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Wind energy generation systems –
Part 3-1: Design requirements for fixed offshore wind turbines

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IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

WIND ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS –**Part 3-1: Design requirements for fixed offshore wind turbines**

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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International Standard IEC 61400-3-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 88: Wind energy generation systems.

This edition cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC 61400-3 published in 2009. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the first edition of IEC 61400-3:

- a) Clause 12 has been merged with Clause 6 in order to acknowledge that the design of the wind turbine support structure is generally site specific for offshore projects;
- b) The design load table has been revised to simplify the approach to waves, both for several gust cases with the Normal Sea State, and for a number of cases with the Extreme Sea State. The guidance for load calculations has been altered accordingly;
- c) For load safety factors reference is now made directly to IEC 61400-1;
- d) Clause 8 on the control system has been aligned with the latest updates in IEC 61400-1;

- e) Annex B to edition one on wave spectra has been replaced by a reference to ISO 19901-1;
- f) The annex on ice loading has been revised and updated (now Annex D);
- g) Two informative annexes concerning tropical cyclones have been introduced: Annex H on wave height assessment and Annex I on safety level;
- h) Other parts of the text have been aligned with IEC 61400-1.

This part is to be read in conjunction with IEC 61400-1, *Wind turbines – Part 1: Design requirements*¹.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
88/708/FDIS	88/712/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard 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 of the IEC 61400 series, published under the general title *Wind energy generation systems*, 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 document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
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- replaced by a revised edition, or
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¹ Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: IEC/RFDIS 61400-1:2018.

INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 61400 outlines the minimum design requirements for fixed offshore wind turbines and is not intended for use as a complete design specification or instruction manual.

Several different parties may be responsible for undertaking the various elements of the design, manufacture, assembly, installation, erection, commissioning, operation and maintenance of an offshore wind turbine and for ensuring that the requirements of this document are met. The division of responsibility between these parties is a contractual matter and is outside the scope of this document.

Any of the requirements of this document may be altered if it can be suitably demonstrated that the safety of the system is not compromised. Compliance with this document does not relieve any person, organization, or corporation from the responsibility of observing other applicable regulations.

The document is not intended to give requirements for floating offshore wind turbines. For floating installations, reference is made to IEC 61400-3-2.

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WIND ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS –

Part 3-1: Design requirements for fixed offshore wind turbines

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61400 specifies additional requirements for assessment of the external conditions at an offshore wind turbine site and specifies essential design requirements to ensure the engineering integrity of fixed offshore wind turbines. Its purpose is to provide an appropriate level of protection against damage from all hazards during the planned lifetime.

This document focuses on the engineering integrity of the structural components of an offshore wind turbine but is also concerned with subsystems such as control and protection mechanisms, internal electrical systems and mechanical systems.

A wind turbine shall be considered as a fixed offshore wind turbine if the support structure is subject to hydrodynamic loading and it is founded on the seabed. The design requirements specified in this document are not sufficient to ensure the engineering integrity of floating offshore wind turbines. For floating installations, reference is made to IEC 61400-3-2. In the remainder of this document, the term “offshore wind turbine” is assumed to refer to those that are fixed to the seabed.

This document should be used together with the appropriate IEC and ISO standards mentioned in Clause 2. In particular, this document is fully consistent with the requirements of IEC 61400-1. The safety level of the offshore wind turbine designed according to this document shall be at or exceed the level inherent in IEC 61400-1. In some clauses, where a comprehensive statement of requirements aids clarity, replication of text from IEC 61400-1 is included.

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2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 60721 (all parts), *Classification of environmental conditions*

IEC 61400-1:2018, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 1: Design requirements*²

ISO 2394:1998, *General principles on reliability for structures*

ISO 2533:1975, *Standard Atmosphere*

ISO 19900:2002, *Petroleum and natural gas industries – General requirements for offshore structures*

ISO 19901-1:2015, *Petroleum and natural gas industries – Specific requirements for offshore structures – Part 1: Metocean design and operating conditions*

² Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: IEC/RFDIS 61400-1:2018.

ISO 19901-4:2003, *Petroleum and natural gas industries – Specific requirements for offshore structures – Part 4: Geotechnical and foundation design considerations*

ISO 19902:2007, *Petroleum and natural gas industries – Fixed steel offshore structures*

ISO 19903:2006, *Petroleum and natural gas industries – Fixed concrete offshore structures*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 61400-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

air gap

clearance between the highest water surface that occurs during the extreme environmental conditions and the lowest exposed part not designed to withstand wave impingement

3.2

arch effect

action of an arch ice (or its collapse) upon a substructure

3.3

arch ice

ice build-up between substructures or between a substructure and shore that has an arch shape and eventually collapses

3.4

co-directional

acting in the same direction

3.5

current

flow of water past a fixed location usually described in terms of a current speed and direction

3.6

diffraction

phenomenon that describes the bending of waves around obstacles and spreading of waves past openings

3.7

design wave

deterministic wave with a defined height, period and direction, used for the design of an offshore structure

Note 1 to entry: A design wave may be accompanied by a requirement for the use of a particular periodic wave theory.

3.8

designer

party or parties responsible for the design of an offshore wind turbine

3.9**environmental conditions**

characteristics of the environment (wind, waves, sea currents, water level, sea/lake ice, marine growth, scour and overall seabed movement, etc.) which may affect the wind turbine behaviour

3.10**external conditions**

external factors affecting operation of an offshore wind turbine, including the environmental conditions, the electrical network conditions, and other climatic factors (temperature, snow, ice, etc.)

3.11**extreme significant wave height**

significant wave height of the sea state over the reference period with an annual probability of exceedance of $1/N$ ("return period": N years), extrapolated from the extreme distribution of significant wave height at the site

3.12**extreme wave height**

individual wave height (generally the zero up-crossing wave height) with an annual probability of exceedance of $1/N$ ("return period": N years)

3.13**fast ice cover**

rigid continuous cover of ice not in motion

3.14**fetch**

distance over which the wind blows over the sea with approximately constant wind speed and direction

3.15**fixed offshore wind turbine**

wind turbine with a sub-structure that is subject to hydrodynamic loading and is founded on the seabed

3.16**floating offshore wind turbine**

wind turbine with a sub-structure that is subject to hydrodynamic loading and is supported by buoyancy and a station-keeping system

3.17**foundation**

part of an offshore wind turbine support structure which transfers the loads acting on the structure into the seabed

Note 1 to entry: Different foundation concepts are shown in Figure 1 together with the other parts of an offshore wind turbine support structure.