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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Short-circuit temperature limits of electric cables with rated voltages of 1 kV (U_m = 1,2 kV) and 3 kV (U_m = 3,6 kV)

Limites de température de court-circuit des câbles électriques de tensions assignées de 1 kV (U_m = 1,2 kV) et 3 kV (U_m = 3,6 kV)

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CONTENTS

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IEC 60724 edition 3.1 contains the third edition (2000) [documents 20/399/FDIS and 20/418/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2008) [documents 20/951/FDIS and 20/974/RVD].

A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendment 1.

International Standard IEC 60724 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendments will remain unchanged until the maintenance result 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- withdrawn,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.

INTRODUCTION

Editorially, this third edition of IEC 60724 is brought into line with IEC 60986, second edition, and IEC 61443, first edition.

The following four aspects may be applicable when selecting the short-circuit rating of a cable system:

a) the permissible maximum temperature limits for cable components (e.g. conductor, insulation, screen or metallic sheath, bedding, armour and oversheath). For practical purposes, the energy producing the temperature rise is usually expressed by an equivalent (I^2t) value so that the permitted maximum duration for a given short-circuit current can be calculated;

b) the maximum value of current which will not cause mechanical failure (such as bursting) due to electromagnetic forces. Irrespective of any temperature limitations, this determines a maximum current which should not be exceeded;

c) the thermal performance of joints and terminations at the limits of current and duration specified for the associated cable. Accessories should also withstand the thermo-mechanical and electromagnetic forces produced by the short-circuit current in the cable;

d) the influence of installation conditions on the above three aspects.

Aspect a) is dealt with in detail, and the limits given are based on a consideration of the cable only. A single short-circuit application is not expected to produce any significant damage to the cable, but repeated short-circuits may cause cumulative damage. Guidance is given, where appropriate, on aspects c) and d) mainly as they concern thermo-mechanical forces in the conductors and metallic sheath. Aspect b) is not covered in this standard.

The limits recommended in this International Standard should be used for guidance only.

It is not possible to provide complete limits for joints and terminations because their construction is not standardized and performance varies. Where the full short-circuit capability of the cable is needed, the accessories should be designed appropriately, but this is not always economically justified and the short-circuit capability of a cable system may be determined by the performance of its joints and terminations. Where possible, guidance has been included on the performance of accessories when they are installed on cables subject to the short-circuit limits given in this standard.

SHORT-CIRCUIT TEMPERATURE LIMITS OF ELECTRIC CABLES WITH RATED VOLTAGES OF 1 kV (U_m = 1,2 kV) AND 3 kV (U_m = 3,6 kV)

1 Scope

This International Standard gives guidance on the short-circuit maximum temperature limits of electric cables having rated voltages of 1 kV (U_m = 1,2 kV) and 3 kV (U_m = 3,6 kV), with regard to the following:

– insulating materials;
– oversheath and bedding materials;
– conductor and metallic sheath materials and methods of connection.

The design of accessories and the influence of the installation conditions on the temperature limits are taken into consideration.

The calculation of the permissible short-circuit current in the current-carrying components of the cable should be carried out in accordance with IEC 60949.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60055 (all parts), *Paper-insulated metal-sheathed cables for rated voltages up to 18/30 kV (with copper or aluminium conductors and excluding gas-pressure and oil-filled cables)*

IEC 60502-1:1998, *Power cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages from 1 kV (U_m = 1,2 kV) up to 30 kV (U_m = 36 kV) – Part 1: Cables for rated voltages of 1 kV (U_m = 1,2 kV) and 3 kV (U_m = 3,6 kV)*

IEC 60949:1988, *Calculation of thermally permissible short-circuit current, taking into account the non-adiabatic heating effects*

3 Factors governing the application of the temperature limits

3.1 General

The short-circuit temperatures given in clause 4 are the actual temperatures of the current-carrying component as limited by the adjacent material in the cable and are valid for short-circuit durations of up to 5 s. When calculating the allowable short-circuit current, these temperatures will be obtained if heat loss into the insulation during the short-circuit is taken into account (non-adiabatic heating). If heat loss during the short-circuit is neglected (adiabatic heating), the calculations give short-circuit currents that are on the safe side.

NOTE The temperature limits given in clause 4 should also not be exceeded with repeated short-circuits occurring in a short time.

The 5 s time period mentioned is the limit for the temperatures quoted to be valid and not for the application of the adiabatic calculation method. The time limit for the use of the adiabatic method has a different definition, being a function of both the short-circuit duration and the cross-sectional area of the current-carrying component. This is dealt with in IEC 60949.

Caution may be needed when using the conductor temperatures specified when the cables are sheathed with a lower temperature material, especially for cables with conductor cross-sectional areas of 1 000 mm^2 and above. This is because the high thermal time constant of these cables will cause the oversheath to attain high temperatures for longer times. In addition, the high mechanical forces could result in insulation deformation. Nevertheless, it should be stressed that for conductor cross-sectional areas above 1 000 mm^2 the permissible short-circuit current is so high that it is not normally attained in common systems.

Where other temperature limits are known with certainty to be more appropriate for the materials or the cable design, then these may be used.

3.2 Cables

3.2.1 Paper insulated cables (mass-impregnated cables according to IEC 60055)

The temperature limits for paper insulated cables impregnated with oil/resin or non-draining compound are imposed by the tendency to compound migration and void formations. All paper insulated cables are also limited by thermal degradation of the cable components and by possible tearing of paper tapes due to movement of the cores.

3.2.2 Polymeric insulated cables (according to IEC 60502-1)

For thermoplastic insulating materials, the temperature limits should be applied with caution when the cables are either directly buried or securely clamped when in air. Local pressure due to clamping or the use of an installation radius less than that specified for the cable, especially for cables that are rigidly restrained, can lead to high deforming forces under short-circuit conditions. Where these conditions cannot be avoided it is suggested that the limit be reduced by 10 °C.

3.3 Accessories

Attention should be given to the design and installation of joints and terminations if the short-circuit limits set out in this standard are to be safely used. The following aspects are not exclusive and are provided for guidance only. It is desirable that the performance of an accessory be considered in the context of the particular installation.

a) Longitudinal thrust in cable conductors can be considerable, depending on the degree of lateral restraint imposed on the cable. Conductor stresses as high as 50 N/mm^2 can easily occur. These forces may cause buckling of conductors and other damage in a joint or termination.

b) Longitudinal tension in cable conductors is also to be expected after a short-circuit. This tension may exist for a very long period, particularly if the cable is only partly loaded after the short-circuit. A minimum conductor stress of 40 N/mm^2 should be used for design purposes.

c) With impregnated paper cables, compound expansion can give rise to considerable fluid pressure. If compound leaks out at joints and terminations, it could cause softening of the bitumen filling. Moisture may also be drawn back into the accessory and cable in a sufficient quantity to affect the performance of the insulation.

d) The use of a temperature limit only implies that any combination of current and time which produces temperatures not exceeding that limit is permissible. For short-circuit currents this is not sufficient. An additional limit should be set for the peak value of the current in order to avoid excessive electromagnetic forces. These forces are of particular importance at terminations and proper support is necessary to avoid undesirable movement and damage.

e) Soldered joints should not be used if conductor temperatures greater than 160 °C are contemplated.

f) Attention is drawn to the need to examine the design for short-circuit stability of the electrical contact of all connectors used for jointing conductors and connecting armour and metallic sheath bonds.

g) Screen and/or armour wires, when gathered together at a joint or termination, may have a lower short-circuit performance than when in the cable. At such connections the expected temperature rise should not be excessive for the materials involved and adequate mechanical support should be provided.

h) Account should be taken of the risk of longitudinal shrinkage of polymeric components at the cut ends of cables at short-circuit temperatures.

3.4 Installation conditions

When it is intended to make full use of the short-circuit limit of a cable, consideration should be given to the influence of the installation conditions. An important aspect concerns the extent and nature of the mechanical restraint imposed on the cable. Longitudinal expansion of the cable during a short-circuit can be significant and when this expansion is restrained, the resultant forces are considerable.

For cables in air, it is advisable to install them so that expansion is absorbed uniformly along the length by snaking rather than permitting it to be relieved by excessive movement at a few points only. Fixings should be spaced sufficiently far apart to permit lateral movement of multicore cables or groups of single-core cables.

Where cables are installed directly in the ground, or require restraining by frequent fixing, then provision should be made to accommodate the resulting longitudinal forces on accessories. Sharp bends should be avoided because the longitudinal forces are translated into radial pressures at bends in the cable route and these may damage thermoplastic components of the cable such as insulation and sheaths. Attention is drawn to the minimum radius of installed bend recommended by the appropriate installation regulations. For cables in air, it is also desirable to avoid fixings at a bend which may cause local pressure on the cable.

4 Maximum permissible short-circuit temperatures for cables with rated voltages of 1 kV (U_m = 1,2 kV) and 3 kV (U_m = 3,6 kV)

The following tables should be read in conjunction with the comments in clause 3. Values given are actual temperatures of the current-carrying components. Limits are for short-circuits of up to 5 s duration.

The following subclauses 4.1 to 4.3 should be considered together when selecting a temperature limit for a particular cable construction.

4.1 Insulation materials

The temperature limits for all types of conductors when in contact with the insulation materials specified are given in table 1.