IEC 61683

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Photovoltaic systems – Power conditioners – Procedure for measuring efficiency

Systèmes photovoltaïques – Conditionneurs d'énergie électrique – Procédure de mesure du rendement

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PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS – POWER CONDITIONERS –

PROCEDURE FOR MEASURING EFFICIENCY

FOREWORD

1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, the IEC publishes International Standards. Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. The IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.

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International Standard IEC 61683 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/229/FDIS	82/233/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 3.

Annexes A, B, C and D are for information only.

A bilingual version of this standard may be issued at a later date.

The committee has decided that this publication remains valid until 2003. At this date, in accordance with the committee's decision, the publication will be

• reconfirmed;
• withdrawn;
• replaced by a revised edition, or
• amended.

INTRODUCTION

Among the principal characteristics of power conditioners, efficiency is considered as an important factor. A standardized procedure for measuring the efficiency of power conditioners is necessary for their widespread use in photovoltaic systems by increasing the reliability of their claimed efficiency.

Generally speaking, power conditioner efficiency is affected by the following parameters:

– power level;

– input voltage;

– output voltage;

– power factor;

– harmonic content;

– load non-linearity;

– temperature.

These parameters are considered to be included in the test condition of this standard explicitly or implicitly.

The purpose of this standard is to provide the means to evaluate the intrinsic efficiency of power conditioners by a direct measurement of input and output power in the factory. Therefore, indirect items such as maximum power-point tracking accuracy are outside the scope of this document. It is expected that those will be dealt with in future relevant IEC standard(s).

PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS – POWER CONDITIONERS –
PROCEDURE FOR MEASURING EFFICIENCY

1 Scope

This standard describes guidelines for measuring the efficiency of power conditioners used in stand-alone and utility-interactive photovoltaic systems, where the output of the power conditioner is a stable a.c. voltage of constant frequency or a stable d.c. voltage. The efficiency is calculated from a direct measurement of input and output power in the factory. An isolation transformer is included where it is applicable.

2 Normative reference

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

IEC 60146-1-1:1991, S*emiconductor convertors – General requirements and line commutated convertors – Part 1-1: Specifications of basic requirements*

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply. All efficiency definitions are applied to electric power conversion alone and do not consider any heat production. The above normative references contain other definitions.

In annex A, the definition of power conditioner is given. Power efficiency and conversion factor are explained in annex B.

3.1
rated output efficiency
ratio of output power to input power when the power conditioner is operating at its rated output

3.2
partial output efficiency
ratio of output power to input power when the power conditioner is operating below its rated output

3.3
energy efficiency
ratio of output energy to input energy during an identified period

3.4
efficiency tolerance
permissible tolerance between the manufacturer's specified efficiency and the measured efficiency

3.5
PV array simulator
simulator which has I-V characteristics equivalent to a PV array

3.6
no-load loss
input power of the power conditioner when its load is disconnected or its output power is zero

3.7
standby loss
for a utility interactive power conditioner, power drawn from the utility grid when the power conditioner is in standby mode. For a stand-alone power conditioner, d.c. input power when the power conditioner is in standby mode

3.8
maximum power point tracking (MPPT)
control strategy whereby the power conditioner input voltage is always at or near the maximum power point of the PV array

4 Efficiency measurement conditions

Efficiency shall be measured under the matrix of conditions as described in the following clauses and table 1. Specific conditions may be excluded by mutual agreement when those conditions are outside the manufacturer's allowable operating range. The resulting data shall be presented in tabular form and may also be presented graphically.

NOTE For example, stand-alone power conditioners are typically designed to handle short-term overload significantly above the rated power. The test at 120 % of rated capacity is included to give an indication of the performance of the power conditioner under these conditions. Some power conditioners are not designed to provide more than their rated output and might be damaged if operated at 120 % of rated capacity. In such cases, test documentation shall note that the test was excluded due to limitation in the power conditioner.

4.1 DC power source for testing

For power conditioners operating with fixed input voltage, the d.c. power source shall be a storage battery or constant voltage power source to maintain the input voltage.

For power conditioners that employ maximum power point tracking (MPPT) and shunt-type power conditioners, either a photovoltaic array or a photovoltaic array simulator shall be utilized.

4.2 Temperature

All measurements are to be made at an ambient temperature of 25 °C ± 2 °C. Other ambient temperatures may be allowed by mutual agreement. However, the temperature used must be clearly stated in all documentation.

4.3 Output voltage and frequency

The output voltage and frequency shall be maintained at the manufacturer's stated nominal values.

Table 1 – Efficiency recording sheet

Input voltage: _____(±_____ V)

Total load, % of rated VA		5	10	25	50	75	100	120
Grid-connected	Resistive load	–	()*	()	()	()	()	()
Stand-alone	Resistive load	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
	Reactive load PF = 0,25 or minimum	–	–	()	()	–	()	–
	PF = 0,50 (> minimum)	–	–	()	()	–	()	–
	PF = 0,75 (> minimum)	–	–	()	()	–	()	–
	Non-linear load NL = 25 % of rated VA	–	–	()	()	–	()	–
	NL = 50 % of rated VA	–	–	–	()	–	()	–
	Complex load	–	–	–	()	–	()	–
* The symbol ( ) denotes a condition to be tested.								

4.4 Input voltage

Measurements performed in each of the following tests shall be repeated at three power conditioner input voltages:

a) manufacturer's minimum rated input voltage;

b) the inverter's nominal voltage (or the average of its rated input range);

c) 90 % of the inverter's maximum input voltage.

In the case where a power conditioner is to be connected with a battery at its input terminals, only the nominal or rated input voltage may be applied.

4.5 Ripple and distortion

Record input voltage and current ripple for each measurement. Also record output voltage and current distortion (if a.c.) or ripple (if d.c.). Ensure that these measurements remain within the manufacturer's specified values. Note that ripple and distortion may not be specified at low power levels, but readings shall be recorded.

4.6 Resistive loads/utility grid

At unity power factor, or at the intrinsic power factor of grid-connected inverters without power factor adjustment, measure the efficiency for power levels of 10 %, 25 %, 50 %, 75 %, 100 % and 120 % of the inverter's rating. Stand-alone inverters shall also be measured at a power level of 5 % of rated. The power conditioner test should be conducted with a specified resistive and reactive grid impedance.

4.7 Reactive loads

For stand-alone inverters, measure the efficiency with a load which provides a power factor equal to the manufacturer's specified minimum level (or 0,25, whichever is greater) and at power levels of 25 %, 50 % and 100 % of rated VA. Repeat for power factors of 0,5 and 0,75 (do not go below the manufacturer's specified minimum PF) and power levels of 25 %, 50 %, and 100 % of rated VA.

4.8   Resistive plus non-linear loads

For stand-alone inverters, measure the efficiency with a fixed non-linear load (total harmonic distortion (THD) = (80 ± 5) %) equal to (25 ± 5) % of the inverter's rated VA plus sufficient resistive load in parallel to achieve a total load of 25 %, 50 % and 100 % of rated VA. Repeat the measurements with a fixed non-linear load equivalent to (50 ± 5) % of the inverter's rated VA plus sufficient resistive load in parallel to achieve a total load of 50 % and 100 % of rated VA. The type of non-linear load must be clearly stated in all documentation.

4.9   Complex loads

When a non-linear plus a sufficient reactive load condition is specified for stand-alone inverters, measure the efficiency with a fixed non-linear load (THD = (80 ± 5) %) equal to (50 ± 5) % of the inverter's rated VA plus a sufficient reactive load (PF = 0,5) in parallel to achieve a total load of 50 % and 100 % of rated VA. The type of complex load shall be clearly stated in all documentation.

5   Efficiency calculations

5.1   Rated output efficiency

Rated output efficiency shall be calculated from measured data as follows:

$$\eta_R = (P_o / P_i) \times 100 \tag{1}$$

where

η_R is the rated output efficiency (%);

P_o is the rated output power from power conditioner (kW);

P_i is the input power to power conditioner at rated output (kW).

NOTE   Any auxiliary input power (kW), such as for the inverter's control system (or gate driver) shall be included in P_i in equation (1).

5.2   Partial output efficiency

Partial output efficiency shall be calculated from measured data as follows:

$$\eta_{par} = (P_{op} / P_{ip}) \times 100 \tag{2}$$

where

η_{par} is the partial output efficiency (%);

P_{op} is the partial output power from power conditioner (kW);

P_{ip} is the input power to power conditioner at partial output (kW).

NOTE   Any auxiliary input power (kW) such as for the inverter's control system (or gate driver) shall be included into P_i in equation (2).

5.3 Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency shall be calculated from measured data as follows:

$$\eta_E = (W_o / W_i) \times 100 \tag{3}$$

where

η_E is the energy efficiency (%);

W_o is the output energy during a specified operating period (kWh);

W_i is the input energy during a specified operating period (kWh).

NOTE 1 The operating period and the load profile shall be determined by mutual agreement between user and manufacturer.

NOTE 2 Some auxiliary input energy (kWh) such as for the inverter's control system (or gate driver) shall be included in W_i in equation (3).

NOTE 3 See annex C for an explanation of weighted-average energy efficiency η_{wt} which can supplant the energy efficiency.

5.4 Efficiency tolerances

When an efficiency value has been guaranteed, the tolerance of this value shall be within the value at rated conditions indicated in table 2.

Table 2 – Efficiency tolerances

Item	Tolerance	Remarks
Efficiency of power conditioner	$-0,2(1-\eta)\eta(\%)$	η : guaranteed efficiency
NOTE The efficiency tolerance is derived in annex D. See 4.3 of IEC 60146-1-1. The tolerance corresponds to +0,2 per unit of the losses with a minimum efficiency tolerance of –0,002 per unit.		

6 Efficiency test circuits

6.1 Test circuits

Figure 1 shows recommended test circuits for power conditioners which have a single-phase a.c. output or d.c. output. It can as well be regarded as a single-phase representation of a test set-up for multiphase power conditioners.

Figures 1a and 1b shall be applied to stand-alone and utility-interactive power conditioners respectively.

The proposed test circuits in figure 1 are not mandatory, but together with the test descriptions, are intended to establish a base for mutual agreement between user and manufacturer.

The type of power source shall be indicated on all tests and shall adhere to the requirements of 4.1.

6.2 Measurement procedure

a) Efficiency is calculated with equation (1) or (2) using measured P_i, P_o *or* P_{ip}, P_{op}. DC input power P_i, P_{ip} can be measured by wattmeter W_1, or determined by multiplying the d.c. voltmeter V_1 and d.c. ammeter A_1 readings. Output power P_o, P_{op} is measured with wattmeter W_2.

b) DC input voltage, which is measured by d.c. voltmeter V_1, shall be varied in the defined range where the output current, which is measured with a.c. ammeter A_2, is varied from low output to the rated output.

c) An average indicating instrument shall be used for the d.c. voltmeter and d.c. ammeter. A true r.m.s. type of indicating instrument shall be used for the a.c. voltmeter and a.c. ammeter. The d.c. wattmeter W_1 shall be a d.c. measuring type. The wattmeter W_2 shall be an a.c. or d.c. measuring type according to the output.

d) Power factor (*PF* in per cent) can be measured by a power factor meter PF, or calculated from the readings of V_2, A_2, W_2 and as follows:

$$PF = (W_2/(V_2 \times A_2)) \times 100 \qquad\qquad (4)$$

e) Each meter may be an analogue type or a digital type. The measurement accuracy shall be better than ±0,5 % of the full-scale value for each power measured. Digital power instruments for W_1 and W_2 are also recommended.

f) An MPPT dynamically adjusts the input voltage so as to maximize the output power. In principle, the monitoring equipment shall sample all of the electrical parameters, such as input voltage and current, output power and current, within the update period of the MPPT. If the MPPT and input source (PV array or PV array simulator) interact in such a way that the input voltage varies by less than 5 %, then averaging of readings is acceptable. The averaging period shall be 30 s or longer.

7 Loss measurement

7.1 No-load loss

No-load loss shall be measured as follows.

If the power conditioner is a stand-alone type, the reading of d.c. input voltage, output voltage and frequency is given with meters V_1, V_2 and F respectively in figure 1a, and shall be adjusted to the rated values.

The no-load loss is thus the indicated value of d.c. input wattmeter, W_1, when the load is disconnected from the power conditioner.

If the power conditioner is a utility-interactive type, the reading of d.c. input voltmeter V_1, a.c. output voltmeter V_2 and frequency meter F in figure 1b shall be adjusted to meet the specified voltages and frequency.

No-load loss is thus the indicated value of d.c. input wattmeter, W_1, when a.c. wattmeter, W_2, indicates a zero value. For the measurement, allow the power conditioner time to transfer to its no-load operating state, if applicable.

7.2 Standby loss

Standby loss shall be measured as follows.

If the power conditioner is a utility-interactive type, standby loss is defined as the consumption of utility power when the power conditioner is not operating but is under standby condition. Standby loss is indicated with a.c. wattmeter, W_2 in figure 1b at the rated a.c. output voltage.

If the power conditioner is a stand-alone type, standby loss is defined as the consumption from the d.c. source when the power conditioner is not operating but is under standby condition. Standby loss is indicated with d.c. wattmeter, W_1 in figure 1a (without a.c. or d.c. output voltage).
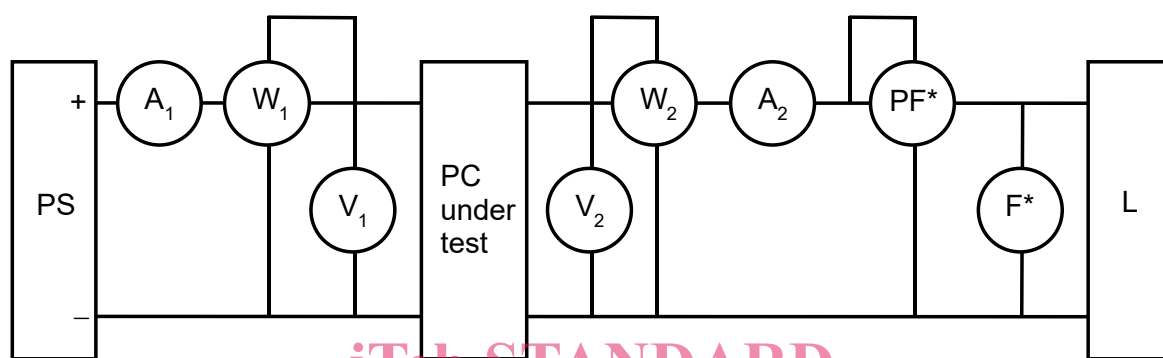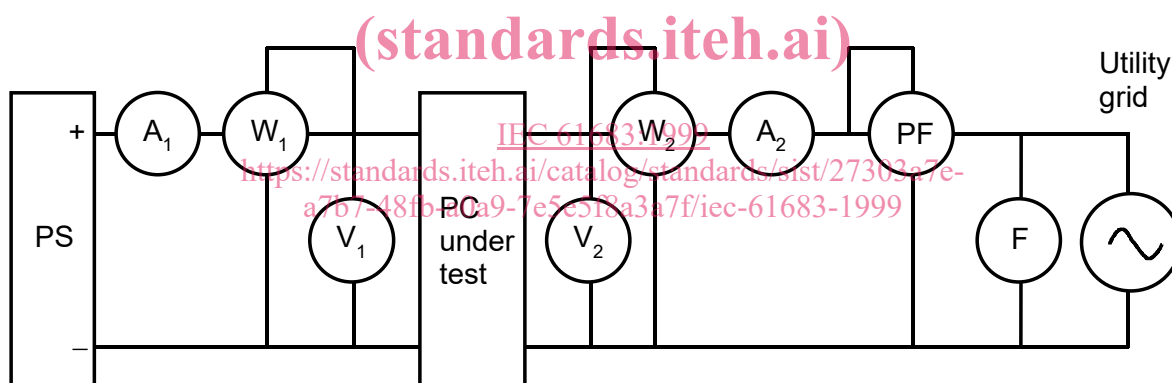

IEC   1566/99

Figure 1a – Stand-alone type

IEC   1567/99

Figure 1b – Utility-interactive type

PC power conditioner
PS variable voltage-current d.c. power supply
A_1 DC ammeter
A_2 AC or d.c. ammeter
W_1 DC wattmeter
W_2 AC or d.c. wattmeter

L load
F frequency meter
V_1 DC voltmeter
V_2 AC or d.c. voltmeter
PF power factor meter

NOTE 1   The d.c. input voltage or current ripple will vary according to the d.c. power supply's internal impedance, and should be defined by mutual agreement between user and manufacturer. For example, the impedance might be selected as the current-voltage ratio $\Delta V/\Delta I$ at the operating point on the PV array I-V curve. When the power conditioner includes the MPPT, a PV array simulator is recommended as the d.c. power source.

NOTE 2   Frequency meter F* and power factor meter PF* are ignored in the case of d.c. output.

Figure 1 – Power conditioner test circuits