

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION
PUBLICATION GROUPEE DE SÉCURITÉ

**Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use –
Part 031: Safety requirements for hand-held probe assemblies for electrical measurement and test**

**Règles de sécurité pour appareils électriques de mesurage, de régulation et de laboratoire –
Partie 031: Prescriptions de sécurité pour sondes équipées tenues à la main pour mesurage et essais électriques**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
FOR MEASUREMENT, CONTROL AND LABORATORY USE –****Part 031: Safety requirements for hand-held probe assemblies
for electrical measurement and test**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61010-031 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 66: Safety of measuring, control and laboratory equipment.

It has the status of a group safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

IEC 61010-031 is a stand-alone standard and consequently no reference is required to IEC 61010-1, except as mentioned in the note to 1.1.

This consolidated version of IEC 61010-031 consists of the first edition (2002) [documents 66/262/FDIS and 66/272/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2008) [documents 66/383/CDV and 66/394/RVC].

The technical content is therefore identical to the base edition and its amendment and has been prepared for user convenience.

It bears the edition number 1.1.

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

Annexes A, B and C form an integral part of this standard.

In this standard the following print types are used:

- requirements and definitions: in roman type;
- NOTES: in smaller roman type;
- *conformity and tests: in italic type;*
- terms used throughout this standard which have been defined in clause 3: SMALL ROMAN CAPITALS.

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

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SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR MEASUREMENT, CONTROL AND LABORATORY USE –

Part 031: Safety requirements for hand-held probe assemblies for electrical measurement and test

1 Scope and object

1.1 Scope

This part of IEC 61010 applies to hand-held and hand-manipulated PROBE ASSEMBLIES of the types described below, and related accessories which are intended for professional, industrial process, and educational use. These PROBE ASSEMBLIES are for use in the interface between an electrical phenomenon and test or measurement equipment. They may be fixed to the equipment or be detachable accessories for the equipment.

- a) Low-voltage and high-voltage, non-attenuating PROBE ASSEMBLIES (type A). Non-attenuating PROBE ASSEMBLIES that are RATED for direct connection to voltages exceeding 33 V r.m.s. or 46,7 V peak or 70 V d.c., but not exceeding 63 kV. They do not incorporate active components, nor are they intended to provide a voltage divider function or a signal conditioning function, but they may contain passive non-attenuating components such as fuses.
- b) High-voltage attenuating or divider PROBE ASSEMBLIES (type B). Attenuating or divider PROBE ASSEMBLIES that are RATED for direct connection to secondary voltages exceeding 1 kV but not exceeding 63 kV. The divider function may be carried out wholly within the PROBE ASSEMBLY, or partly within the test or measurement equipment to be used with the PROBE ASSEMBLY.
- c) Low-voltage attenuating or divider PROBE ASSEMBLIES (type C). Attenuating, divider or other signal conditioning PROBE ASSEMBLIES for direct connection to voltages exceeding 33 V r.m.s or 46,7 V peak or 70 V d.c., but not exceeding 1 kV r.m.s. or 1,5 kV d.c. The signal conditioning function may be carried out wholly within the PROBE ASSEMBLY, or partly within the test or measurement equipment intended to be used with the PROBE ASSEMBLY.
- d) Low-voltage attenuating and non-attenuating PROBE ASSEMBLIES (type D), that are RATED for direct connection only to voltages not exceeding 33 V r.m.s., or 46,7 V peak, or 70 V d.c., and are suitable for currents exceeding 8 A.

NOTE PROBE ASSEMBLIES which

- are not within the definitions of types A, B, C, or D, or,
- which are designed to be powered from a low-voltage mains supply, or
- include other features not specifically addressed in this standard

may also need to meet the relevant requirements of other parts of IEC 61010 [6]¹⁾.

1.2 Object

1.2.1 Aspects included in scope

The object of this standard is to ensure that the design and methods of construction used provide adequate protection for the OPERATOR and the surrounding area against:

- a) electric shock or burn (see clauses 6, 10 and 11);
- b) mechanical HAZARDS (see clauses 7, 8 and 11);
- c) excessive temperature (see clause 9);

¹⁾ Figures in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

- d) spread of fire from the PROBE ASSEMBLY (see clause 9);
- e) arc flash (see Clause 13).

NOTE Attention is drawn to the existence of additional requirements which may be specified by national authorities responsible for health and safety of labour forces.

1.2.2 Aspects excluded from scope

This standard does not cover

- a) reliable function, performance or other properties of the PROBE ASSEMBLY;
- b) effectiveness of transport packaging;
- c) servicing (repair);
- d) protection of servicing (repair) personnel.

NOTE Servicing personnel are expected to be reasonably careful in dealing with obvious HAZARDS, but the design should protect against mishap in an appropriate manner, and the service documentation should point out any residual HAZARDS.

1.3 Verification

This standard also specifies methods of verifying, through inspection and TYPE TESTING, that the PROBE ASSEMBLY meets the requirements of this standard.

1.4 Environmental conditions

This standard applies to PROBE ASSEMBLIES designed to be safe at least under the following conditions:

- a) altitude up to 2 000 m, or above 2 000 m if specified by the manufacturer;
- b) temperature 5 °C to 40 °C; or below 5 °C or above 40 °C if specified by the manufacturer;
- c) maximum relative humidity 80 % for temperatures up to 31 °C decreasing linearly to 50 % relative humidity at 40 °C;
- d) applicable RATED POLLUTION degree.

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 60027 (all parts), *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology*

IEC 60060 (all parts), *High-voltage test techniques*

IEC 60417 (all parts), *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60664-3, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 3: Use of coatings to achieve insulation coordination of printed board assemblies*

ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment – Index and synopsis*

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this part of IEC 61010, the following definitions apply.

Unless otherwise specified, the terms "voltage" and "current" mean the r.m.s. values of an alternating, direct or composite voltage or current. Where the term "mains" is used, it refers to the low-voltage electricity supply system (above the values of 6.3.2.1).

3.1 Parts and accessories

3.1.1

TERMINAL

component provided for the connection of a device (equipment) to external conductors
[IEV 151-01-03, modified]

NOTE TERMINALS can contain one or several contacts and the term includes sockets, pins, connectors, etc.

3.1.2

ENCLOSURE

part providing protection of equipment against certain external influences and, in any direction, protection against direct contact

3.1.3

BARRIER

part providing protection against direct contact from any usual direction of access

NOTE ENCLOSURES and BARRIERS may provide protection against the spread of fire (see 9.1).

3.1.4

PROBE ASSEMBLY

device for making temporary contact between test or measurement equipment and a point on an electrical circuit being measured or tested. It includes the cable and the means for making a connection with the test or measurement equipment

NOTE See Figures 1, 2, and 10 for examples of PROBE ASSEMBLIES and an explanation of the function of their parts.

3.1.5

PROBE TIP

part of the PROBE ASSEMBLY which makes the connection to the point being measured or tested

3.1.6

REFERENCE CONNECTOR

device used to connect a reference point in the test or measurement equipment (usually the functional earth TERMINAL) to a reference point on the electrical circuit being measured or tested

3.1.7

TOOL

external device, including a key or coin, used to aid a person to perform a mechanical function

3.2 Electrical quantities

3.2.1

RATED (value)

quantity value assigned, generally by a manufacturer, for a specified operating condition of a component, device or equipment

[IEV 151-04-03]

3.2.2

RATING

set of RATED values and operating conditions

[IEV 151-04-04]

3.2.3

WORKING VOLTAGE

highest voltage which can continuously appear across an insulation during NORMAL USE

NOTE Both open-circuit conditions and normal operating conditions are taken into account.

3.3 Tests

3.3.1

TYPE TEST

test of one or more samples of equipment (or parts of equipment) made to a particular design, to show that the design and construction meet one or more requirements of this standard

NOTE This is an amplification of the IEC 151-04-15 definition to cover both design and construction requirements.

3.4 Safety terms

3.4.1

ACCESSIBLE (of a part)

able to be touched with a standard test finger or test pin, when used as specified in 6.2

3.4.2

HAZARDOUS LIVE

capable of rendering an electric shock or electric burn in NORMAL CONDITION or SINGLE FAULT CONDITION (see 6.3.1 for values applicable to NORMAL CONDITION and 6.3.2 for the higher values deemed to be appropriate in SINGLE FAULT CONDITION)

3.4.3

HIGH INTEGRITY

not liable to become defective in such a manner as to cause a risk of HAZARD; a HIGH INTEGRITY part is considered as not subject to failure when tests under fault conditions are made

3.4.4

PROTECTIVE IMPEDANCE

component, assembly of components or the combination of BASIC INSULATION and a current or voltage limiting device, the impedance, construction and reliability of which are such that when connected between parts which are HAZARDOUS LIVE and ACCESSIBLE conductive parts, it provides protection to the extent required by this standard in NORMAL CONDITION and SINGLE FAULT CONDITION

3.4.5

NORMAL USE

operation, including stand-by, according to the instructions for use or for the obvious intended purpose

NOTE In most cases, NORMAL USE also implies NORMAL CONDITION, because the instructions for use will warn against using the equipment when it is not in NORMAL CONDITION.

3.4.6

NORMAL CONDITION

condition in which all means for protection against HAZARDS are intact

3.4.7

SINGLE FAULT CONDITION

condition in which one means for protection against HAZARD is defective or one fault is present which could cause a HAZARD

NOTE If a SINGLE FAULT CONDITION results unavoidably in another SINGLE FAULT CONDITION, the two failures are considered as one SINGLE FAULT CONDITION.

3.4.8

OPERATOR

person operating equipment for its intended purpose

NOTE The OPERATOR should have received training appropriate for this purpose.

3.4.9

RESPONSIBLE BODY

individual or group responsible for the use and maintenance of equipment, and for ensuring that OPERATORS are adequately trained

3.4.10

WET LOCATION

Location where water or another conductive liquid may be present and is likely to cause reduced human body impedance due to wetting of the contact between the human body and the equipment, or wetting of the contact between the human body and the environment

3.4.11

HAZARD

potential source of harm (see 1.2)

3.5 Insulation

3.5.1

BASIC INSULATION

insulation, the failure of which could cause a risk of electric shock

NOTE BASIC INSULATION may serve also for functional purposes.

3.5.2

SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION

independent insulation applied in addition to BASIC INSULATION in order to provide protection against electric shock in the event of a failure of BASIC INSULATION

3.5.3

DOUBLE INSULATION

insulation comprising both BASIC INSULATION and SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION

3.5.4

REINFORCED INSULATION

insulation which provides protection against electric shock not less than that provided by DOUBLE INSULATION

NOTE REINFORCED INSULATION may comprise several layers which cannot be tested singly as SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION or BASIC INSULATION.

3.5.5

POLLUTION

any addition of foreign matter, solid, liquid or gaseous (ionized gases), that may produce a reduction of dielectric strength or surface resistivity

3.5.6

POLLUTION DEGREE

a numeral indicating the level of POLLUTION that may be present in the environment

3.5.6.1

POLLUTION DEGREE 1

no POLLUTION or only dry, non-conductive POLLUTION

NOTE The POLLUTION has no influence.

3.5.6.2

POLLUTION DEGREE 2

only non-conductive POLLUTION. Occasionally, however, a temporary conductivity caused by condensation must be expected

3.5.6.3

POLLUTION DEGREE 3

conductive POLLUTION occurs or dry non-conductive POLLUTION occurs which becomes conductive due to condensation which is to be expected

3.5.7

CLEARANCE

shortest distance in air between two conductive parts

3.5.8

CREEPAGE DISTANCE

shortest distance along the surface of the insulating material between two conductive parts

[IEV 151-03-37]