

TECHNICAL REPORT

RAPPORT TECHNIQUE



**Low-voltage fuses –
Part 5: Guidance for the application of low-voltage fuses**

**Fusibles basse tension –
Partie 5: Lignes directrices pour l'application des fusibles basse tension**

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references.....	8
3 Terms and definitions.....	9
4 Fuse benefits.....	10
5 Fuse construction and operation.....	11
5.1 Components.....	11
5.2 Fuse-construction.....	11
5.2.1 Fuse link.....	11
5.2.2 Fuse-link contacts.....	13
5.2.3 Indicating device and striker.....	13
5.2.4 Fuse-base.....	13
5.2.5 Replacement handles and fuse-holders.....	13
5.3 Fuse operation.....	14
5.3.1 General.....	14
5.3.2 Fuse operation in case of short-circuit.....	14
5.3.3 Fuse operation in case of overload.....	14
6 Fuse-combination units.....	15
7 Fuse selection and markings.....	16
8 Conductor protection.....	18
8.1 General.....	18
8.2 Type gG.....	18
8.3 Types gN and gD.....	19
8.4 Types gR and gS.....	19
8.5 Protection against short-circuit current only.....	19
9 Selectivity of protective devices.....	20
9.1 General.....	20
9.2 Selectivity between fuses.....	21
9.2.1 Verification of selectivity for operating time $\geq 0,1$ s.....	21
9.2.2 Verification of selectivity for operating time $< 0,1$ s.....	22
9.2.3 Verification of total selectivity.....	22
9.3 Selectivity of circuit-breakers upstream of fuses.....	22
9.3.1 General.....	22
9.3.2 Verification of selectivity for operating time $\geq 0,1$ s.....	22
9.3.3 Verification of selectivity for operating time $< 0,1$ s.....	23
9.3.4 Verification of total selectivity.....	23
9.4 Selectivity of fuses upstream of circuit-breakers.....	23
9.4.1 General.....	23
9.4.2 Verification of selectivity for operating time $\geq 0,1$ s.....	23
9.4.3 Verification of selectivity for operating time $< 0,1$ s.....	23
9.4.4 Verification of total selectivity.....	23
10 Short-circuit damage protection.....	25
10.1 General.....	25
10.2 Short-circuit current paths.....	25

10.3	Current limitation	26
10.4	Rated conditional short-circuit current, rated breaking capacity	26
11	Protection of power factor correction capacitors	26
12	Transformer protection	27
12.1	Distribution transformers with a high-voltage primary	27
12.2	Distribution transformers with a low-voltage primary	28
12.3	Control circuit transformers	28
13	Motor circuit protection	28
13.1	General	28
13.2	Fuse and motor-starter coordination	29
13.3	Criteria for coordination at the rated conditional short-circuit current I_q	29
13.4	Criteria for coordination at the crossover current I_{co}	30
13.5	Criteria for coordination at test current “r”	31
14	Circuit-breaker protection	31
15	Protection of semiconductor devices	31
16	Fuses in enclosures	32
16.1	Limiting temperature of type gG fuse-links according to IEC 60269-2 – System A	32
16.2	Other fuse-links	33
17	DC applications	33
17.1	Short-circuit protection	33
17.2	Overload protection	33
17.3	Time-current characteristics	34
18	Automatic disconnection for protection against electric shock for installations in buildings	35
18.1	General	35
18.2	Principle of the protection	35
18.3	Examples	37
Annex A (informative) Coordination between fuses and contactors/motor-starters		38
Bibliography		48
Figure 1	– Typical fuse-link according to IEC 60269-2	12
Figure 2	– Typical fuse-link according to IEC 60269-2	13
Figure 3	– Current-limiting fuse operation	14
Figure 4	– Fuse operation on overload	15
Figure 5	– Selectivity – General network diagram	20
Figure 6	– Verification of selectivity between fuses F_2 and F_4 for operating time $t \geq 0,1$ s	21
Figure 7	– Verification of selectivity between circuit-breaker C_2 and fuses F_5 and F_6	22
Figure 8	– Verification of selectivity between fuse F_2 and circuit-breaker C_3 for operating time $t \geq 0,1$ s	24
Figure 9	– Verification of selectivity between fuse F_2 and circuit-breaker C_3 for operating time $t < 0,1$ s	25
Figure 10	– Fuse and motor-starter coordination	30
Figure 11	– DC circuit	33
Figure 12	– DC breaking operation	34
Figure 13	– Fuse operating time at various d.c. circuit time constants	35

Figure 14 – Time-current characteristic..... 36

Figure A.1 – Collation of cut-off currents observed in successful coordination at I_q 39

Figure A.2 – Pre-arcing and operating I^2t values of fuses used in successful coordination tests as a function of contactor rated current AC3..... 40

Figure A.3 – Pre-arcing and operating I^2t values of fuses used in successful coordination tests as a function of fuse rated current I_n 41

Figure A.4 – Illustration of the method of selection of the maximum rated current of a fuse for back-up protection of a contactor of rating $I_e = X$ amperes 45

Figure A.5 – Withstand capabilities of a range of contactors and associated overload relays at test current "r" 46

Figure A.6 – Illustration of a method of deriving curves of maximum peak current at test current "r" as a function of fuse rated current (these derived curves can be used in the same way as illustrated in Figure A.4)..... 47

Table 1 – Definitions and symbols of switches and fuse-combination units..... 16

Table 2 – Fuse application 17

Table 3 – Maximum operational voltage of fuse-links 18

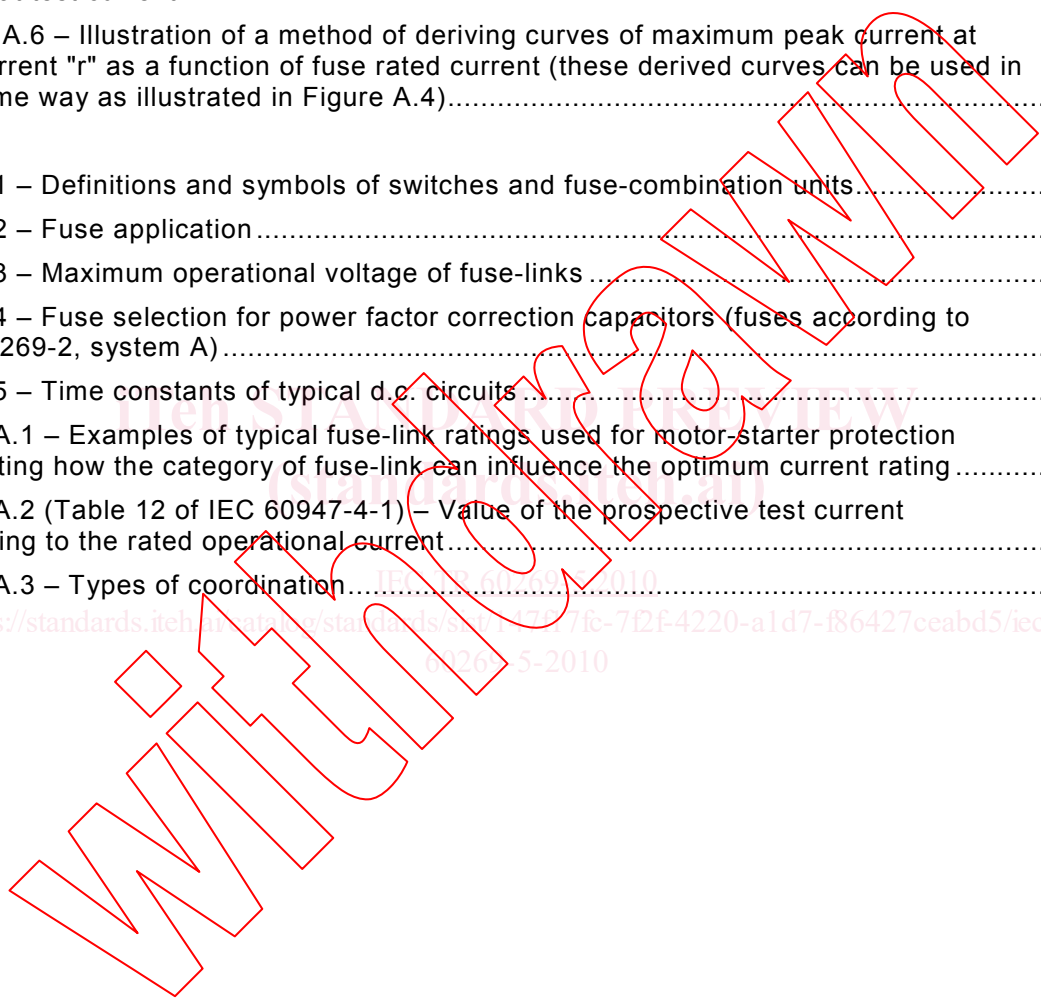
Table 4 – Fuse selection for power factor correction capacitors (fuses according to IEC 60269-2, system A)..... 27

Table 5 – Time constants of typical d.c. circuits 34

Table A.1 – Examples of typical fuse-link ratings used for motor-starter protection illustrating how the category of fuse-link can influence the optimum current rating 38

Table A.2 (Table 12 of IEC 60947-4-1) – Value of the prospective test current according to the rated operational current..... 43

Table A.3 – Types of coordination..... 44



INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

LOW-VOLTAGE FUSES –

Part 5: Guidance for the application of low-voltage fuses

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IEC 60269-5, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 32B: Low-voltage fuses, of IEC technical committee 32: Fuses.

This technical report cancels and replaces IEC/TR 61818, published in 2003, and IEC/TR 61459, published in 1996. It constitutes a minor revision by amending and restructuring the two replaced publications.

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
32B/554/DTR	32B/566/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report 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 60269 series, under the general title: *Low-voltage fuses*, 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
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INTRODUCTION

Fuses protect many types of equipment and switchgear against the effects of over-current which can be dramatic:

- thermal damage of conductors or bus-bars;
- vaporisation of metal;
- ionisation of gases;
- arcing, fire, explosion,
- insulation damage.

Apart from being hazardous to personnel, significant economic losses can result from downtime and the repairs required to restore damaged equipment.

Modern fuses are common overcurrent protective devices in use today, and as such provide an excellent cost effective solution to eliminate or minimize the effects of overcurrent.

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LOW-VOLTAGE FUSES –

Part 5: Guidance for the application of low-voltage fuses

1 Scope

This technical report, which serves as an application guide for low-voltage fuses, shows how current-limiting fuses are easy to apply to protect today's complex and sensitive electrical and electronic equipment. This guidance specifically covers low-voltage fuses up to 1 000 V a.c. and 1 500 V d.c. designed and manufactured in accordance with IEC 60269 series. This guidance provides important facts about as well as information on the application of fuses.

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 60050-441, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 441: Switchgear, controlgear and fuses*

IEC/TR 60146-6, *Semiconductor convertors – Part 6: Application guide for the protection of semiconductor convertors against overcurrent by fuses*

IEC 60269 (all parts), *Low-voltage fuses*

IEC 60269-1, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 60269-2, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 2: Supplementary requirements for fuses for use by authorized persons (fuses mainly for industrial application) – Examples of standardized fuses system A to J*

IEC 60269-3, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 3: Supplementary requirements for fuses for use by unskilled persons – Examples of standardized fuses system A to F*

IEC 60269-4, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 4: Supplementary requirements for fuse-links for the protection of semiconductor devices*

IEC 60364-4-41, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock*

IEC 60364-4-43, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-43: Protection for safety – Protection against overcurrent*

IEC 60364-5-52, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 5-52: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Wiring systems*

IEC/TR 60787, *Application guide for the selection of high-voltage current-limiting fuse-links for transformer circuits*

IEC 60947 (all parts), *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear*

IEC 60947-3, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 3: Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse-combination units*

IEC 60947-4-1, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters*

CEI 61912-1 : *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Overcurrent protective devices – Part 1 :Application of short-circuit ratings*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

switch (mechanical)

mechanical switching device capable of making, carrying and breaking currents under normal circuit conditions, which may include specified operating overload conditions and also carrying, for a specified time, currents under specified abnormal conditions such as those of short-circuits

NOTE A switch may be capable of making but not breaking, short-circuit currents.

[IEC,60050-441:1984, 441-14-10]

3.2

disconnector

mechanical switching device that, in the open position, complies with the requirements specified for isolating function

NOTE Some disconnectors may not be capable of switching load.

[IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-05, modified]

3.3

fuse-combination unit

combination of a mechanical switching device and one or more fuses in a composite unit, assembled by the manufacturer or in accordance with his instructions

[IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-04, modified]

3.4

switch-fuse

switch in which one or more poles have a fuse in series in a composite unit

[IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-14]

3.5

fuse-switch

switch in which a fuse-link or a fuse-carrier with fuse-link forms the moving contact

[IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-17]

3.6

Switching device

SD

device designed to make or break the current in one or more electric circuits

NOTE A switching device may perform one or both of these operations.

[IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-01]

3.7
short-circuit protective device
SCPD

device intended to protect a circuit or parts of a circuit against short-circuits by interrupting them

3.8
overload protection

protection intended to operate in the event of overload on the protected section

[IEC 60050-448:1995, 448-14-31]

3.9
overload

operating conditions in an electrically undamaged circuit, which cause an over-current

[IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-11-08]

3.10
overcurrent

current exceeding the rated current

[IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-01-20]

3.11
rated conditional short-circuit current (of a switching device)

I_q
prospective current that a switching device, protected by a short-circuit protective device, can satisfactorily withstand for the operating time of that device under test conditions specified in the relevant product standard

3.12
selectivity of protection

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

[IEC 60050-448:1995, 448-11-06]

NOTE Whereas the terms “selectivity” and “discrimination” have a similar meaning according to the IEC definitions, this report prefers and uses the term “selectivity” to express the ability of one over-current device to operate in preference to another over-current device in series, over a given range of over-current. The effect of standing load current on selectivity in the overload zone is also considered.

4 Fuse benefits

The current-limiting fuse provides complete protection against the effects of overcurrents by protecting both, electric circuits and their components. Fuses offer a combination of advantageous features, for example:

- a) High breaking capacity (high current interrupting rating).
- b) No need for complex short-circuit calculations.
- c) Easy and inexpensive system expansion in case of increased fault currents.
- d) High current limitation (low I^2t values).
- e) Mandatory fault elimination before reenergizing.
Fuses cannot be reset, thus forcing the user to identify and correct the fault condition before re-energizing the circuit.
- f) Reliability.
No moving parts to wear out or become contaminated by dust, oil or corrosion. Fuse replacement ensures protection is restored to its original level when the fuse is replaced.

- g) Cost effective protection.
Compact size offers low cost overcurrent protection at high short-circuit levels.
- h) No damage for starters and contactors (type 2 protection according to IEC 60947-4-1).
By limiting short-circuit energy and peak currents to extremely low levels, fuses are particularly suitable for type 2 protection without damage to components in motor circuits.
- i) Safe, silent operation.
No emission of gas, flames, arcs or other materials when clearing the highest levels of short-circuit currents. In addition, the speed of operation at high short-circuit currents significantly limits the arc flash hazard at the fault location.
- j) Easy coordination.
Standardized fuse characteristics and a high degree of current limitation ensure effective coordination between fuses and other devices.
- k) Standardized performance
Fuse-links designed and manufactured in accordance with IEC 60269 series ensure availability of replacements with standardized characteristics throughout the world.
- l) Improved power quality.
Current-limiting fuses interrupt high fault currents in a few milliseconds, minimizing dips or sags in system supply voltage.
- m) Tamperproof.
Once installed, fuses cannot be modified or adjusted thus preserving their level of performance and avoiding malfunction.
- n) No maintenance.
Properly sized fuses require no maintenance, adjustments or recalibrations. They can remain in service providing originally designed overcurrent protection levels for many decades.

5 Fuse construction and operation

5.1 Components

A fuse is a protective device comprising

- the fuse-link,
- the fuse-base,
- the fuse-carrier or replacement handle.

These components may be integrated in a fuse combination unit.

5.2 Fuse-construction

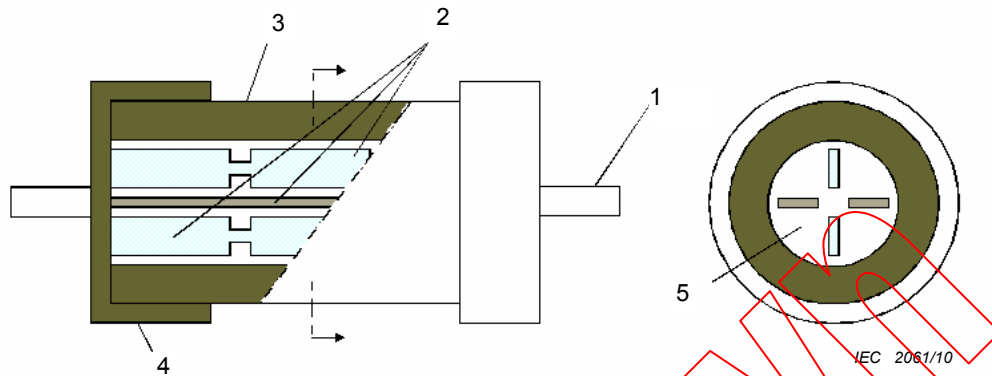
5.2.1 Fuse link

Figures 1 and 2 show the design of typical low-voltage fuse-links for industrial application. Such fuse-links are commonly called current-limiting or high breaking capacity fuse-links. Fuse-links according to IEC 60269-2 (fuses for industrial application) are available in current ratings up to 6 000 A.

Fuse-links according to IEC 60269-3 (fuses for household application) are available in current ratings up to 100 A.

The fuse-element is usually made of flat silver or copper with multiple restrictions in the cross-section, called notches. This restriction (or notch) pattern is an important feature of fuse design, normally achieved by precision stamping.

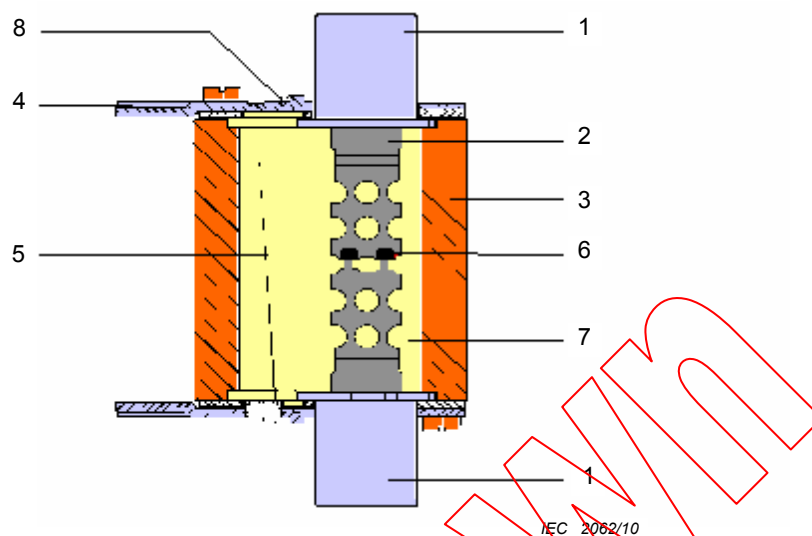
M-effect (see 5.3.3) material is added to the fuse-element to achieve controlled fuse operation in the overload range. The purity of the fuse-element materials and their precise physical dimensions are of vital importance for reliable fuse operation.



Key

- 1 Blade contact
- 2 Fuse-elements
- 3 Fuse body
- 4 End cap
- 5 Filler

Figure 1 – Typical fuse-link according to IEC 60269-2

**Key**

- 1 Blade contact
- 2 Fuse-element
- 3 Fuse body
- 4 Endplate (with gripping lug)
- 5 Indicator wire
- 6 M-effect material
- 7 Filler
- 8 Indicator

Figure 2 – Typical fuse-link according to IEC 60269-2

5.2.2 Fuse-link contacts

Fuse-link contacts provide electrical connection between the fuse-link and fuse-base or fuse carrier. The contacts are made of copper or copper alloys and are typically protected against the formation of non-conductive layers by plating.

5.2.3 Indicating device and striker

Some fuses are equipped with indicators or strikers for rapid recognition of fuse-link operation. Fuses equipped with strikers also provide means for mechanical actuation (e.g. for a switch of remote signalling) as well as a visual indication.

5.2.4 Fuse-base

The fuse-base is equipped with the matching contacts for accepting the fuse-link, connecting means for cables or busbars and the base insulator.

5.2.5 Replacement handles and fuse-holders

Replacement handles or fuse-carriers, where applicable, enable changing fuse-links in a live system under specified safety rules. They are made of insulating material and subjected to