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Photovoltaic systems – Design qualification of solar trackers

Systèmes photovoltaïques – Qualification de conception des suiveurs solaires

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD..... 6

1 Scope and object..... 8

2 Normative references 8

3 Terms and definitions 9

4 Specifications for solar trackers for PV applications..... 9

5 Report 12

6 Tracker definitions and taxonomy 13

6.1 General..... 13

6.2 Payload types 13

6.2.1 Standard photovoltaic (PV) module trackers 13

6.2.2 Concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) module trackers..... 13

6.3 Rotational axes 14

6.3.1 General 14

6.3.2 Single-axis trackers 14

6.3.3 Dual-axis trackers..... 15

6.4 Actuation and control 17

6.4.1 Architecture 17

6.4.2 Drive train..... 17

6.4.3 Drive types 17

6.4.4 Drive train torque..... 18

6.5 Types of tracker control 18

6.5.1 Passive control..... 18

6.5.2 Active control..... 18

6.5.3 Backtracking..... 19

6.6 Structural characteristics 19

6.6.1 Vertical supports..... 19

6.6.2 Foundation types 20

6.6.3 Tracker positions 20

6.6.4 Stow time 21

6.7 Energy consumption 21

6.7.1 Daily energy consumption..... 21

6.7.2 Stow energy consumption..... 21

6.8 External elements and interfaces 21

6.8.1 Foundation 21

6.8.2 Foundation interface 21

6.8.3 Payload 21

6.8.4 Payload interface..... 22

6.8.5 Payload mechanical interface 22

6.8.6 Payload electrical interface..... 22

6.8.7 Grounding interface 22

6.8.8 Installation effort..... 22

6.8.9 Control interface 22

6.9 Internal tolerances 23

6.9.1 Primary-axis tolerance 23

6.9.2 Secondary axis tolerance..... 23

6.9.3 Backlash..... 23

<https://standards.iteh.ai/> IEC 62817:2014
<https://standards.iteh.ai/> Document Preview
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6.9.4	Stiffness	23
6.10	Tracker system elements	24
6.10.1	Mechanical structure	24
6.10.2	Tracker controller	24
6.10.3	Sensors	24
6.11	Reliability terminology.....	24
6.11.1	General	24
6.11.2	Mean time between failures (MTBF)	24
6.11.3	Mean time between critical failures (MTBCF).....	25
6.11.4	Mean time to repair (MTTR).....	25
6.12	Environmental conditions	25
6.12.1	Operating temperature range.....	25
6.12.2	Survival temperature range.....	25
6.12.3	Wind speed	25
6.12.4	Maximum wind during operation	26
6.12.5	Maximum wind during stow.....	26
6.12.6	Snow load	26
7	Tracker accuracy characterization	26
7.1	Overview	26
7.2	Pointing error (instantaneous).....	26
7.3	Measurement.....	27
7.3.1	Overview	27
7.3.2	Example of experimental method to measure pointing error	27
7.3.3	Calibration of pointing error measurement tool	28
7.4	Calculation of tracker accuracy	29
7.4.1	Overview	29
7.4.2	Data collection.....	29
7.4.3	Data binning by wind speed.....	31
7.4.4	Data filtering.....	31
7.4.5	Data quantity	31
7.4.6	Accuracy calculations	31
8	Tracker test procedures.....	32
8.1	Visual inspection.....	32
8.1.1	Purpose.....	32
8.1.2	Procedure.....	32
8.1.3	Requirements	33
8.2	Functional validation tests.....	33
8.2.1	Purpose.....	33
8.2.2	Tracking limits verification	33
8.2.3	Hard limit switch operation.....	33
8.2.4	Automatic sun tracking after power outage and feedback sensor shadowing	33
8.2.5	Manual operation.....	34
8.2.6	Emergency stop.....	34
8.2.7	Maintenance mode	34
8.2.8	Operational temperature range	34
8.2.9	Wind stow.....	34
8.3	Performance tests.....	34
8.3.1	Purpose.....	34

8.3.2	Daily energy and peak power consumption	34
8.3.3	Stow time and stow energy and power consumption	35
8.4	Mechanical testing	35
8.4.1	Purpose	35
8.4.2	Control/drive train pointing repeatability test	36
8.4.3	Deflection under static load test	37
8.4.4	Torsional stiffness, mechanical drift, drive torque, and backlash testing	39
8.4.5	Moment testing under extreme wind loading	43
8.5	Environmental testing	45
8.5.1	Purpose	45
8.5.2	Procedure	45
8.5.3	Requirements	47
8.6	Accelerated mechanical cycling	47
8.6.1	Purpose	47
8.6.2	Procedure	48
8.6.3	Requirements	50
9	Design qualification testing specific to tracker electronic equipment	50
9.1	General purpose	50
9.2	Sequential testing for electronic components	50
9.2.1	General	50
9.2.2	Visual inspection of electronic components	51
9.2.3	Functioning test	52
9.2.4	Protection against dust, water, and foreign bodies (IP code)	53
9.2.5	Protection against mechanical impacts (IK code)	53
9.2.6	Robustness of terminals test	54
9.2.7	Surge immunity test	55
9.2.8	Shipping vibration test	55
9.2.9	Shock test	56
9.2.10	UV test	56
9.2.11	Thermal cycling test	57
9.2.12	Humidity-freeze test	58
9.2.13	Damp heat	59
10	Additional optional accuracy calculations	59
10.1	Typical tracking accuracy range	59
10.2	Tracking error histogram	59
10.3	Percent of available irradiance as a function of pointing error	60
Figure 1	– Convention for elevation angle	16
Figure 2	– Illustration of primary-axis tolerance for VPDAT	23
Figure 3	– General illustration of pointing error	27
Figure 4	– Example of experimental method to measure pointing error	27
Figure 5	– Example measurement locations for structural deflection	38
Figure 6	– Load configurations while the payload is in the horizontal position	38
Figure 7	– Load configuration when the payload is in the vertical position	38
Figure 8	– Moment load applied to an elevation axis	40
Figure 9	– Angular displacement versus applied torque to axis of rotation	41
Figure 10	– Examples of characteristic length for (a) elevation torque, (b) azimuth torque	42

Figure 11 – Two configurations for extreme wind moment loading.....	44
Figure 12 – Representation of a tracker’s discrete-movement profile	48
Figure 13 – Representation of an accelerated discrete-movement profile for testing	49
Figure 14 – Test sequence for electronic components.....	51
Figure 15 – Electronic component thermal cycling test.....	57
Figure 16 – Electronic component humidity-freeze test	58
Figure 17 – Pointing-error frequency distribution for the entire test period	60
Figure 18 – Available irradiance as a function of pointing error	60
Figure 19 – Available irradiance as a function of pointing error with binning by wind speed	61
Table 1 – Tracker specification template.....	10
Table 2 – Alternate tracking-accuracy reporting template.....	32

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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.

International Standard IEC 62817 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

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

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PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS – DESIGN QUALIFICATION OF SOLAR TRACKERS

1 Scope and object

This International Standard is a design qualification standard applicable to solar trackers for photovoltaic systems, but may be used for trackers in other solar applications. The standard defines test procedures for both key components and for the complete tracker system. In some cases, test procedures describe methods to measure and/or calculate parameters to be reported in the defined tracker specification sheet. In other cases, the test procedure results in a pass/fail criterion.

The objective of this design qualification standard is twofold.

First, this standard ensures the user of the said tracker that parameters reported in the specification sheet were measured by consistent and accepted industry procedures. This provides customers with a sound basis for comparing and selecting a tracker appropriate to their specific needs. This standard provides industry-wide definitions and parameters for solar trackers. Each vendor can design, build, and specify the functionality and accuracy with uniform definition. This allows consistency in specifying the requirements for purchasing, comparing the products from different vendors, and verifying the quality of the products.

Second, the tests with pass/fail criteria are engineered with the purpose of separating tracker designs that are likely to have early failures from those designs that are sound and suitable for use as specified by the manufacturer. Mechanical and environmental testing in this standard is designed to gauge the tracker's ability to perform under varying operating conditions, as well as to survive extreme conditions. Mechanical testing is not intended to certify structural and foundational designs, because this type of certification is specific to local jurisdictions, soil types, and other local requirements.

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2 Normative references

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IEC 60068-2-6, *Environmental testing – Part 2-6: Tests – Test Fc: Vibration (sinusoidal)*

IEC 60068-2-21, *Environmental testing – Part 2-21: Tests – Test U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices*

IEC 60068-2-27, *Environmental testing – Part 2-27: Tests – Test Ea and guidance: Shock*

IEC 60068-2-75, *Environmental testing – Part 2-75: Tests – Test Eh: Hammer tests*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60904-3:2008, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data*

IEC 61000-4-5:2005, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-5: Testing and measurement techniques – Surge immunity test*

IEC 62262:2002, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures for electrical equipment against external mechanical impacts (IK code)*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 12103-1, *Road vehicles – Test dust for filter evaluation – Part 1: Arizona test dust*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. For additional tracker-specific terminology, see Clause 6.

3.1 photovoltaics PV

devices that use solar radiation to directly generate electrical energy

3.2 concentrator photovoltaics CPV

devices that focus magnified sunlight on photovoltaics to generate electrical energy. The sunlight could be magnified by various different methods, such as reflective or refractive optics, in dish, trough, lens, or other configurations

3.3 concentrator module CPV module

group of receivers (PV cells mounted in some way), optics, and other related components, such as interconnections and mechanical enclosures, integrated together into a modular package. The module is typically assembled in a factory and shipped to an installation site to be installed along with other modules on a solar tracker

Note 1 to entry: The module is typically assembled in a factory and shipped to an installation site to be installed along with other modules on a solar tracker.

Note 2 to entry: A CPV module typically does not have a field-adjustable focus point. In addition, a module could be made of several sub-modules. The sub-module is a smaller, modular portion of the full-size module, which might be assembled into the full module either in a factory or in the field.

3.4 concentrator assembly

concentrator assembly consisting of receivers, optics, and other related components that have a field-adjustable focus point and are typically assembled and aligned in the field

EXAMPLE: A system that combines a single large dish with a receiver unit that is aligned with the focal point of the dish.

Note 1 to entry: This term is used to differentiate certain CPV designs from the CPV modules mentioned above.

4 Specifications for solar trackers for PV applications

The manufacturer shall provide the test lab, as part of its product marking and documentation, a table in the form specified below (see Table 1). The third column of Table 1 is for information purposes regarding this standard and is not intended to be part of an actual specification template provided to the test lab. See later clauses/subclauses of this standard for further explanation of individual specifications.

Some of the specifications within Table 1 are required to be provided by the manufacturer and verified by the test lab, whereas others are the sole responsibility of the test lab. Still other specifications in Table 1 are optional; however, if a tracker manufacturer chooses to include optional information, it shall be reported and measured in the specific way shown in Table 1 (and in some cases, reporting requirements are further described in the appropriate clause of this standard). Refer to the third column of Table 1 to determine the responsibility of the specification or optional status (“T” indicates test lab responsibility, “M” indicates manufacturer responsibility, and “O” indicates an optional parameter).

Table 1 – Tracker specification template

Characteristic	Example	Responsibility/Clause/Subclause
Manufacturer	The XYZ Company	(M)
Model number	XX1090	(M)
Type of tracker	CPV Tracker, Dual Axis	(M) 6.2, 6.3
Payload characteristics		
Minimum/maximum mass supported	100 kg/1 025 kg	(M) 6.8.3
Payload center of mass restrictions	0 m to 0,3 m distance perpendicular to mounting surface	(M) 6.8.3
Maximum payload surface area	30 m ²	(M) 6.8.3
Nominal payload surface area	28 m ²	(M)
Maximum dynamic torques allowed while moving	Azimuth (Θ_z): 10 kN m Θ_x, Θ_y : 5 kN m [shall provide a set of diagrams to clarify torques and which axes they are relative to]	(M) 8.4.5
Maximum static torques allowed while in stow position	[shall provide a set of diagrams]	(M) 8.4.4, 8.4.5
Installation characteristics		
Allowable foundation	Reinforced concrete	(M) 6.6.2
Foundation tolerance in primary axis	$\pm 0,5^\circ$	(O) 6.9
Foundation tolerance in secondary axis	$\pm 0,5^\circ$	(O) 6.9
Installation effort	5 man-hours, 40 metric ton crane	(O) 6.8.8
Payload interface flexibility	The interface can be configured to mount modules from manufacturers “A”, “B”, and “C”. Bolting configurations “X”, “Y”, and “Z” are allowable.	(O)
Electrical characteristics		
Includes backup power?	No	(M) N/A
Daily energy consumption	1,5 kWh	(T) 6.7.1
Stow energy consumption	1 kWh	(T) 6.7.2
Input power requirements	AC, 100 V to 240 V, 50 Hz to 60 Hz, 5 A	(M) No specifics defined
Effective (and apparent) peak power consumption tracking	500 W (550 VA)	(T) 8.3.2
Effective (and apparent) peak power consumption non-tracking	50 W (55 VA)	(T) 8.3.2
Effective (and apparent) peak power consumption stow positioning.	1 000 W (1 100 VA)	(T) 8.3.3