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**Low-voltage switch mode power supplies –
Part 7: Safety requirements**

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**Alimentations à découpage basse tension –
Partie 7: Exigences de sécurité**

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Low-voltage switch mode power supplies –
Part 7: Safety requirements**

**Alimentations à découpage basse tension –
Partie 7: Exigences de sécurité**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCH MODE POWER SUPPLIES –

Part 7: Safety requirements

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International Standard IEC 61204-7 has been prepared by subcommittee 22E: Stabilized power supplies, of IEC technical committee 22: Power electronic systems and equipment.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2006. This edition constitutes a complete technical revision.

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

- a) use of IEC 62477-1 as reference document, instead of IEC 60950-1;
- b) modification of the title by deleting the wording “DC output-“ and adding “switch mode”.

IEC 61204-7 has the status of a product standard.

The text of this document is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
22E/175/FDIS	22E/177/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this document 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 in the IEC 61204 series, published under the general title *Low-voltage power supplies, d.c. output*, can be found on the IEC website.

Future standards in this series will carry the new general title as cited above. Titles of existing standards in this series will be updated at the time of the next edition.

This International Standard is to be read in conjunction with IEC 62477-1:2012.

NOTE A consolidated version is under consideration.

The provisions of the general rules dealt with in IEC 62477-1:2012 are only applicable to this document insofar as they are specifically cited. Clauses and subclauses of IEC 62477-1:2012 that are applicable in this document are identified by reference to the reference document, for example, 4.3 of IEC 62477-1:2012.

Subclauses that are numbered starting from 100 are additional to those in IEC 62477-1:2012.

Additional tables and figures in this document are numbered starting from 100.

New annexes in this document are lettered AA, AB, AC, etc.

Wherever the word **PECS (power electronic converter system)** occurs in this reference document, this means **SMPS**.

The wordings **SMPS** and "power supply" are considered to be identical throughout this document.

References of the reference document to clauses or tables, which have been modified in this document, shall be read as reference to the relevant clauses or tables of this document.

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- Terms that are defined in clause 3 or IEC 62477-1:2012: **Bold Italic**.

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INTRODUCTION

IEC 62477-1:2012, used by this document as a reference, relates to products that include power electronic converters, with a rated system voltage not exceeding 1 000 V AC or 1 500 V DC. It specifies requirements to reduce risks of fire, electric shock, thermal, energy and mechanical hazards, except functional safety as defined in IEC 61508 (all parts). The objectives of this standard are to establish a common terminology and basis for the safety requirements of products that contain power electronic converters across several IEC technical committees.

IEC 62477-1:2012 was developed with the intention

- to be used as a reference document for product committees inside IEC technical committee 22: Power electronic systems and equipment in the development of product standards for power electronic converter systems and equipment,
- to replace IEC 62103 as a product family standard providing minimum requirements for safety aspects of power electronic converter systems and equipment in apparatus for which no product standard exists, and

NOTE The scope of IEC 62103 contains reliability aspects, which are not covered by this document.

- to be used as a reference document for product committees outside TC 22 in the development of product standards of power electronic converter systems and equipment intended for renewable energy sources. TC 82, TC 88, TC 105 and TC 114, in particular, have been identified as relevant technical committees at the time of publication.

As such, IEC technical sub-committee 22E: Stabilized switched-mode power supplies carefully considered the relevance of each paragraph of IEC 62477-1:2012 for the SMPS and referenced, added, replaced or modified requirements as relevant. This is because product-specific topics not covered by the reference document are the responsibility of the technical committee using the reference document.

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The reference document, being a group safety standard, will not take precedence over this product-specific standard according to IEC Guide 104. IEC Guide 104 provides information about the responsibility of product committees to use group safety standards for the development of their own product standards.

LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCH MODE POWER SUPPLIES –

Part 7: Safety requirements

0 Principles of safety

Safety principles of this document follow the concepts of IEC Guide 116 and Annex D of CENELEC Guide 32:2014.

NOTE The principles of safety are mainly adopted from IEC 60950-1:2005/AMD1:2009/AMD2:2013.

0.1 General

The following principles have been adopted by IEC technical committee 22E in the development of this document. These principles do not cover performance or functional characteristics of equipment.

It is essential that designers understand the underlying principles of safety requirements in order that they can engineer safe equipment.

These principles are not an alternative to the detailed requirements of this document, but are intended to provide designers with an appreciation of the basis of these requirements. Where the equipment involves technologies, components and materials or methods of construction not specifically covered, the design of the equipment should provide a level of safety not less than that described in these principles of safety.

NOTE The need for additional detailed requirements to cope with a new situation is brought promptly to the attention of the appropriate committee.

Designers will take into account not only normal operating conditions of the equipment but also likely fault conditions, consequential faults, foreseeable misuse and external influences such as temperature, altitude, pollution, moisture, overvoltages on the **mains supply** and **non-mains supply**.

Dimensioning of insulation spacings should take account of possible reductions by manufacturing tolerances, or where deformation could occur due to handling, shock and vibration likely to be encountered during manufacture, transport and normal operation.

The following priorities should be observed in determining what design measures to adopt:

- where possible, specify design criteria that will eliminate, reduce or guard against hazards;
- where the above is not practicable because the functioning of the equipment would be impaired, specify the use of protective means independent of the equipment, such as personal protective equipment (which is not specified in this document);
- where neither of the above measures is practicable, or in addition to those measures, specify the provision of markings and instructions regarding the residual risks.

There are two types of persons whose safety needs to be considered, **operators** (or **users**) and **service persons**.

Operator is the term applied to all persons other than **service persons**. Requirements for protection should assume that **operators** are not trained to identify hazards, but will not intentionally create a hazardous situation. Consequently, the requirements will provide protection for cleaners and casual visitors as well as the assigned **operators**. In general,

operators should not have access to hazardous parts, and to this end, such parts should only be in service access area or in equipment located in **restricted access areas**.

When **operators** are admitted to **restricted access areas (RAA)** they shall be suitably instructed.

NOTE The term "restricted access area" (RAA) is also known as "restricted access location" (RAL).

Service persons are expected to use their training and skill to avoid possible injury to themselves and others due to obvious hazards that exist in service access areas of the equipment or on equipment located in **restricted access areas**. However, **service persons** should be protected against unexpected hazards. This can be done by, for example, locating parts that need to be accessible for servicing away from electrical and mechanical hazards, providing shields to avoid accidental contact with hazardous parts, and providing labels or instructions to warn personnel about any residual risk.

Information about potential hazards can be marked on the equipment or provided with the equipment, depending on the likelihood and severity of injury, or made available for **service persons**. In general, **operators** shall not be exposed to hazards likely to cause injury, and information provided for **operators** should primarily aim at avoiding misuse and situations likely to create hazards, such as connection to the wrong power source and replacement of fuses by incorrect types.

Moveable equipment is considered to present a slightly increased risk of shock, due to possible extra strain on the supply cord leading to rupture of the earthing conductor. With hand-held equipment, this risk is increased; wear on the cord is more likely, and further hazards could arise if the units were dropped. **Transportable equipment** introduces a further factor because it can be used and carried in any orientation; if a small metallic object enters an opening in the **enclosure**, it can move around inside the equipment, possibly creating a hazard.

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0.2 Hazards

0.2.1 General

Application of a safety standard is intended to reduce the risk of injury or damage due to the following:

- electric shock;
- energy related hazards;
- fire;
- heat related hazards;
- mechanical hazards;
- chemical hazards.

NOTE Radiation hazard are not included, as LEDs used for the purpose of indication and display only are not considered to cause hazardous radiation (e.g. like high intense lighting LEDs).

0.2.2 Electric shock

Electric shock is due to current passing through the human body. The resulting physiological effects depend on the value and duration of the current and the path it takes through the body. The value of the current depends on the applied voltage, the impedance of the source and the impedance of the body. The body impedance depends in turn on the area of contact, moisture in the area of contact and the applied voltage and frequency.

Currents of approximately half a milliamp can cause a reaction in persons in good health and may cause injury indirectly due to involuntary reaction. Higher currents can have more direct

effects such as burn or muscle tetanisation leading to inability to let go or to ventricular fibrillation.

It is normal to provide two levels of protection for **operators** to prevent electric shock. Therefore, the operation of equipment under normal conditions and after a single fault, including any consequential faults, should not create a shock hazard.

Harm may result from

- 1) contact with hazardous-live-parts,
- 2) breakdown of insulation between **hazardous-live-parts** and accessible conductive parts,
- 3) contact with circuits above **DVC As** limits,
- 4) breakdown of **operator** accessible insulation, and
- 5) **touch current** (leakage current) flowing from **hazardous-live-parts** to accessible parts, or failure of a **protective earthing** connection. **Touch current** may include current due to EMC filter components.

0.2.3 Energy related hazards

Injury or fire may result from a short-circuit between adjacent poles of high current supplies or high capacitance circuits, causing

- burns,
- arcing, and
- ejection of molten metal.

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Even circuits whose voltages are safe to touch may be hazardous in this respect.

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Examples of measures to reduce risks include:

- separation;
- shielding;
- provision of safety interlocks.

NOTE Safety interlocks are not described within this document.

0.2.4 Fire

Risk of fire may result from excessive temperatures either under normal operating conditions or due to overload, component failure, insulation breakdown or loose connections. Fires originating within the equipment should not spread beyond the immediate vicinity of the source of the fire, nor cause damage to the surroundings of the equipment.

Examples of measures to reduce risks include:

- providing overcurrent protection;
- using constructional materials having appropriate flammability properties for their purpose;
- selection of parts, components and consumable materials to avoid high temperature which might cause ignition;
- limiting the quantity of combustible materials used;
- shielding or separating combustible materials from likely ignition sources;
- using **enclosures** or barriers to limit the spread of fire within the equipment;
- using suitable materials for **enclosures** so as to reduce the likelihood of fire spreading from the equipment.