IEC/TR 60919-1

Edition 3.1 2013-04

TECHNICAL REPORT

colour inside

Performance of high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems with line-commutated converters–
Part 1: Steady-state conditions

IEC/TR 60919-1:2010+A1:2013(E)

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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 29.200; 29.240.99

ISBN 978-2-8322-0794-9

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE OF HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS WITH LINE-COMMUTATED CONVERTERS –

Part 1: Steady-state conditions

FOREWORD

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This consolidated version of IEC/TR 60919-1 consists of the third edition (2010) [documents 22F/213/DTR and 22F/218/RVC] and its amendment 1 (2013) [documents 22F/277/DTR and 22F/286A/RVC]. It bears the edition number 3.1.

The technical content is therefore identical to the base edition and its amendment and has been prepared for user convenience. A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendment 1. Additions and deletions are displayed in red, with deletions being struck through.

The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC 60919-1, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 22F: Power electronics for electrical transmission and distribution systems, of IEC technical committee 22: Power electronic systems and equipment.

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

a) the changes have been made to the description of multi 12-pulse groups per pole, especially for a large scale ultra high-voltage direct current (UHVDC) converter arrangement;
b) the different arrangements of d.c. smoothing reactors have been included;
c) the figures depicting two 12-pulse groups per pole arrangement have been added.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60919 series, published under the general title *Performance of high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems with line-commutated converters*, can be found on the IEC website

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment 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.

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

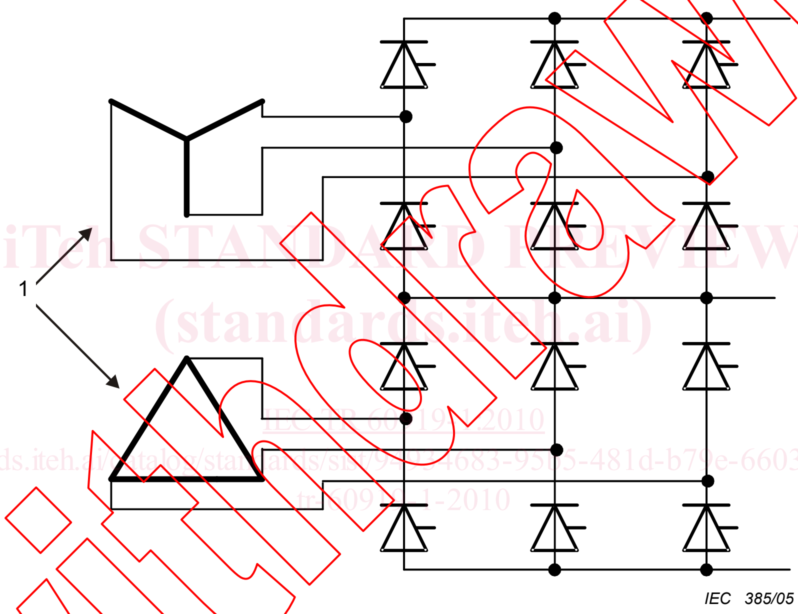
IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

PERFORMANCE OF HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS WITH LINE-COMMUTATED CONVERTERS –

Part 1: Steady-state conditions

1 Scope

This part of the IEC 60919 provides general guidance on the steady-state performance requirements of high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems. It concerns the steady-state performance of two-terminal HVDC systems utilizing 12-pulse converter units comprised of three-phase bridge (double- way) connections (see Figure 1), but it does not cover multi-terminal HVDC transmission systems. Both terminals are assumed to use thyristor valves as the main semiconductor valves and to have power flow capability in both directions. Diode valves are not considered in this report.



Key

1 Transformer valve windings

Figure 1 – Twelve-pulse converter unit

Only line-commutated converters are covered in this report, which includes capacitor commutated converter circuit configurations. General requirements for semiconductor line-commutated converters are given in IEC 60146-1-1, IEC/TR 60146-1-2 and IEC 60146-1-3. Voltage-sourced converters are not considered.

This technical report, which covers steady-state performance, is followed by additional documents on dynamic performance and transient performance. All three aspects should be considered when preparing two-terminal HVDC system specifications.

The difference between system performance specifications and equipment design specifications for individual components of a system should be realized. Equipment specifications and testing requirements are not defined in this report. Also excluded from this report are detailed seismic performance requirements. In addition, because there are many variations between different possible HVDC systems, this report does not consider these in detail; consequently, it should not be used directly as a specification for a particular project, but rather to provide the basis for an appropriate specification tailored to fit actual system requirements.

Frequently, performance specifications are prepared as a single package for the two HVDC substations in a particular system. Alternatively, some parts of the HVDC system can be separately specified and purchased. In such cases, due consideration should be given to co-ordination of each part with the overall HVDC system performance objectives and the interface of each with the system should be clearly defined. Typical of such parts, listed in the appropriate order of relative ease for separate treatment and interface definition, are:

a) d.c. line, electrode line and earth electrode;
b) telecommunication system;
c) converter building, foundations and other civil engineering work;
d) reactive power supply including a.c. shunt capacitor banks, shunt reactors, synchronous and static reactive power (VAR) compensators;
e) a.c. switchgear;
f) d.c. switchgear;
g) auxiliary systems;
h) a.c. filters;
i) d.c. filters;
j) d.c. reactors;
k) converter transformers;
l) surge arresters;
m) series commutation capacitors;
n) valves and their ancillaries;
o) control and protection systems.

NOTE The last four items are the most difficult to separate, and, in fact, separation of these four may be inadvisable.

A complete steady-state performance specification for a HVDC system should consider Clauses 3 to 21 of this report.

Terms and definitions for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission used in this report are given in IEC 60633.

Since the equipment items are usually separately specified and purchased, the HVDC transmission line, earth electrode line and earth electrode (see Clause 10) are included only because of their influence on the HVDC system performance.

For the purpose of this report, an HVDC substation is assumed to consist of one or more converter units installed in a single location together with buildings, reactors, filters, reactive power supply, control, monitoring, protective, measuring and auxiliary equipment. While there is no discussion of a.c. switching substations in this report, a.c. filters and reactive power sources are included, although they may be connected to an a.c. bus separate from the HVDC substation, as discussed in Clause 16.

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 60146-1-1, *Semiconductor converters – General requirements and line commutated converters – Part 1-1: Specifications of basic requirements*

IEC/TR 60146-1-2, *Semiconductor convertors – General requirements and line commutated convertors – Part 1-2: Application guide*

IEC 60146-1-3, *Semiconductor convertors – General requirements and line commutated convertors – Part 1-3: Transformers and reactors*

IEC 60633, *Terminology for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission*

3 Types of HVDC systems

3.1 General

This part of the specification should include the following basic data:

a) general information on the location of the HVDC substations and the purpose of the project;

b) type of system needed, including a simple one-line diagram;

c) number of 12-pulse converter units;

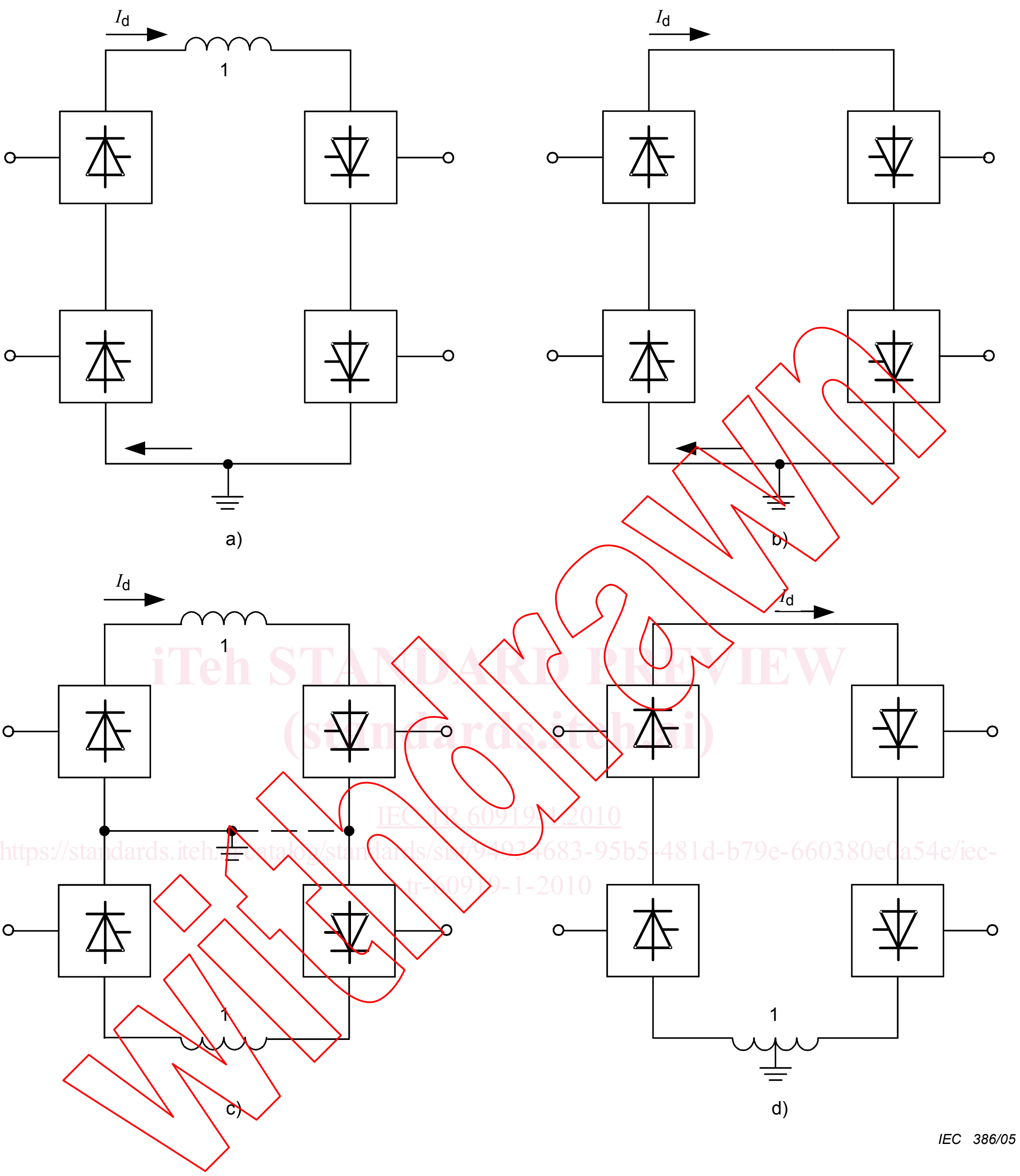
d) pertinent information derived from the discussion in this section.

Generally, in studies of projects of the types discussed in this report, economic considerations should take into account the capital costs, the cost of losses, cost of outages and other expected annual expenses.

In terms of the type of system, the relatively new development of "capacitor-commutated converter (CCC)" and "controlled series capacitor converter (CSCC)" technology may be suitable alternatives to a conventional HVDC scheme. These are described in 3.10.

3.2 HVDC back-to-back system

In this arrangement there is no d.c. transmission line and both converters are located at one site. The valves for both converters may be located in one valve hall, or even in one integrated structure or separately as outdoor valves. Similarly, many other items for the two converters, such as the control system, cooling equipment, auxiliary system, etc., may be located in one area or even integrated in layout into configurations common to the two converters. Circuit configurations may vary. Examples are given in Figure 2. The performance and economics of these configurations differ and must be evaluated. D.C. filters are not needed.



Key

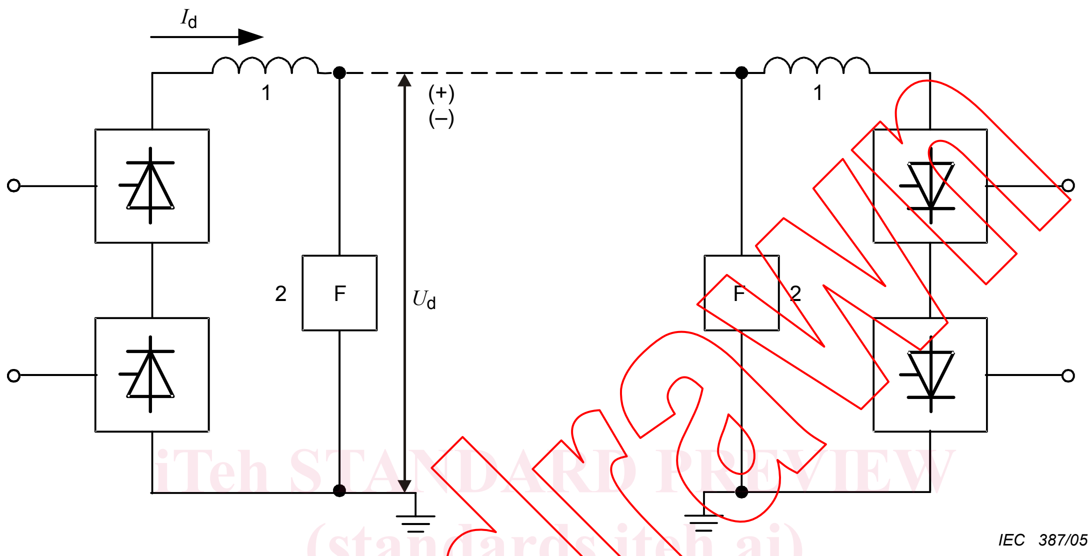
1 DC reactor

Figure 2 – Examples of back-to-back HVDC systems

The voltage and current ratings for a given power rating should be optimized to achieve the lowest system cost, including the evaluated cost of losses. Ordinarily, the user does not need to specify the direct voltage and current ratings, unless there are specific reasons to do so, for example, for compatibility with an already existing station, to provide for a future extension of for some other reason. Economics dictate that each converter will usually be a 12-pulse converter unit, however it is not mandatory. Where operating criteria require that the loss of one converter unit will not cause loss of full power capability, large HVDC substations could be comprised of two or more back-to-back systems. For this, some of the equipment of the back-to-back systems can, for economic reasons, be located in the same area or even physically integrated, but events which could cause a failure of equipment required by all back-to-back systems need to be carefully considered and preventive measures taken where appropriate.

3.3 Monopolar earth return HVDC system

Cost considerations often lead to the adoption of a monopolar earth return system (Figure 3), particularly for cable transmission which may be expensive.



Key

1 DC reactor

2 DC filters

Figure 3 – Monopolar earth return system

The monopolar earth return configuration might also be the first stage in the development of a bipolar scheme. Monopolar arrangements may include one or more 12-pulse units in series or in parallel at the ends of the HVDC transmission (Figures 4 and 5). More than one 12-pulse unit might be used for the following purposes:

a) to ensure partial transmission capacity during converter unit outages;

b) to complete the project in stages;

c) because of the physical limitations of transformer transport.

This arrangement requires one or more d.c. reactors at each end of the HVDC overhead line or cable; these are usually located on the high-voltage side. However, the d.c. reactors may be divided into two parts and located on the high-voltage side and the earth side respectively if the resulting performance is acceptable, especially for a large scale ultra high voltage direct current (UHVDC) converter arrangement.

If the line is overhead, d.c. filters are likely to be needed at each end (see Clause 17). It also requires an earth electrode line and a continuously operable earth electrode at the two ends of the transmission which involves consideration of issues such as corrosion, magnetic field effects, etc.