

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Edition 2.2
1998-04

Edition 2:1994 consolidated with amendments 1:1997 and 2:1997

Rubber insulated cables – Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V –

Part 2: Test methods

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

RUBBER INSULATED CABLES – RATED VOLTAGES UP TO AND INCLUDING 450/750 V –

Part 2: Test methods

FOREWORD

- 1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, the IEC publishes International Standards. Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. The IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested National Committees.
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This part of International Standard IEC 60245 has been prepared by subcommittee 20B: Low-voltage cables, of IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

This consolidated version of IEC 60245-2 consists of the second edition (1994), its amendment 1 (1997) [documents 20B/248/FDIS and 20B/253/RVD] and amendment 2 (1997) [documents 20B/257/FDIS and 20B/265/RVD].

The technical content is therefore identical to the base edition and its amendments and has been prepared for user convenience.

It bears the edition number 2.2.

A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendments 1 and 2.

IEC 60245 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Rubber insulated cables – Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V*:

Part 1: 1994, General requirements

Part 2: 1994, Test methods

Part 3: 1994, Heat resistant silicone insulated cables

Part 4: 1994, Cords and flexible cables

Part 5: 1994, Lift cables

Part 6: 1994, Arc welding electrode cables

Part 7: 1994, Heat resistant ethylene-vinyl acetate rubber insulated cables

Parts 3 to 7 are for particular types of cable and should be read in conjunction with part 1 and part 2. Further parts may be added as other types are standardized.

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RUBBER INSULATED CABLES – RATED VOLTAGES UP TO AND INCLUDING 450/750 V –

Part 2: Test methods

1 General

1.1 Scope

This part of IEC 60245 gives the test methods specified in all parts of IEC 60245 as far as not laid down in IEC 60811.

1.2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of IEC 60245. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All normative documents are subject to revision and parties to agreements based on this part of IEC 60245 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

IEC 60245-1:1994, *Rubber insulated cables – Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 60245-3:1994, *Rubber insulated cables – Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V – Part 3: Heat resistant silicone insulated cables*

IEC 60245-4:1994, *Rubber insulated cables – Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V – Part 4: Cords and flexible cables*

IEC 60245-8:1997, *Rubber insulated cables – Rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V – Part 8: Cords for applications requiring high flexibility*

IEC 60332-1:1993, *Tests on electric cables under fire conditions – Part 1: Test on a single vertical insulated wire or cable*

IEC 60811-1-1:1993, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section 1: Measurement of thickness and overall dimensions – Tests for determining the mechanical properties*

IEC 60811-1-2:1985, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section 2: Thermal ageing methods*
Amendment 1 (1989)

ISO 1302:1992, *Technical drawings – Method of indicating surface texture*

1.3 Classification of tests according to the frequency with which they are carried out

The tests specified are type tests (symbol T) and/or sample tests (symbol S) as defined in 2.2 of IEC 60245-1.

The symbols T and S are used in the relevant tables of the particular specifications (IEC 60245-3, 60245-4, etc.).

1.4 Sampling

If a marking is in relief in insulation or sheath the samples used for the tests shall be taken so as to include such marking.

For multicore cables, except for the test specified in 1.9, not more than three cores (of different colours, if applicable) shall be tested unless otherwise specified.

1.5 Pre-conditioning

All the tests shall be carried out not less than 16 h after the vulcanization of the insulating or sheathing compounds.

1.6 Test temperature

Unless otherwise specified, tests shall be made at ambient temperature.

1.7 Test voltage

Unless otherwise specified, the test voltages shall be a.c. 49 Hz to 61 Hz of approximately sinewave form, the ratio peak value/r.m.s. value being equal $\sqrt{2}$ with a tolerance of $\pm 7\%$.

The values quoted are r.m.s. values.

1.8 Checking of the durability of colours and markings

Compliance with this requirement shall be checked by trying to remove the marking of the manufacturer's name or trade mark and the colours of cores or numerals by rubbing lightly ten times with a piece of cotton wool or cloth soaked in water.

1.9 Measurement of thickness of insulation

1.9.1 Procedure

The thickness of insulation shall be measured in accordance with 8.1 of IEC 60811-1-1.

One sample of cable shall be taken from each of three places, separated by at least 1 m.

Compliance shall be checked on each core of cables having up to five cores, and on any five cores of cables with more than five cores.

If withdrawal of the conductor is difficult, it shall be stretched in a tensile machine or the piece of core shall be immersed in mercury until the insulation becomes loose.

1.9.2 Evaluation of results

The mean of the 18 values (expressed in millimetres) obtained from the three pieces of insulation from each core shall be calculated to two decimal places and rounded off as given below, and this shall be taken as the mean value of the thickness of insulation.

If in the calculation the second decimal figure is 5 or more, the first decimal figure shall be raised to the next number, thus, for example, 1,74 shall be rounded off to 1,7 and 1,75 to 1,8.

The lowest of all values obtained shall be taken as the minimum thickness of insulation at any place.

This test may be combined with any other measurements of thickness, for instance those of 5.2.4 of IEC 60245-1.

1.10 Measurement of thickness of sheath

1.10.1 Procedure

The thickness of sheath shall be measured in accordance with 8.2 of IEC 60811-1-1.

One sample of cable shall be taken from each of three places, separated by at least 1 m.

1.10.2 Evaluation of results

The mean of all the values (expressed in millimetres) obtained from the three pieces of sheath shall be calculated to two decimal places and rounded off as given below, and this shall be taken as the mean value of the thickness of sheath.

If in the calculation the second decimal figure is 5 or more, the first decimal figure shall be raised to the next number, thus, for example, 1,74 shall be rounded off to 1,7 and 1,75 to 1,8.

The lowest of all values obtained shall be taken as the minimum thickness of sheath at any place.

This test may be combined with any other measurements of thickness, for instance those of 5.5.4 of IEC 60245-1.

1.11 Measurement of overall dimensions and ovality

The three samples taken in accordance with 1.9 or 1.10 shall be used.

The measurement of the overall diameter of any circular cable and of the overall dimensions of flat cables with a major dimension not exceeding 15 mm shall be carried out in accordance with 8.3 of IEC 60811-1-1.

For the measurement of flat cables with a dimension exceeding 15 mm, a micrometer, a profile projector or similar appliance shall be used.

The mean of the values obtained shall be taken as the mean overall dimension.

For checking the cable ovality of circular sheathed cables, two measurements shall be made at the same cross-section of the cable.

1.12 Solderability test for untinned conductors

1.12.1 Aim of the test

The test is intended to verify the effectiveness of the separator between the non-tinned conductor and the insulation.

Compliance is checked by the solder bath method described below.

1.12.2 Selection of samples and preparation of test pieces

One sample having a length suitable for the bending test defined below is taken at three points in the cable, and the cores in each sample are carefully separated from all other components.

Each sample of core thus obtained is wound, in three turns, on a mandrel, the diameter of which is three times that of the core.

The sample is then unwound and straightened out, whereupon it is wound again in such a way that the fibre which was compressed in the first case becomes the stretched fibre in the second.

This cycle of operations is repeated two more times, which represents three bending operations in one direction and three in the other.

From each sample of core which has been straightened out after the third cycle of bending operations, a test piece having a length of about 15 cm is taken from that part of the core which has actually been wound.

Each test piece is then subjected to accelerated ageing in a hot-air oven for 240 h at a temperature of $70\text{ °C} \pm 1\text{ °C}$.

After this accelerated ageing, the test pieces are left at ambient temperature for at least 16 h.

Then each test piece is stripped at one end over a length of 60 mm and is subjected to the solderability test by the solder-bath method described below.

1.12.3 Description of the solder bath

The solder bath shall have a volume sufficient to ensure that the temperature of the solder remains uniform at the moment when the conductor is introduced. It shall be provided with a device which maintains the temperature of the solder at $270\text{ °C} \pm 10\text{ °C}$.

The height of the solder bath shall be at least 75 mm.

The visible surface area of the bath shall be reduced as far as possible, by using a perforated plate of heat resisting material in order to protect the core against direct radiation from the bath.

The composition of the solder shall be tin (between 59,5 % and 61,5 %) and lead.

Impurities (as a percentage of the total mass) shall not exceed:

Antimony	0,50	Zinc	0,005
Bismuth	0,25	Aluminium	0,005
Copper	0,08	Others	0,080
Iron	0,02		