

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



Primary batteries – **STANDARD PREVIEW**  
Part 4: Safety of lithium batteries  
(standards.iteh.ai)

Piles électriques –  
Partie 4: Sécurité des piles au lithium  
IEC 60086-4:2019  
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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Terms and definitions .....	8
4 Requirements for safety.....	11
4.1 Design .....	11
4.2 Quality plan .....	11
5 Type testing and sampling .....	11
5.1 Validity of Testing .....	11
5.2 Test samples .....	12
6 Testing and requirements .....	12
6.1 General.....	12
6.1.1 Test application matrix.....	12
6.1.2 Cautionary notice.....	13
6.1.3 Ambient temperature .....	13
6.1.4 Parameter measurement tolerances .....	13
6.1.5 PredischARGE .....	14
6.1.6 Additional cells .....	14
6.2 Evaluation of test criteria .....	14
6.2.1 Short-circuit.....	14
6.2.2 Excessive temperature rise .....	14
6.2.3 Leakage .....	14
6.2.4 Venting .....	14
6.2.5 Fire.....	15
6.2.6 Rupture .....	15
6.2.7 Explosion.....	15
6.3 Tests and requirements – Overview .....	15
6.4 Tests for intended use .....	16
6.4.1 Test A: Altitude.....	16
6.4.2 Test B: Thermal cycling .....	16
6.4.3 Test C: Vibration.....	17
6.4.4 Test D: Shock.....	18
6.5 Tests for reasonably foreseeable misuse .....	19
6.5.1 Test E: External short-circuit.....	19
6.5.2 Test F: Impact .....	19
6.5.3 Test G: Crush .....	20
6.5.4 Test H: Forced discharge.....	21
6.5.5 Test I: Abnormal charging.....	21
6.5.6 Test J: Free fall .....	22
6.5.7 Test K: Thermal abuse.....	22
6.5.8 Test L: Incorrect installation.....	22
6.5.9 Test M: Overdischarge.....	23
6.6 Information to be given in the relevant specification .....	25
6.7 Evaluation and report.....	25
7 Information for safety.....	25

7.1	Safety precautions during design of equipment .....	25
7.1.1	General .....	25
7.1.2	Charge protection .....	26
7.1.3	Parallel connection .....	26
7.2	Precautions during handling of batteries .....	26
7.3	Packaging .....	29
7.4	Handling of battery cartons .....	29
7.5	Transport .....	29
7.5.1	General .....	29
7.5.2	Air transport .....	29
7.5.3	Sea transport .....	29
7.5.4	Land transport .....	29
7.6	Display and storage .....	29
7.7	Disposal .....	30
8	Instructions for use .....	30
9	Marking and packaging .....	31
9.1	General .....	31
9.2	Swallowable batteries .....	31
9.3	Safety pictograms .....	31
Annex A (informative)	Guidelines for the achievement of safety of lithium batteries .....	33
Annex B (informative)	Guidelines for designers of equipment using lithium batteries .....	34
Annex C (informative)	Additional information on display and storage .....	36
Annex D (informative)	Safety pictograms .....	37
D.1	General .....	37
D.2	Pictograms .....	37
D.3	Instruction for use .....	38
Annex E (normative)	Child resistant packaging of coin cells .....	39
E.1	General .....	39
E.2	Applicability .....	39
E.3	Packaging tests .....	39
E.3.1	General .....	39
E.3.2	Test items .....	40
E.3.3	Test procedure .....	41
E.3.4	Criteria .....	41
Annex F (informative)	Use of the KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN safety sign .....	42
F.1	General .....	42
F.2	Safety sign .....	42
F.3	Best practices for marking the packaging .....	42
F.4	Best practices for marking the cell .....	42
Bibliography	.....	43
Figure 1	– Thermal cycling procedure .....	17
Figure 2	– Example of a test set-up for the impact test .....	20
Figure 3	– Examples of a test set-up for the crush test .....	21
Figure 4	– Axes for free fall .....	22
Figure 5	– Circuit diagram for incorrect installation .....	23
Figure 6	– Circuit diagram for overdischarge .....	24

Figure 7 – Examples of wiring for charge protection .....	26
Figure 8 – Ingestion gauge .....	27
Figure 9 – Example for warning against swallowing, particularly coin cell batteries .....	27
Figure E.1 – Bending test .....	40
Figure E.2 – Torsion test.....	40
Figure E.3 – Tearing test .....	40
Figure E.4 – Pushing test.....	41
Figure E.5 – Maximum packaging opening .....	41
Figure F.1 – Recommended safety signs for use on coin cells .....	42
Table 1 – Number of test samples.....	12
Table 2 – Test application matrix .....	13
Table 3 – Mass loss limits .....	14
Table 4 – Tests and requirements .....	16
Table 5 – Vibration profile (sinusoidal) .....	18
Table 6 – Shock parameters .....	18
Table 7 – Resistive load for overdischarge.....	24
Table 8 – Parameters to be specified .....	25
Table 9 – Marking and packaging requirements .....	32
Table A.1 – Battery design guidelines .....	33
Table B.1 – Equipment design guidelines.....	34
Table D.1 – Safety pictograms .....	37
Table E.1 – Test procedure.....	41

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## PRIMARY BATTERIES –

## Part 4: Safety of lithium batteries

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International Standard IEC 60086-4 has been prepared by technical committee 35: Primary cells and batteries.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition published in 2014. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) Revised criteria for an explosion;
- b) Addition of test parameters for the overdischarge test of battery types FR14505 and FR10G445;
- c) Addition of a new subclause 5.1 Validity of Testing;
- d) revised pictogram E in Table D.1;
- e) Addition of Annex E with requirements for child resistant packaging of coin cells;

- f) Addition of Annex F with recommendations on the use of the KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN safety sign.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
35/1420/FDIS	35/1423/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this 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.

NOTE The following print types are used:

- instructions/warnings for consumers: *in italic type*.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60086 series, under the general title *Primary batteries*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication 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

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The contents of the corrigendum of October 2019 have been included in this copy



## INTRODUCTION

The concept of safety is closely related to safeguarding the integrity of people and property. This document specifies tests and requirements for lithium batteries and has been prepared in accordance with ISO/IEC guidelines, taking into account all relevant national and international standards which apply.

Lithium batteries are different from conventional primary batteries using aqueous electrolyte in that they contain flammable materials.

Consequently, it is important to carefully consider safety during design, production, distribution, use, and disposal of lithium batteries. Based on such special characteristics, lithium batteries for consumer applications were initially small in size and had low power output. There were also lithium batteries with high power output which were used for special industrial and military applications and were characterized as being “technician replaceable”. The first edition of this document was drafted to accommodate this situation.

However, from around the end of the 1980s, lithium batteries with high power output started to be widely used in the consumer replacement market, mainly as a power source in camera applications. Since the demand for such lithium batteries with high power output significantly increased, various manufacturers started to produce these types of lithium batteries. As a consequence of this situation, the safety aspects for lithium batteries with high power output were included in the second edition of this document.

Primary lithium batteries both for consumer and industrial applications are well-established safe and reliable products in the market, which is at least partly due to the existence of safety standards such as this document and, for transport, IEC 62281. The fourth edition of this document therefore reflects only minor changes which became necessary in order to keep it harmonized with IEC 62281 and to continuously improve the user information about safety related matters. <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/f0bc5259-9dc5-4bf0-9ec1-456c1e8d28b6/iec-60086-4-2019>

Guidelines addressing safety issues during the design of lithium batteries are provided in Annex A. Annex B provides guidelines addressing safety issues during the design of equipment where lithium batteries are installed. Both Annex A and B reflect experience with lithium batteries used in camera applications and are based on [23]<sup>1</sup>.

Safety is freedom from unacceptable risk. There can be no absolute safety: some risk will remain. Therefore a product, process or service can only be relatively safe. Safety is achieved by reducing risk to a tolerable level determined by the search for an optimal balance between the ideal of absolute safety and the demands to be met by a product, process or service, and factors such as benefit to the user, suitability for purpose, cost effectiveness, and conventions of the society concerned.

As safety will pose different problems, it is impossible to provide a set of precise provisions and recommendations that will apply in every case. However, this document, when followed on a judicious “use when applicable” basis, will provide reasonably consistent standards for safety.

---

<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

## PRIMARY BATTERIES –

### Part 4: Safety of lithium batteries

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60086 specifies tests and requirements for primary lithium batteries to ensure their safe operation under intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

NOTE Primary lithium batteries that are standardized in IEC 60086-2 are expected to meet all applicable requirements herein. It is understood that consideration of this part of IEC 60086 might also be given to measuring and/or ensuring the safety of non-standardized primary lithium batteries. In either case, no claim or warranty is made that compliance or non-compliance with this standard will fulfil or not fulfil any of the user's particular purposes or needs.

#### 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 60086-1, *Primary batteries – Part 1: General*

IEC 60086-2, *Primary batteries – Part 2: Physical and electrical specifications*

#### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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>

NOTE Certain definitions taken from IEC 60050-482, IEC 60086-1, and ISO/IEC Guide 51 are repeated below for convenience.

##### 3.1

##### **battery**

one or more cells electrically connected and fitted in a case, with terminals, markings and protective devices etc., as necessary for use

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-01-04, modified ("fitted with devices necessary for use, for example case" replaced by "electrically connected and fitted in a case", addition of "etc., as necessary for use")]

**3.2****cell**

basic functional unit, consisting of an assembly of electrodes, electrolyte, container, terminals and usually separators, that is a source of electric energy obtained by direct conversion of chemical energy

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-01-01]

**3.3**

**coin** <cell or battery>

**lithium button** <cell or battery>

small round cell or battery where the overall height is less than the diameter, containing non-aqueous electrolyte.

Note 1 to entry: The nominal voltage of lithium batteries is typically greater than 2 V.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004 482-02-40, modified (terms modified, NOTE "In practice terms, the term coin is used exclusively for non-aqueous lithium cells." replaced with a different note)]

**3.4**

**component cell**

cell contained in a battery

**3.5**

**cylindrical** <cell or battery>

round cell or battery in which the overall height is equal to or greater than the diameter

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-02-39, modified ("cell with a cylindrical shape" replaced by "round cell or battery")]

**3.6**

**depth of discharge**

DOD

percentage of rated capacity discharged from a battery

**3.7**

**fully discharged**

state of a cell or battery at 100 % depth of discharge

**3.8**

**harm**

injury or damage to the health of people, or damage to property or the environment

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.1]

**3.9**

**hazard**

potential source of harm

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.2]

**3.10**

**intended use**

use in accordance with information provided with a product or system, or, in the absence of such information, by generally understood patterns of usage

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.6]

### 3.11

#### **large battery**

battery with a gross mass of more than 12 kg

### 3.12

#### **large cell**

cell with a gross mass of more than 500 g

### 3.13

#### **lithium cell**

cell containing a non-aqueous electrolyte and a negative electrode of lithium or containing lithium

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004 482-01-06, modified (removal of NOTE)]

### 3.14

#### **nominal voltage**

suitable approximate value of the voltage used to designate or identify a cell, a battery or an electrochemical system

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-03-31]

### 3.15

#### **open circuit voltage**

OCV,  $U_{OC}$ , off-load voltage

voltage across the terminals of a cell or battery when no external current is flowing

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-03-32, modified (alternative terms “OCV,  $U_{OC}$ , off-load voltage” added, “across the terminals” added, “when the discharge current is zero” replaced with “when no external current is flowing”)]

### 3.16

#### **prismatic** <cell or battery>

qualifies a cell or a battery having the shape of a parallelepiped whose faces are rectangular

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-02-38]

### 3.17

#### **protective devices**

devices such as fuses, diodes or other electric or electronic current limiters designed to interrupt the current flow, block the current flow in one direction or limit the current flow in an electrical circuit

### 3.18

#### **rated capacity**

capacity value of a cell or battery determined under specified conditions and declared by the manufacturer

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-03-15, modified (“cell or” added)]

### 3.19

#### **reasonably foreseeable misuse**

use of a product, process or system in a way not intended by the supplier, but which may result from readily predictable human behaviour

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.7, modified (removal of NOTES)]

**3.20****risk**

combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.9, modified (removal of NOTE)]

**3.21****safety**

freedom from risk which is not tolerable

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.14]

**3.22****undischarged**

state of a primary cell or battery at 0 % depth of discharge

**4 Requirements for safety****4.1 Design**

Lithium batteries are categorized by their chemical composition (anode, cathode, electrolyte), internal construction (bobbin, spiral) and are available in cylindrical, coin and prismatic configurations. It is necessary to consider all relevant safety aspects at the battery design stage, recognizing the fact that they can differ considerably depending on the specific lithium system, power capability and battery configuration.

The following design concepts for safety are common to all lithium batteries:

- a) Abnormal temperature rise above the critical value defined by the manufacturer shall be prevented by design.
- b) Temperature increases in the battery shall be controlled by a design which limits current flow.
- c) Lithium cells and batteries shall be designed to relieve excessive internal pressure or to preclude a violent rupture under conditions of transport, intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

See Annex A for guidelines for the achievement of safety of lithium batteries.

**4.2 Quality plan**

The manufacturer shall prepare and implement a quality plan defining the procedures for the inspection of materials, components, cells and batteries during the course of manufacture, to be applied to the total process of producing a specific type of battery. Manufacturers should understand their process capabilities and should institute the necessary process controls as they relate to product safety.

**5 Type testing and sampling****5.1 Validity of Testing**

Lithium cells or batteries shall be subjected to the tests, as required in this standard. Testing remains valid until a design change or requirement revision has been made. Retesting is required when:

- a) a battery specification changes by more than 0,1 g or 20 % mass, whichever is greater, for the cathode, anode or electrolyte;
- b) a battery specification change would lead to a failure of any of the tests;

- c) there is an addition of new tests or requirements; or
- d) there is a requirement change that would lead to a failure of any of the tests.

## 5.2 Test samples

Samples should be drawn from production lots in accordance with accepted statistical methods. The number of test samples is given in Table 1. The same test cells and batteries are used for tests A to E in sequence. New test cells and batteries are required for each of tests F to M.

**Table 1 – Number of test samples**

Tests	Discharge state	Cells and single cell batteries <sup>a</sup>	Multi-cell batteries
Tests A to E	Undischarged	10	4
	Fully discharged	10	4
Test F or G	Undischarged	5	5 component cells
	Fully discharged	5	5 component cells
Test H	Fully discharged	10	10 component cells
Tests I to K	Undischarged	5	5
Test L	Undischarged	20 (see Note 1)	n/a
Test M	50 % predischarged	20 (see Note 2)	n/a
	75 % predischarged	20 (see Note 3)	n/a
<sup>a</sup> single cell batteries containing one tested component cell do not require re-testing unless the change could result in a failure of any of the tests.			
<b>Key:</b> n/a: not applicable <a href="https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/f0bc5259-9dc5-4bf0-9ec1-4561e8d28b6/iec-60086-4-2019">https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/f0bc5259-9dc5-4bf0-9ec1-4561e8d28b6/iec-60086-4-2019</a>			
NOTE 1 Four batteries connected in series with one of the four batteries reversed (5 sets).			
NOTE 2 Four batteries connected in series, one of which is 50 % predischarged (5 sets).			
NOTE 3 Four batteries connected in series, one of which is 75 % predischarged (5 sets).			

## 6 Testing and requirements

### 6.1 General

#### 6.1.1 Test application matrix

Applicability of test methods to test cells and batteries is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Test application matrix**

Form	Applicable tests												
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
s	x	x	x	x	x	x <sup>a</sup>	x <sup>a</sup>	x	x	x	x	x <sup>b</sup>	x <sup>c</sup>
m	x	x	x	x	x	x <sup>a, d</sup>	x <sup>a, d</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>	x	x	x	n/a	n/a
Test description:								Key:					
Intended use tests A: Altitude B: Thermal cycling C: Vibration D: Shock			Reasonably foreseeable misuse tests E: External short-circuit F: Impact G: Crush H: Forced discharge I: Abnormal charging J: Free fall K: Thermal abuse L: Incorrect installation M: Overdischarge					Form s: cell or single cell battery m: multi cell battery					
								Applicability x: applicable n/a: not applicable					

<sup>a</sup> Only one test shall be applied, test F or test G.

<sup>b</sup> Only applicable to CR17345, CR15H270 and similar type batteries of a spiral construction that could be installed incorrectly and charged.

<sup>c</sup> Only applicable to CR17345, CR15H270 and similar type batteries of a spiral construction that could be overdischarged.

<sup>d</sup> Test applies to the component cells.

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### 6.1.2 Cautionary notice

**WARNING:** These tests call for the use of procedures which can result in injury if adequate precautions are not taken.

It has been assumed in the drafting of these tests that their execution is undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced technicians using adequate protection.

### 6.1.3 Ambient temperature

Unless otherwise specified, the tests shall be carried out at an ambient temperature of 20 °C ± 5 °C.

### 6.1.4 Parameter measurement tolerances

The overall accuracy of controlled or measured values, relative to the specified or actual parameters, shall be within the following tolerances:

- a) ± 1 % for voltage;
- b) ± 1 % for current;
- c) ± 2 °C for temperature;
- d) ± 0,1 % for time;
- e) ± 1 % for dimensions;
- f) ± 1 % for capacity.

These tolerances comprise the combined accuracy of the measuring instruments, the measurement techniques used, and all other sources of error in the test procedure.