

TECHNICAL REPORT



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

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

LOW-VOLTAGE FUSES –

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

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of 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, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as “IEC Publication(s)”). 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. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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IEC 60269-5 edition 2.1 contains the second edition (2014-03) [documents 32B/621A/DTR and 32B/624/RVC] and its amendment 1 (2020-12) [documents 32B/694/DTR and 32B/697A/RVDTR].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

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

This second edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) recommendations for fuse operations in high altitudes added
- b) more details for operational voltages added
- c) recommendations for photovoltaic system protection added
- d) numerous details improved

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 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.

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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 documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary*. Available from <http://www.electropedia.org/>

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 60269-1:2006, *Low-voltage fuses - Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 60269-1:2006/AMD1:2009

IEC 60269-1:2006/AMD2:2014

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 systems of fuses A to K*

IEC 60269-3, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 3: Supplementary requirements for fuses for use by unskilled persons (fuses mainly for household or similar applications) – Examples of standardized systems of fuses A to F*

IEC 60269-4:2009, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 4: Supplementary requirements for fuse-links for the protection of semiconductor devices*

IEC 60269-6, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 6: Supplementary requirements for fuse-links for the protection of solar photovoltaic energy systems*

IEC 60364-4-41:2005, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock*

IEC 60364-4-43:2008, *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 60947 (all parts), *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear*

IEC 60947-3:2008/2015, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 3: Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse-combination units*

IEC 60947-4-1:2009, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters*

IEC/TR 61912-1:2007, *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 1 to entry: A switch may be capable of making but not breaking, short-circuit currents.

[SOURCE: 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 1 to entry: Some disconnectors may not be capable of switching load.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-05, modified (modified definition and Note 1 to entry added)]

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

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-04, modified (Note removed)]

3.4

switch-fuse

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

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

3.4.1

single-break and double-break

switch-fuse must be single break (it opens the circuit on one side of the fuse link) or double break (it opens the circuit on both sides of the fuse link)

3.5

fuse-switch

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

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

3.5.1

single-break and double-break

fuse-switch must be single break (it opens the circuit on one side of the fuse link) or double break (it opens the circuit on both sides of the fuse link)

3.6

Switching device SD

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

Note 1 to entry: A switching device may perform one or both of these operations.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:1984, 441-14-01, modified (Note 1 to entry added)]

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

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

3.9

overload

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

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

3.10

overcurrent

current exceeding the rated current

[SOURCE: 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

Note 1 to entry: 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.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-448:1995, 448-11-06, modified (Note 1 to entry added)]