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Solar thermal electric plants - Part 1-5: Performance code test for solar thermal electric plants

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Centrales électriques solaires thermiques - Partie 1-5 : Essai du code de performance pour les centrales électriques thermosolaires

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**SOLAR THERMAL ELECTRIC PLANTS –
Part 1-5: Performance test code for solar thermal electric plants**

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

Draft	Report on voting
XX/XX/FDIS	XX/XX/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available

at https://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at <https://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications>.

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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
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INTRODUCTION

Solar thermal power plants are electricity generation plants that use solar radiation to heat a fluid to a high temperature. This fluid usually transfers its heat to water to produce superheated steam, which is expanded in a turbine-generator machine to transform thermal energy first into mechanical energy and finally into electricity. These plants use solar collectors to concentrate the solar radiation, and they are classified depending on the concentration technology, including but not limited to Parabolic-Trough Collector (PTC), Central Receiver Collector (CRC) also called Solar Tower, and Linear Fresnel Collector (LFC).

Solar thermal power plants are made of a solar field interconnected to a power block, but sometimes they also include a non-solar energy source and a thermal storage system which enable electricity generation under conditions of reduced or no solar radiation (see Figure 1). Depending on the concentration technology, the solar field may consist of a set of parabolic-trough collector rows, linear Fresnel collector rows, or a set of heliostats with a central receiver located in a tower. All these systems track the sun and collect the energy that it projects in the form of direct radiation.

The Plant Performance must be demonstrated, or verified, as part of the commissioning and acceptance process, for all the configurations agreed by the parties involved.

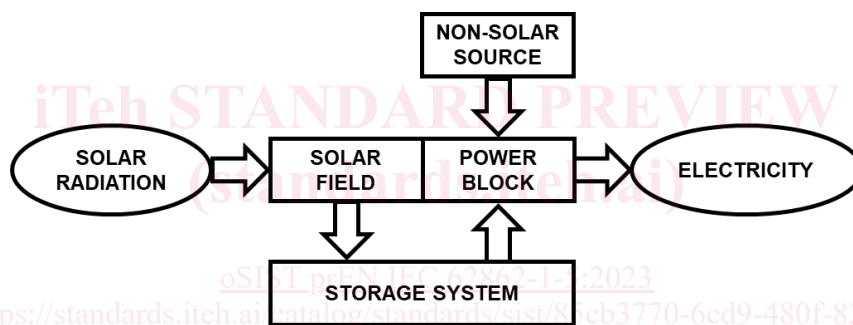


Figure 1 – Energy flows in a Solar Thermal Power Plant

The complexity and duration of performance acceptance tests depend on what these tests are for. There are several different types of tests:

- **Short quasi-stationary tests:** Their purpose is to verify the characteristics and features of the power plant systems (solar field, thermal storage system, power block, and auxiliary non-solar energy systems)
- **Short-duration testing** (at least 24 hours): The purpose is to verify the performance of the power plant over a short period of time (usually associated with Provisional Plant Acceptance Testing)
- **Long-duration tests** (at least 365 days): The purpose is to verify or validate annual plant production and auxiliary consumptions (electricity and non-solar energy source) (These tests are usually associated with Final Plant Acceptance).
- **Dispatchability tests:** The purpose is to verify the ability of the solar thermal power plant to respond to grid operator signals regardless of meteorological conditions.
- **Durability and integrity testing:** The purpose is to verify integrity and validate equipment durability

This standard focuses on acceptance testing of the complete power plant and defines the measurement procedures for short-duration and long-duration efficiency testing.

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42 **1 Scope**

43 The purpose of this standard is to provide procedures and guidelines to carry out acceptance
44 tests for solar thermal power plants, of any concentration technology, with the uncertainty level
45 given in the ISO/IEC Guide 98-3.

46 This standard establishes the measurements, instrumentation and techniques required for
47 determining the following performance parameters for a given period:

- 48 • Available solar radiation energy
- 49 • Plant electricity consumptions
- 50 • Net electricity generation
- 51 • Non-solar energy
- 52 • Net plant efficiency

53 Other parameters that characterize the solar thermal power plant system features are not dealt
54 with in this standard but are the subject of other complementary standards.

55 Due to the variability of the sun as the energy source for a solar power plant, it is necessary to
56 compare any measured production data (performance) of the system to a jointly agreed
57 calculation tool serving as a reference for expected production in the specific period and under
58 the real-time solar irradiance and other meteorological data.

59 This standard is applicable to solar thermal power plants of any size using any concentration
60 technology, where the sun is the main source of energy, and all elements and systems are
61 operative. Such power plants may optionally have non-solar energy sources, such as natural
62 gas or other renewable energies, and a thermal storage system.

63 It is applicable to acceptance testing in such power plants, as well as in any other scenario in
64 which their performance must be known. Acceptance tests serve for the purpose of verification
65 of a contractual performance measure, and for establishing claims in case of non-fulfillment of
66 performance. In this document the owner, builder, financier, and any other entity interested in
67 knowing these features are called “parties involved.”

68 **2 Normative references**

69 The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content
70 constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies.
71 For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any
72 amendments) applies.

73 IEC 60044-7:1999, *Instrument transformers – Part 7: Electronic voltage transformers*

74 IEC 60044-8:2002, *Instrument transformers – Part 8: Electronic current transformers*

75 IEC TS 62862-1-1:2018, *Solar Thermal Electric Plants – Terminology*

76 IEC 62862-3-2:2018, *Solar Thermal Electric Plants – Part 3-2: Systems and components.*
77 *General requirements and test methods for large-size parabolic-trough collectors*

78 IEC 62862-5-2:2022, *Solar thermal electric plants - Part 5-2: Systems and components -*
79 *General requirements and test methods for large-size linear Fresnel collectors*

80 ISO 9060:1990, *Solar energy. Specification and classification of instruments for measuring*
81 *hemispherical solar and direct solar radiation*

82 ISO 9488:1999, *Solar energy – Vocabulary*

83 ISO 9806:2017, *Solar energy - Solar thermal collectors – Test methods*

84 ISO/IEC Guide 98-3:2008, *Uncertainty of measurement – Part 3: Guide to the expression of*
85 *uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

86 UNE 206010:2015, *Tests for the verification of the performance of solar thermal power plants*
87 *with parabolic trough collector technology*

88 3 Terms and definitions

89 For the purposes of this standard, the terms and definitions included in IEC TS 62862-1-1 apply.

90 4 Symbols

91 The symbols and units used in this document are displayed in Table 1.

92

Table 1 – Symbols and units

Symbol	Description	Units
A_{net}	Net collection area	m ²
C_p	Specific heat capacity	J/(kg·K)
E_b	Direct normal solar irradiance	W/m ²
$E_{el,net}$	Net electricity generated and delivered to the grid	kWh
E_{ns}	Thermal energy supplied by fossil fuels and/or other non-solar energies	kWh
h	Specific enthalpy	J/kg
\dot{m}	Mass flow rate	kg/s
N_{col}	Number of single elements in operation in the solar field: parabolic-trough collectors, Fresnel reflectors or heliostats	-
P	Power	kW
p_{atm}	Atmospheric pressure	bar
RH	Relative humidity	%
t	Time	h
T	Temperature	°C
U_B	Type B uncertainty	

Symbol	Description	Units
v	Wind speed	m/s
\dot{V}	Volumetric flow	m ³ /s
Greek Symbols		
Δ	difference or variation	-
$\eta_{plant,net}$	net plant efficiency	%
ρ	Density	kg/m ³
τ	Test time	s
Subscripts		
<i>accum</i>	cumulative value	
<i>atm</i>	atmospheric	
<i>aux</i>	at auxiliar transformer high voltage side	
<i>avail</i>	available in the aperture area of the plant solar field	
<i>con</i>	consumption	
<i>el</i>	electricity	
<i>gross</i>	at generator terminals	
<i>HTF</i>	heat transfer fluid	
<i>i, j</i>	time interval, index	
<i>in, out</i>	inlet, outlet	
<i>net</i>	net value	
<i>ns</i>	non solar	
<i>plant</i>	related to the power plant	
<i>solar</i>	solar radiation	
<i>startup</i>	at startup transformer high voltage side	
<i>tr</i>	transformer	
<i>trloss</i>	transformer losses	
<i>util</i>	useful	
<i>0, end</i>	initial and final time	

93 5 Performance reference

94 5.1 Requirements

95 According to this standard, the verification of performance for a solar thermal power plant
96 requires:

- 97 a) The use of a power plant simulation model, hereinafter simulation model, to generate
98 reference values from the input and boundary conditions existing during a test.
- 99 b) To define the verification procedure. That is, the way measurements are to be compared
100 with the reference considering uncertainties.

101 Clause 5.2 defines the simulation model, while the verification procedure is defined in clause
102 8.8.

103 **5.2 Simulation model**

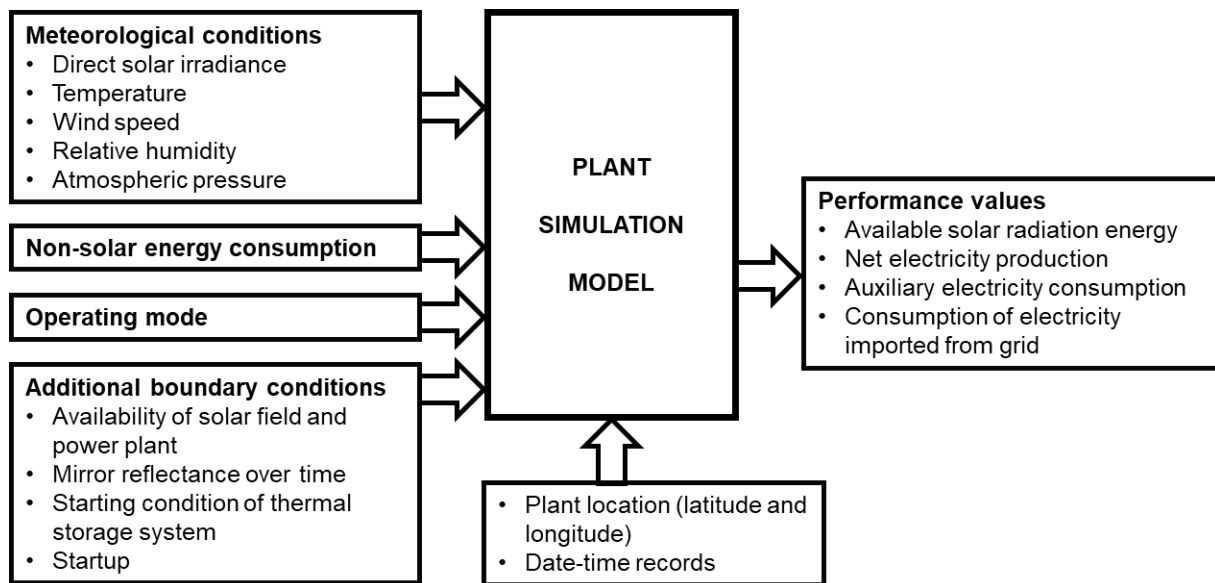
104 This standard establishes that the simulation model of the tested solar power plant and its
105 systems is an essential element in the acceptance process. The simulation model to be used
106 shall be agreed by the parties involved, and its validation must be documented. It is
107 recommended that the simulation model meet at least with the requirements listed in this
108 section.

109 Due to the importance of inertial and transient phenomena during performance tests, the
110 simulation model must be dynamic, or at least consider solar field inertia phenomena, to be
111 able to calculate the reference performance indicators, like electrical power or plant efficiency,
112 for the test boundary conditions.

113 For short-duration and long-duration efficiency tests, the simulation model will include
114 commonly the following inputs and outputs (see Figure 2):

- 115 • Input specifications:
 - 116 – Power plant location (geographic latitude and longitude)
 - 117 – Test start and end dates and times
 - 118 – Date and time, direct solar irradiance, and other meteorological conditions during testing
119 (temperature, wind speed, atmospheric pressure, relative humidity, and, if needed by
120 the simulation model, wind direction), recorded in time intervals no longer than 10
121 minutes and averaged as specified in clause 8.6
 - 122 – Plant operating modes during testing
 - 123 – Solar field and power plant availability during testing
 - 124 – Reflectance of mirrors in the solar field over time
 - 125 – Starting conditions of the thermal storage system
 - 126 – Starting conditions of the power plant when testing begins (type of startup)
 - 127 – Non-solar energy consumption during testing
- 128 • Output specifications:
 - 129 – Available solar radiation energy
 - 130 – Net electricity production (at test boundaries)
 - 131 – Auxiliary electricity consumption
 - 132 – Consumption of electricity imported from the grid

133



134

135

Figure 2 – Required simulation model inputs and outputs

136 The simulation model used in the acceptance process must be previously validated and agreed
 137 upon by the parties. It is recommended that the simulation model validation include the
 138 following:

- 139 • Verification that the simulation model reproduces nominal performance values at reference
 140 conditions (i.e., design point conditions).
- 141 • Consistency in predicting performance values at conditions other than those of reference;
 142 showing that when input parameters are varied, output trends are congruent with these
 143 variations.

144 6 General test guidelines

145 This section provides the general instructions to carry out performance tests for solar thermal
 146 power plants, with the steps required to plan, prepare, and perform them.

147 6.1 Test procedure

148 The Test procedure is a detailed document on the test plan, which must be prepared and
 149 approved beforehand by the parties involved. This basic document must include all the details
 150 for preparing and conducting a test, as well as how to make calculations and report the results.

151 It is recommended that it includes at least the following:

- 152 1) Purpose of the test, indicating foreseen duration.
- 153 2) Features to be verified, along with their guaranteed values and uncertainty margins, if
 154 applicable.
- 155 3) Test boundaries, identifying the input and output flows and measurement points.
- 156 4) Basic test plan.
- 157 5) Description of the activities to be performed during test preparation, such as calibration and
 158 verification of measurement equipment, training of personnel who take part in the test,
 159 inspection and cleaning of equipment, and carrying out a pretest if so agreed. The
 160 instrumentation that is to be used during the tests must meet the specifications defined in
 161 clause 7. All measuring equipment, both permanent and temporary instruments, necessary
 162 for the test, must be checked, inspected, and tuned before starting the test.