the draft was submitted to the formal vote and was approved by CENELEC as EN 50160 on 2007-06-01.

This European Standard supersedes EN 50160:1999 + corrigendum September 2004.

The following dates were fixed:

- latest date by which the EN has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2008-06-01
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the EN have to be withdrawn (dow) 2010-06-01

---

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
**(standards.iteh.ai)**

[SIST EN 50160:2008](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/30325f2f-4706-49b0-825a-739f06f93cb4/sist-en-50160-2008)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/30325f2f-4706-49b0-825a-739f06f93cb4/sist-en-50160-2008>

## Contents

|         |                                                                                                                                                      |    |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1       | Scope and object.....                                                                                                                                | 4  |
| 1.1     | Scope.....                                                                                                                                           | 4  |
| 1.2     | Object.....                                                                                                                                          | 4  |
| 2       | Normative references.....                                                                                                                            | 5  |
| 3       | Definitions.....                                                                                                                                     | 5  |
| 4       | Low-voltage supply characteristics.....                                                                                                              | 9  |
| 4.1     | Power frequency.....                                                                                                                                 | 9  |
| 4.2     | Magnitude of the supply voltage.....                                                                                                                 | 9  |
| 4.3     | Supply voltage variations.....                                                                                                                       | 9  |
| 4.3.1   | Requirements.....                                                                                                                                    | 9  |
| 4.3.2   | Test method.....                                                                                                                                     | 10 |
| 4.4     | Rapid voltage changes.....                                                                                                                           | 10 |
| 4.4.1   | Single rapid voltage change.....                                                                                                                     | 10 |
| 4.4.2   | Flicker severity.....                                                                                                                                | 10 |
| 4.5     | Supply voltage dips.....                                                                                                                             | 10 |
| 4.6     | Short interruptions of the supply voltage.....                                                                                                       | 10 |
| 4.7     | Long interruptions of the supply voltage.....                                                                                                        | 11 |
| 4.8     | Temporary power frequency overvoltages between live conductors and earth.....                                                                        | 11 |
| 4.9     | Transient overvoltages between live conductors and earth.....                                                                                        | 11 |
| 4.10    | Supply voltage unbalance.....                                                                                                                        | 11 |
| 4.11    | Harmonic voltage.....                                                                                                                                | 12 |
| 4.12    | Interharmonic voltage.....                                                                                                                           | 12 |
| 4.13    | Mains signalling voltage on the supply voltage.....                                                                                                  | 12 |
| 5       | Medium-voltage supply characteristics.....                                                                                                           | 13 |
| 5.1     | Power frequency.....                                                                                                                                 | 13 |
| 5.2     | Magnitude of the supply voltage.....                                                                                                                 | 13 |
| 5.3     | Supply voltage variations.....                                                                                                                       | 14 |
| 5.4     | Rapid voltage changes.....                                                                                                                           | 14 |
| 5.4.1   | Magnitude of rapid voltage changes.....                                                                                                              | 14 |
| 5.4.2   | Flicker severity.....                                                                                                                                | 14 |
| 5.5     | Supply voltage dips.....                                                                                                                             | 14 |
| 5.6     | Short interruptions of the supply voltage.....                                                                                                       | 14 |
| 5.7     | Long interruptions of the supply voltage.....                                                                                                        | 14 |
| 5.8     | Temporary power frequency overvoltages between live conductors and earth.....                                                                        | 15 |
| 5.9     | Transient overvoltage between live conductors and earth.....                                                                                         | 15 |
| 5.10    | Supply voltage unbalance.....                                                                                                                        | 15 |
| 5.11    | Harmonic voltage.....                                                                                                                                | 15 |
| 5.12    | Interharmonic voltage.....                                                                                                                           | 16 |
| 5.13    | Mains signalling voltage on the supply voltage.....                                                                                                  | 16 |
| Annex A | (informative) Special nature of electricity.....                                                                                                     | 18 |
|         | Bibliography.....                                                                                                                                    | 20 |
|         | Figure 1 - Voltage levels of signal frequencies in percent of $U_n$ used in public LV distribution networks.....                                     | 13 |
|         | Figure 2 - Voltage levels of signal frequencies in percent of $U_c$ used in public MV distribution networks.....                                     | 17 |
|         | Table 1 - Values of individual harmonic voltages at the supply terminals for orders up to 25 given in percent of the fundamental voltage $U_1$ ..... | 12 |
|         | Table 2 - Values of individual harmonic voltages at the supply terminals for orders up to 25 given in percent of the fundamental voltage $U_1$ ..... | 16 |

## 1 Scope and object

### 1.1 Scope

This European Standard defines, describes and specifies the main characteristics of the voltage at a network user's supply terminals in public low voltage and medium voltage electricity distribution networks under normal operating conditions. This standard describes the limits or values within which the voltage characteristics can be expected to remain over the whole of the public distribution network and does not describe the average situation usually experienced by an individual network user.

NOTE 1 For the definitions of low and medium voltage see 3.7 and 3.8.

The European Standard does not apply under abnormal operating conditions including the following:

- a temporary supply arrangement to keep the network users supplied during condition arising as a result of a fault, maintenance and construction work or to minimize the extent and duration of a loss of supply;
- in case of non-compliance of a network user's installation or equipment with the relevant standards or with the technical requirements for connection, established either by the public authorities or the distribution network operator (DNO) including the limits for the emission of conducted disturbances;

NOTE 2 A network user's installation may include load as well as generation.

- in exceptional situations, in particular,
  - exceptional weather conditions and other natural disasters,
  - third party interference,
  - acts by public authorities,
  - industrial actions (subject to legal requirements),
  - force majeure,
  - power shortages resulting from external events.

The voltage characteristics given in this standard are not intended to be used as electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) levels or user emission limits for conducted disturbances in public distribution networks.

The voltage characteristics given in this standard are not intended to be used to specify requirements in equipment product standards and in installation standards.

NOTE 3 The performance of equipment might be impaired if it is subjected to supply conditions which are not specified in the equipment product standard.

This standard may be superseded in total or in part by the terms of a contract between the individual network user and the DNO.

### 1.2 Object

The object of this European Standard is to define and describe the characteristics of the supply voltage concerning

- frequency,
- magnitude,
- wave form,
- symmetry of the line voltages.

These characteristics are subject to variations during the normal operation of a supply system due to changes of load, disturbances generated by certain equipment and the occurrence of faults which are mainly caused by external events.

The characteristics vary in a manner which is random in time, with reference to any specific supply terminal, and random in location, with reference to any given instant of time. Because of these variations, the levels of the characteristics can be expected to be exceeded on a small number of occasions.

Some of the phenomena affecting the voltage are particularly unpredictable, which make it very difficult to give useful definite values for the corresponding characteristics. The values given in this standard for such phenomena, e.g. voltage dips and voltage interruptions, shall be interpreted accordingly.

## 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 60050-161 International Electrotechnical Vocabulary -  
Chapter 161: Electromagnetic compatibility

**iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW**  
**(standards.iteh.ai)**

## 3 Definitions

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

[SIST EN 50160:2008](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist-en-50160-2008)

[739f06f93cb4/sist-en-50160-2008](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist-en-50160-2008)

### 3.1

#### **network user**

party being supplied by or supplying to an electricity distribution network

### 3.2

#### **distribution network operator (DNO)**

party responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of and, if necessary, developing the distribution network in a given area and, for ensuring the long term ability of the network to meet reasonable demands for the distribution of electricity

### 3.3

#### **supply terminal**

point in a distribution network designated as such and contractually fixed, at which electrical energy is exchanged between contractual partners

NOTE This point can differ from, for example, the electricity metering point or the point of common coupling.

### 3.4

#### **supply voltage**

r.m.s. value of the voltage at a given time at the supply terminal, measured over a given interval

### 3.5

#### **nominal voltage ( $U_n$ )**

voltage by which a distribution network is designated or identified and to which certain operating characteristics are referred

**3.6****declared supply voltage ( $U_c$ )**

the declared supply voltage  $U_c$  is normally the nominal voltage  $U_n$  of the distribution network. If by agreement between the DNO and the network user a voltage different from the nominal voltage is applied to the terminal, then this voltage is the declared supply voltage  $U_c$

**3.7****low voltage (LV)**

for the purpose of this European Standard, voltage whose upper limit of nominal r.m.s. value is 1 kV

**3.8****medium voltage (MV)**

for the purpose of this European Standard, voltage whose nominal r.m.s. value lies above 1 kV and below 35 kV

**3.9****normal operating condition**

for a distribution network, condition of meeting load and generation demands, system switching and clearing faults by automatic system protection in the absence of exceptional conditions due to external influences or major events

**3.10****conducted disturbance**

electromagnetic phenomenon propagated along the line conductors of a distribution network. In some cases an electromagnetic phenomenon is propagated across transformer windings and hence between networks of different voltage levels. These disturbances may degrade the performance of a device, equipment or system or they may cause damage

[SIST EN 50160:2008](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/30325f2f-4706-49b0-825a-739f06f93cb4/sist-en-50160-2008)

**3.11****frequency of the supply voltage**

repetition rate of the fundamental wave of the supply voltage measured over a given interval of time

**3.12****voltage variation**

increase or decrease of voltage normally due to load variations

**3.13****rapid voltage change**

single rapid variation of the r.m.s. value of a voltage between two consecutive levels which are sustained for definite but unspecified durations (for more information see EN 61000-3-3)

**3.14****voltage fluctuation**

series of voltage changes or a cyclic variation of the voltage envelope

[IEV 161-08-05]

**3.15****flicker**

impression of unsteadiness of visual sensation induced by a light stimulus whose luminance or spectral distribution fluctuates with time

[IEV 161-08-13]

NOTE Voltage fluctuation causes changes of the luminance of lamps which can create the visual phenomenon called flicker. Above a certain threshold flicker becomes annoying. The annoyance grows very rapidly with the amplitude of the fluctuation. At certain repetition rates even very small amplitudes can be annoying.



**3.16****flicker severity**

intensity of flicker annoyance defined by the UIE-IEC flicker measuring method and evaluated by the following quantities:

- **short term severity** ( $P_{st}$ ) measured over a period of ten minutes;
- **long term severity** ( $P_{lt}$ ) calculated from a sequence of 12  $P_{st}$  values over a two hour interval, according to the following expression:

$$P_{lt} = \sqrt[3]{\sum_{i=1}^{12} \frac{P_{sti}^3}{12}}$$

**3.17****supply voltage dip**

sudden reduction of the supply voltage to a value between 90 % and 1 % of the declared voltage  $U_c$  followed by a voltage recovery after a short period of time. Conventionally the duration of a voltage dip is between 10 ms and 1 min. The depth of a voltage dip is defined as the difference between the minimum r.m.s. voltage during the voltage dip and the declared voltage. Voltage changes which do not reduce the supply voltage to less than 90 % of the declared voltage  $U_c$  are not considered to be dips

**3.18****supply interruption**

condition in which the voltage at the supply terminals is lower than 1 % of the declared voltage,  $U_c$ . A supply interruption can be classified as

- **prearranged**, when network users are informed in advance, to allow the execution of scheduled works on the distribution network, or
- **accidental**, caused by permanent or transient faults, mostly related to external events, equipment failures or interference. An accidental interruption is classified as:
  - a long interruption (longer than three minutes);
  - a short interruption (up to three minutes).

NOTE 1 The effect of a prearranged interruption can be minimized by the network users by taking appropriate measures.

NOTE 2 Accidental supply interruptions are unpredictable, largely random events.

**3.19****temporary power frequency overvoltage**

overvoltage, at a given location, of relatively long duration (see CLC/TR 50422, Clause 3 for more information)

NOTE Temporary overvoltages usually originate from switching operations or faults (e.g. sudden load reduction, single phase faults, non-linearities).

**3.20****transient overvoltage**

short duration oscillatory or non-oscillatory overvoltage usually highly damped and with a duration of a few milliseconds or less

[IEV 604-03-13 modified]

NOTE Transient overvoltages are usually caused by lightning, switching or operation of fuses. The rise time of a transient overvoltage can vary from less than a microsecond up to a few milliseconds.

### 3.21 harmonic voltage

sinusoidal voltage with a frequency equal to an integer multiple of the fundamental frequency of the supply voltage. Harmonic voltages can be evaluated

- individually by their relative amplitude ( $U_h$ ) related to the fundamental voltage  $U_1$ , where  $h$  is the order of the harmonic,
- globally, for example by the total harmonic distortion factor THD, calculated using the following expression:

$$THD = \sqrt{\sum_{h=2}^{40} (u_h)^2}$$

NOTE Harmonics of the supply voltage are caused mainly by network users' non-linear loads connected to all voltage levels of the supply network. Harmonic currents flowing through the network impedance give rise to harmonic voltages. Harmonic currents and network impedances and thus the harmonic voltages at the supply terminals vary in time.

### 3.22

#### interharmonic voltage

sinusoidal voltage with a frequency between the harmonics, i.e. the frequency is not an integer multiple of the fundamental

NOTE Interharmonic voltages at closely adjacent frequencies can appear at the same time forming a wide band spectrum.

### 3.23

#### voltage unbalance

condition in a polyphase system in which the r.m.s. values of the line-to-line voltages (fundamental component), or the phase angles between consecutive line voltages, are not all equal. The degree of the inequality is usually expressed as the ratios of the negative and zero sequence components to the positive sequence component

[IEV 161-08-09 modified]

NOTE 1 In this European Standard, voltage unbalance is considered in relation to three-phase systems and negative phase sequence only.

NOTE 2 Several approximations give reasonably accurate results for the levels of unbalance normally encountered (ratio of negative to positive sequence components), e.g.:

$$\text{voltage unbalance} = \sqrt{\frac{6 \times (U_{12}^2 + U_{23}^2 + U_{31}^2)}{(U_{12} + U_{23} + U_{31})^2} - 2}$$

where  $U_{12}$ ,  $U_{23}$  and  $U_{31}$  are the three line-to-line voltages.

### 3.24

#### mains signalling voltage

signal superimposed on the supply voltage for the purpose of transmission of information in the public distribution network and to network users' premises. Three types of signals in the public distribution network can be classified:

- **ripple control signals:** superimposed sinusoidal voltage signals in the range of 110 Hz to 3 000 Hz;
- **power-line-carrier signals:** superimposed sinusoidal voltage signals in the range between 3 kHz to 148,5 kHz;
- **mains marking signals:** superimposed short time alterations (transients) at selected points of the voltage waveform.

## 4 Low-voltage supply characteristics

### 4.1 Power frequency

The nominal frequency of the supply voltage shall be 50 Hz. Under normal operating conditions the mean value of the fundamental frequency measured over 10 s shall be within a range of:

- for systems with synchronous connection to an interconnected system:
 

|                     |                           |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 50 Hz $\pm$ 1 %     | (i.e. 49,5 Hz... 50,5 Hz) | during 99,5 % of a year;  |
| 50 Hz + 4 % / - 6 % | (i.e. 47 Hz... 52 Hz)     | during 100 % of the time; |
- for systems with no synchronous connection to an interconnected system (e.g. supply systems on certain islands):
 

|                  |                           |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 50 Hz $\pm$ 2 %  | (i.e. 49 Hz... 51 Hz)     | during 95 % of a week;    |
| 50 Hz $\pm$ 15 % | (i.e. 42,5 Hz... 57,5 Hz) | during 100 % of the time. |

### 4.2 Magnitude of the supply voltage

The standard nominal voltage  $U_n$  for public low voltage is  $U_n = 230$  V, either between phase and neutral, or between phases

- for four-wire three phase systems:  
 $U_n = 230$  V between phase and neutral;
- for three-wire three phase systems:  
 $U_n = 230$  V between phases.

iTech STANDARD PREVIEW  
(standards.itech.ai)

NOTE In low voltage systems declared and nominal voltage are equal.

SIST EN 50160:2008  
<https://standards.itech.ai/catalog/standards/sist/30325f2f-4706-49b0-825a-739f06f93cb4/sist-en-50160-2008>

### 4.3 Supply voltage variations

#### 4.3.1 Requirements

The voltage variation should not exceed  $\pm 10$  %.

Situations like those arising from faults or voltage interruptions, the circumstances of which are beyond the reasonable control of the parties, are excluded.

NOTE 1 Overall experience has shown, that sustained voltage deviations of more than  $\pm 10$  % over a longer period of time are extremely unlikely, although they could theoretically be within the given statistical limits of 4.3.2. Therefore, in accordance with relevant product and installation standards and application of IEC 60038 end users' appliances are usually designed to tolerate supply voltages of  $\pm 10$  % around the nominal system voltage, which is sufficient to cover an overwhelming majority of supply conditions. It is expected to be neither technically nor economically viable to generally give appliances the ability to handle supply voltage tolerances broader than  $\pm 10$  %. If, in single cases, evidence is given, that the magnitude of the supply voltage could depart beyond this limit for a longer period of time, additional measures should be taken in cooperation with the local network operator, depending on a risk assessment. The same applies in cases, where specific appliances have an increased sensitivity with respect to voltage variations.

NOTE 2 In cases of electricity supplies in remote areas with long lines or not connected to a large interconnected network, the voltage could be outside the range of  $U_n + 10$  % / - 15 %. Network users should be informed of the conditions.