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**Optični ojačevalniki - Preskusne metode - 4-3. del: Električni parametri ojačenja - Enokanalni optični ojačevalniki za izhodno krmiljenje moči**

Optical amplifiers - Test methods - Part 4-3: Power transient parameters - Single channel optical amplifiers in output power control

Optische Verstärker - Prüfverfahren - Teil 4-3: Leistungs-Transientenkenngößen von Ein-Kanal-LWL-Verstärkern mit Ausgangs-Leistungskontrolle

Amplificateurs optiques - Méthodes d'essai - Partie 4-3: Paramètres de puissance transitoire - Contrôle de la puissance de sortie des amplificateurs optiques monocanaux

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TITLE:

**Optical amplifiers - Test methods - Part 4-3: Power transient parameters - Single channel optical amplifiers in output power control**

NOTE FROM TC/SC OFFICERS:

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS – TEST METHODS

**Part 4-3: Power transient parameters –  
Single channel optical amplifiers in output power control**

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International Standard IEC 61290-4-3 has been prepared by subcommittee 86C: Fibre optic systems and active devices, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2015. It is a technical revision that aligns the measure of amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) relative to signal power with the definition in IEC 61290-3-3.

This International Standard is to be used in conjunction with IEC 61291-1, on which it is based.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
86C/xxxx/FDIS	86C/xxxx/RVD

93  
94 Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on  
95 voting indicated in the above table.

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

97 A list of all parts of the IEC 61290 series, published under the general title *Optical amplifiers –*  
98 *Test methods*<sup>1)</sup> can be found on the IEC website.

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

- 102 • reconfirmed,
- 103 • withdrawn,
- 104 • replaced by a revised edition, or
- 105 • amended.

106 The National Committees are requested to note that for this document the stability date  
107 is 2022.

108 THIS TEXT IS INCLUDED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WILL BE  
109 DELETED AT THE PUBLICATION STAGE.

110

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<sup>1)</sup> The first editions of some of these parts were published under the general title *Optical fibre amplifiers – Basic specification* or *Optical amplifier test methods*.

## OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS – TEST METHODS

### Part 4-3: Power transient parameters – Single channel optical amplifiers in output power control

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61290 applies to output power controlled optically amplified, elementary sub-systems. It applies to optical fibre amplifiers (OFA) using active fibres containing rare-earth dopants, presently commercially available, as indicated in IEC 61291-1, as well as alternative optical amplifiers that can be used for single channel output power controlled operation, such as semiconductor optical amplifiers (SOA).

The object of this standard is to provide the general background for optical amplifier (OA) power transients and its measurements and to indicate those IEC standard test methods for accurate and reliable measurements of the following transient parameters:

- a) Transient power response
- b) Transient power overcompensation response
- c) Steady-state power offset
- d) Transient power response time

The stimulus and responses behaviours under consideration include:

- 1) Channel power increase (step transient)
- 2) Channel power reduction (inverse step transient)
- 3) Channel power increase/reduction (pulse transient)
- 4) Channel power reduction/increase (inverse pulse transient)
- 5) Channel power increase/reduction/increase (lightning bolt transient)
- 6) Channel power reduction/increase/reduction (inverse lightning bolt transient)

These parameters have been included to provide a complete description of the transient behaviour of an output power transient controlled OA. The test definition defined here are applicable if the amplifier is an OFA or an alternative OA. However, the description in Annex A of this document concentrates on the physical performance of an OFA and provides a detailed description of the behaviour of OFA; it does not give a similar description of other OA types.

#### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 61291-1, *Optical amplifiers – Part 1: Generic specification*

#### 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations

##### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

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

### 157 3.1.1

#### 158 **input signal**

159 optical signal that is input to the OA

### 160 3.1.2

#### 161 **input power excursion**

162 relative input power difference before, during and after the input power stimulus event that  
163 causes an OA transient power excursion.

164 Note 1 to entry: Input power excursion is expressed in dB.

### 165 3.1.3

#### 166 **input power rise time**

167 time it takes for the input optical signal to rise from 10 % to 90 % of the total difference  
168 between the initial and final signal levels during an increasing power excursion event

169 Note 1 to entry: See Figure A.2

### 170 3.1.4

#### 171 **input power fall time**

172 time it takes for the input optical signal to fall from 10 % to 90 % of the total difference  
173 between the initial and final signal levels during a decreasing power excursion event

174 Note 1 to entry: See Figure A.2

### 175 3.1.5

#### 176 **slew rate**

177 maximum rate of change of the input optical signal during a power excursion event

### 178 3.1.6

#### 179 **transient power response**

180 maximum or minimum deviation (overshoot or undershoot) between the OA's target power  
181 and the observed power excursion induced by a change in an input channel power excursion

182 Note 1 to entry: Once the output power of an amplified channel deviates from its target power, the control  
183 electronics in the OA should attempt to compensate for the power difference or transient power response, bringing  
184 the OA output power back to its original target level.

185 Note 2 to entry: Transient power response is expressed in dB.

### 186 3.1.7

#### 187 **transient power settling time**

188 amount of time taken to restore the power of the OA to a stable power level close to the target  
189 power level

190 Note 1 to entry: This parameter is measured from the time when stimulus event that created the power fluctuation  
191 to the time at which the OA power response is stable and within specification.

### 192 3.1.8

#### 193 **transient power overcompensation response**

194 maximum deviation between the amplifier's target output power and the power resulting from  
195 the control electronics' instability

196 Note 1 to entry: Transient power overcompensation response occurs after a power excursion, when an amplifier's  
197 control electronics attempts to bring the power back to the amplifier's target level. The control process is iterative,



198 and control electronics may initially overcompensate for the power excursion until subsequently reaching the  
199 desired target power level.

200 Note 2 to entry: The transient power overcompensation response parameter is generally of lesser magnitude than  
201 the transient power response and has the opposite sign.

202 Note 3 to entry: Transient power overcompensation response is expressed in dB.

### 203 3.1.9

#### 204 **steady state power offset**

205 difference between the final and initial output power of the OA, prior to the power excursion  
206 stimulus event

207 Note 1 to entry: Normally, the steady state power level following a power excursion differs from the OA power  
208 before the input power stimulus event. The transient controller attempts to overcome this offset using feedback.

209 Note 2 to entry: Steady state power offset is expressed in dB.

## 210 3.2 Abbreviations

211 AFF ASE flattening filter

212 AGC automatic gain controller

213 APC automatic power control

214 ASE amplified spontaneous emission

215 ASEP amplified spontaneous emission power

216 BER bit error ratio

217 DFB distributed feedback (laser)

218 DWDM dense wavelength division multiplexing

219 EDF Erbium-doped fibre

220 EDFA Erbium-doped fibre amplifier IEC 61290-4-3:2018

221 GFF gain flattening filter <http://www.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/5fd4d516-39c6-4d50-9d35->

222 NEM network equipment manufacturers <http://www.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/en-iec-61290-4-3-2018>

223 NSP network service providers

224 O/E optical-to-electrical

225 OA optical amplifier

226 OD optical damage

227 OFA optical fibre amplifier

228 OSA optical spectrum analyser

229 OSNR optical signal-to-noise ratio

230 PDs photodiodes

231 PID proportional integral derivative

232 SOA semiconductor optical amplifier

233 Sig\_ASE signal-to-ASE ratio

234 SigP signal power

235 SOP state of polarization

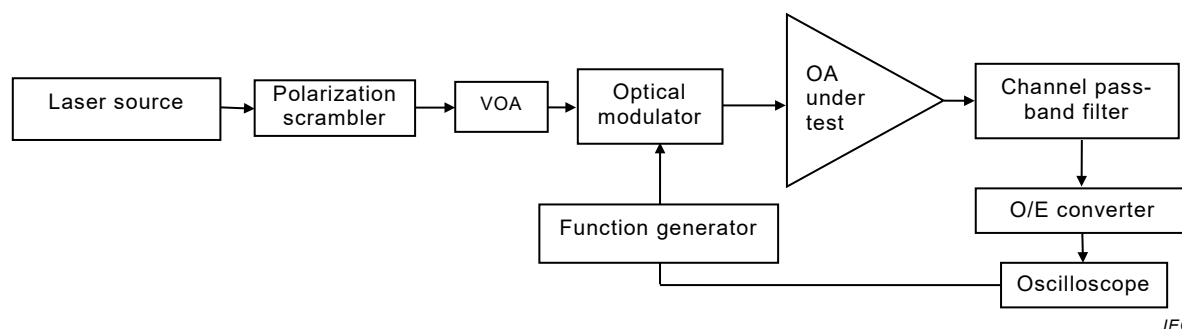
236 VOA variable optical attenuator

237 WDM wavelength division multiplexing

## 238 4 Apparatus

### 239 4.1 Test set-up

240 Figure 1 shows a generic set-up to characterise the transient response properties of output  
241 power controlled single channel OAs.



242

243

Figure 1 – Power transient test set-up

### 244 4.2 Characteristics of test equipment

245 The test equipment listed below is needed, with the required characteristics:

- 246 a) Laser source for supplying the OA input signal with the following characteristics:
- 247 – Ability to support the range of signal wavelengths for which the OA under test is to be
  - 248 tested. This could be provided for example by a tuneable laser, or a bank of distributed
  - 249 feedback (DFB) lasers;
  - 250 – An achievable average output power such that at the input to the OA under test, the
  - 251 power will be above the maximum specified input power of the OA, including loss of
  - 252 any subsequent test equipment between the laser source and OA under test.
- 253 b) Polarization scrambler to randomize the incoming polarization state of the laser source, or
- 254 to control it to a defined state of polarization (SOP). The polarization scrambler is
- 255 optional.
- 256 c) Variable optical attenuator (VOA) with a dynamic range sufficient to support the required
- 257 range of surviving signal levels at which the OA under test is to be tested.
- 258 NOTE If the output power of the laser source can be varied over the required dynamic range, then a VOA is
- 259 not needed.
- 260 d) Optical modulator to modify the OA input signal to the defined power excursion with the
- 261 following characteristics.
- 262 – Extinction ratio at rewrite without putting number higher than the maximum drop level
  - 263 for which the OA under test is to be tested;
  - 264 – Switching time fast enough to support the fastest slew rate for which the OA under test
  - 265 is to be tested.
- 266 e) Channel pass-band filter: an optical filter designed to distinguish the signal wavelength
- 267 with the following characteristics. Note the use of a channel pass-band filter is optional.
- 268 – Ability to support the range of signal wavelengths for which the OA under test is to be
  - 269 tested. This could be provided for example by a tuneable filter, or a series of discrete
  - 270 filters;
  - 271 – 1dB pass-band of at least  $\pm 20$  GHz centred around the signal wavelength;
  - 272 – At least 20 dB attenuation level below the minimum insertion loss across the entire
  - 273 specified transmission band of the OA under test, except within a range of  $\pm 100$  GHz
  - 274 centred around the signal wavelength.

- 275 f) Opto-electronic (O/E) convertor to detect the filtered output of the OA under test with the  
276 following characteristics:
- 277 – A sufficiently wide optical and electrical bandwidth to support the fastest slew rate for  
278 which the OA is to be tested;
  - 279 – A linear response within a  $\pm 5$  dB range of all signal levels for which the OA under test  
280 is to be tested.
- 281 g) Oscilloscope to measure and capture the transient response of the optically filtered output  
282 of the OA under test, with a sufficiently wide electrical bandwidth to support the fastest  
283 slew rate for which the OA is to be tested.
- 284 h) Function generator to generate the input power transient waveforms to drive the optical  
285 modulator, with electrical pulse width short enough and electrical slew rate high enough to  
286 support the fastest slew rate for which the OA under test is to be tested.

## 287 5 Test sample

288 The OA shall operate under nominal operating conditions. If the OA is likely to cause laser  
289 oscillations due to unwanted reflections, optical isolators should be used to isolate the OA  
290 under test. This will minimize signal instability.

## 291 6 Procedure

### 292 6.1 Test preparation

293 In the set-up shown in Figure 1, the input optical signal power injected into the amplifier being  
294 tested is generated from a suitable laser source. The optical power is passed through an  
295 optional polarization scrambler to allow randomization or control of the signal polarization  
296 state and is subsequently adjusted with a VOA to the desired optical input power levels. The  
297 signal then passes through an optical modulator driven by a function generator that provides  
298 the desired input power test waveform to stimulate the transient input power excursions. The  
299 signal is then injected into the amplifier being tested. A channel pass-band filter (such as a  
300 tuneable optical filter, fixed optical filter or similar component) may be used to select only the  
301 relevant channel wavelength under test, followed by an O/E converter and an oscilloscope at  
302 the output of the amplifier. The output channel selected by the optional channel pass-band  
303 filter and its transient response is monitored with the O/E converter and oscilloscope.  
304 Waveforms similar to those shown in Figure A.3 are captured via the oscilloscope for  
305 subsequent computer processing.

306 Prior to measurement of the transient response, the input power waveform trace shall be  
307 recorded. Use the set-up of Figure 1 without the OFA under test. The input optical connector  
308 from the optical modulator is connected to the channel pass filter.

309 For this test to stimulate a power excursion at the input of the OA under test, the source laser  
310 power at the OA input is set at some typical power level. The function generator waveform is  
311 chosen to increase or decrease the input power to the OA under test with power excursions  
312 and slew rate relevant to the defined test condition. For example, for a typical number in the  
313 case of an optical receiver, the input power to the OA could be increased by 7 dB in a  
314 timeframe of 50  $\mu$ s and then held at this power value to simulate a power increase transient  
315 power response (step transient) condition as shown in Figure A.1(1). For alternative transient  
316 control measurements, the signal generator waveform is controlled appropriately, and the  
317 VOA is adjusted accordingly.

### 318 6.2 Test conditions

319 Several sequential transient control measurements can be performed according to the OA's  
320 specified operating conditions. Examples of power excursion scenarios are shown in Table 1.  
321 These measurements are typically performed over a broad range of input power levels.