

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

REDLINE VERSION

Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear -  
Part 6-1: Multiple function equipment - Transfer switching equipment

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	6
INTRODUCTION.....	8
1 Scope.....	9
2 Normative references .....	10
3 Terms and definitions .....	11
3.1 Alphabetical index of terms .....	11
3.2 Transfer switching devices .....	13
3.3 Operation of TSE .....	15
3.4 Main contact positions .....	17
3.5 Symbols and abbreviations used in this document .....	18
4 Classification.....	18
5 Characteristics .....	19
5.1 Summary of characteristics.....	19
5.2 Type and characteristics of equipment.....	19
5.3 Rated and limiting values for the main circuit .....	20
5.3.1 General .....	20
5.3.2 Rated voltages .....	20
5.3.3 Rated operational current ( $I_e$ ).....	20
5.3.4 Rated frequency .....	20
5.3.5 Rated making and breaking capacities.....	21
5.3.6 Short-circuit characteristics .....	21
5.4 Utilization category .....	22
5.5 Control circuits.....	22
5.5.1 General .....	22
5.5.2 Electromechanical devices operating the main circuit .....	22
5.5.3 ATS controller .....	23
5.6 Auxiliary circuits.....	23
6 Product information .....	23
6.1 Nature of information .....	23
6.2 Marking.....	23
6.3 Instructions for installation, operation and maintenance, decommissioning and dismantling .....	25
6.4 Environmental information .....	26
7 Normal service, mounting and transport conditions.....	27
8 Constructional and performance requirements.....	27
8.1 Constructional requirements .....	27
8.1.1 General .....	27
8.1.2 Materials .....	27
8.1.3 Indication <del>of the switching position</del> .....	28
8.1.4 Equipment suitable for isolation.....	28
8.1.5 Opening and closing of main contacts.....	28
8.1.6 Clearances and creepage distances .....	29
8.1.7 Provision for protective earthing .....	29
8.1.8 Stored charge energy circuit.....	29
8.1.9 Stored energy closing.....	29

8.1.10	Dedicated enclosures for TSE .....	29
8.1.11	Communication.....	29
8.2	Performance requirements.....	30
8.2.1	Operating conditions.....	30
8.2.2	Temperature-rise.....	31
8.2.3	Dielectric properties.....	31
8.2.4	Ability to make, carry, and break under no-load, normal load and overload conditions.....	31
8.2.5	Ability to make and break under short-circuit conditions.....	34
8.2.6	Critical load current performance <del>(DC equipment)</del> of TSE with DC rating.....	35
8.3	Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).....	35
8.3.1	General .....	35
8.3.2	Immunity.....	35
8.3.3	Emission.....	36
9	Tests.....	36
9.1	Kinds of tests.....	36
9.2	Type tests.....	36
9.2.1	General test conditions.....	36
9.2.2	Test sequences .....	37
9.2.3	Test sequence I – General performance characteristics.....	39
9.2.4	Test sequence II – Operational performance capability.....	46
9.2.5	Test sequence III – Short-circuit performance capability.....	51
9.2.6	Test sequence IV – Conditional short-circuit current.....	54
9.2.7	Test sequence V – Critical load current performance of equipment with a DC rating.....	55
9.2.8	Test sequence VI – EMC tests.....	58
9.3	Routine tests.....	60
9.4	Environmental tests.....	62
Annex A (normative) Assignment of utilization categories based on results of tests .....		64
Annex B (informative) Items subject to agreement between manufacturer and user .....		65
Annex C (normative) Bypass/isolation transfer switch equipment.....		66
C.1	General.....	66
C.2	(void).....	66
C.3	(void).....	66
C.4	Classification .....	66
C.5	Characteristics.....	66
C.6	Product information.....	66
C.7	Normal service, mounting and transport conditions .....	66
C.8	Constructional and performance requirements .....	67
C.8.1	General .....	67
C.8.2	Construction requirements.....	67
C.8.3	Performance requirements.....	68
C.9	Tests.....	70
C.9.1	General .....	70
C.9.2	Interlocking function verification.....	70
C.9.3	Full assembly tests .....	70
C.9.4	Routine tests .....	70
C.10	BTSE typical circuits and main components .....	71

C.10.1	Example of operating sequence of a single line fixed type BTSE .....	71
C.10.2	Example of operating sequence of a double line fixed type BTSE .....	72
C.10.3	Example of operating sequence of a double line withdrawable type BTSE .....	73
C.10.4	Example of operating sequence of a double line load-break withdrawable type BTSE .....	74
C.10.5	Example of operating sequence of a single line withdrawable type BTSE .....	75
Annex D (normative)	ATSE having closed transition capability .....	76
D.1	General .....	76
D.2	(void) .....	76
D.3	(void) .....	76
D.4	Classification .....	76
D.5	Characteristics .....	76
D.6	Product information .....	76
D.6.1	General .....	76
D.6.2	Product instructions for operation .....	77
D.7	Normal service, mounting and transport conditions .....	77
D.8	Constructional and performance requirements .....	77
D.8.1	General .....	77
D.8.2	Operating mechanism .....	78
D.8.3	Controls, sequence, and limits of operation .....	78
D.8.4	Performance requirements .....	79
D.9	Tests .....	80
D.9.1	General .....	80
D.9.2	Test procedure .....	80
D.9.3	Figures to clarify closed transition transfer .....	81
Annex E (normative)	Stand-alone ATS controller .....	85
E.1	General .....	85
E.2	(void) .....	85
E.3	(void) .....	85
E.4	Classification .....	85
E.5	Characteristics .....	85
E.6	Product information .....	85
E.6.1	General .....	85
E.6.2	Product instructions for operation .....	87
E.7	Normal service, mounting and transport conditions .....	88
E.8	Constructional and performance requirements .....	88
E.8.1	Constructional requirements .....	88
E.8.2	Performance requirements .....	90
E.8.3	Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) .....	90
E.9	Tests .....	90
E.9.1	General .....	90
E.9.2	List of type tests .....	90
E.9.3	Wire flexing test .....	91
E.9.4	EMC tests .....	91
E.9.5	Stand-alone ATS controller routine test .....	92
E.9.6	Environmental tests .....	92
E.9.7	Example to clarify stand-alone ATS controller operating transfer time .....	92

Annex F (normative) TSE used with electric driven fire pump control equipment .....	93
F.1 General.....	93
F.2 Normative references.....	93
F.3 Terms and definitions.....	93
F.4 Classification .....	93
F.5 Characteristics.....	93
F.6 Product information.....	93
F.7 Normal service, mounting and transport conditions .....	94
F.8 Constructional, functional, and performance requirements .....	94
F.8.1 General .....	94
F.8.2 General .....	94
F.8.3 Manual operating means for maintenance and servicing .....	94
F.8.4 ATSE Voltage sensing .....	95
F.8.5 ATSE Initiation of transfer to secondary supply source .....	95
F.8.6 ATSE Frequency monitoring of generator source .....	95
F.8.7 Indicators of transfer.....	95
F.8.8 Integral protective devices .....	95
F.8.9 ATSE Generator starting contacts.....	95
F.8.10 Power circuit components.....	96
F.8.11 Operating mechanism.....	96
F.9 Tests .....	96
F.9.1 General .....	96
F.9.2 Type tests.....	96
Bibliography.....	97
Figure 1 – Example of operating sequences for TSE with three positions.....	26
Figure 2 – Test circuit for connection to source I and source II supplies .....	61
Figure 3 – Test circuit for the verification of making and breaking capacities .....	62
Figure C.1 – Single line fixed type BTSE .....	71
Figure C.2 – Double line fixed type BTSE .....	72
Figure C.3 – Double line withdrawable type BTSE .....	73
Figure C.4 – Double line load-break withdrawable type BTSE .....	74
Figure C.5 – Single line withdrawable type BTSE.....	75
Figure D.1 – Additional control circuit and external disconnecting devices .....	79
Figure D.2 – Open transition .....	81
Figure D.3 – Closed transition.....	81
Figure D.4 – Example to describe a typical open and closed transition operating sequence.....	82
Figure D.5 – Example of an operating sequence with a fail to open position II contacts within 100 ms during a return transfer in closed transition.....	83
Figure D.6 – Example of an operating sequence with a fail to open both position I and position II contacts during a return transfer in closed transition and showing the removal of the condition by signalling an external device to open (source II) .....	84
Figure E.1 – Example to show the stand-alone ATS controller operating transfer time .....	92
Table 1 – Utilization categories .....	22
Table 2 – Product information .....	23

Table 3 – Verification of making and breaking capacity – Conditions for making and breaking corresponding to the utilization categories .....	32
Table 4 – Verification of operational performance – Conditions for making and breaking corresponding to the utilization categories .....	33
Table 5 – Value of the test current for the verification of the ability to operate under short-circuit conditions .....	34
Table 6 – Value of the test current for the verification of the ability to operate under short-circuit conditions (harmonized table).....	35
Table 7 – Acceptance criteria of immunity test .....	36
Table 8 – List of type tests (overall scheme of test sequences).....	37
Table 9 – List of type tests to which a derived TSE shall be submitted.....	38
Table 10 – Number and duration of operating cycles for the making and breaking capacity test .....	47
Table 11 – Number and rate of operating cycles for the electrical and mechanical operational performance tests for type A utilization categories .....	48
Table 12 – Number and rate of operating cycles for the electrical and mechanical operational performance tests for type B utilization categories .....	49
Table 13 – Temperature-rise limits for terminals and accessible parts.....	50
Table 14 – Number of operating cycles corresponding to the critical load current.....	57
Table 15 – Test circuit parameters for Table 14 .....	57
Table 16 – Test sequence V: Critical load current performance of equipment with a DC rating .....	57
Table D.1 – Product information.....	77
Table E.1 – Product information.....	86
Table E.2 – List of type tests for the stand-alone ATS controller .....	91
Table F.1 – Product information.....	94

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear -  
Part 6-1: Multiple function equipment -  
Transfer switching equipment**

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This redline version of the official IEC Standard allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous edition IEC 60947-6-1:2021. A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text.

IEC 60947-6-1 has been prepared by sub-committee 121A: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear, of IEC technical committee 121: Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage. It is an International Standard.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2021. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- clarification of scope;
- clarification of terms and definitions;
- Annex C for Bypass/Isolation Transfer Switch Equipment;
- Annex D for ATSE having closed transition capability;
- Annex E for Stand-alone ATS controller;
- Annex F for TSE used with electric driven fire pump control equipment.

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

Draft	Report on voting
121A/711/FDIS	121A/719/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 [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

A list of all the parts in the IEC 60947 series, published under the general title *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear*, can be found on the IEC website.

This document is to be read in conjunction with IEC 60947-1:2020, *Low voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 1: General rules*.

The provisions of the general rules are applicable to IEC 60947-6-1 where specifically called for. General rules clauses and subclauses thus applicable as well as tables, figures and appendices are identified by reference to IEC 60947-1:2020, for example, 1.2.3, Table 4, or Annex A of IEC 60947-1:2020.

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](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

## INTRODUCTION

The availability of power in low voltage electrical installations is playing an ever increasing role in modern society. In fact, this requirement is a fundamental characteristic for the creation of economically and functionally efficient installations. A system able to switch a load from one source to another safely and with minimum disturbance to the load reduces problems caused by faulty conditions in the normal supply to the minimum.

All these operations, commonly known as "transfer switching", control the installations and can be done automatically, remotely or manually.

Therefore, an installation with installed "transfer switching" capability:

- ensures the continuity of production processes;
- provides a backup source of power if the main network is out of service;
- reduces the effect caused by network faults on parts of the installation;
- achieves a good compromise between reliability, simplicity and cost-effectiveness;
- provides the facility manager and managing system with a power source able to supply all or part of the installation.

Key factors motivating customers to use Transfer Switch Equipment (TSE) include:

- the continuous world growth population, the increasing number of electronic devices and the new demands of electric vehicles;
- the mediated pressure on climate change with a resulting increase in the cost of energy;
- the evolution of the electricity market with a greater number of alternate energy sources;
- the user's expectations of better grid reliability, better economic performance, and a desire to manage their energy.

Stakeholders involved in the management of electricity also have new expectations:

- customers want to reduce the cost of their energy and to have a quality energy supply;
- suppliers want to reinforce confidence to their customers;
- producers expect to optimize their investments;
- governments and regulators are willing to create a competitive and sustainable energy market.

Today, the performance of transfer switching equipment is defined by TSE manufacturers and also by this document. Consultants, integrators, facility managers and end users rely on this document for their power availability needs.

Transfer switching is often realised by implementing a transfer function within the electrical installation, and this critical function ~~can~~ needs to be ~~inappropriately~~ appropriately designed. Using a TSE following the requirements of this document ensure the safety and the performance of the transfer function which are necessary for reaching the objectives listed above.

## 1 Scope

This document applies to transfer switching equipment (TSE), to be used in power systems for ensuring the continuity of the supply and allowing the energy management of the installation, by transferring a load between power supply sources, the rated voltage of which does not exceed 1 000 V AC or 1 500 V DC.

Specific requirements for bypass/isolation transfer switch equipment are given in Annex C, ATSE having closed transition capability are given in Annex D, stand-alone ATS controllers are given in Annex E, and TSE for electric driven fire pump controllers are given in Annex F.

It covers:

- manually operated transfer switching equipment (MTSE);
- remotely operated transfer switching equipment (RTSE);
- automatic transfer switching equipment (ATSE), including the controller;
- stand-alone ATS controllers;
- bypass/isolation transfer switch equipment (BTSE);
- ATSE having closed transition capability;
- fire pump TSE.

It does not cover:

- TSE configurations that are ~~either~~ not fully manufacturer type tested ~~and/or not~~ marked according to this document as a complete transfer switch;
- auxiliary contacts (for guidance, see IEC 60947-5-1);
- transfer switches used in explosive atmospheres (for guidance, see IEC 60079 (all parts));
- embedded software design (for guidance, see IEC TR 63201);
- cybersecurity aspects (for guidance, see IEC ~~TS~~ 63208);
- TSE rated for direct-on-line starting asynchronous motor of design NE and HE, according to IEC 60034-12:2016. (for guidance, see AC-3e utilisation category according to IEC 60947-4-1:2018);
- other types of TSE under consideration including ~~closed transition TSE~~, overlapping neutral TSE, multi-source TSE (i.e. TSE with more than two sources of supply), ~~stand-alone ATS controllers~~, ~~bypass-isolation TSE~~, TSE with load-shedding functions, bus-tie TSE, and hybrid TSE;
- static transfer switches covered by IEC 62310 series.

NOTE TSE used for safety services and for emergency escape lighting systems as described in IEC 60364-5-56 are subject to specific rules and/or legal requirements.

The object of this document is to state:

- a) the required characteristics of the equipment;
- b) the conditions with which the equipment is to comply with respect to:
  - 1) operation for which the equipment is intended;
  - 2) operation and behaviour in case of specified abnormal conditions, for example, short-circuit;
  - 3) dielectric properties;
  - 4) electromagnetic compatibility;
- c) the tests intended to confirm that these conditions have been met and the methods for performing these tests;

d) the product information to be provided by the manufacturer.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 60068-2-2:2007, *Environmental testing - Part 2-2: Tests - Test B: Dry heat*

IEC 60417:2025, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment* --(available at <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>) 12-month subscription to regularly updated online database comprising all graphical symbols published in IEC 60417

IEC 60715:2017, *Dimensions of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Standardized mounting on rails for mechanical support of switchgear, controlgear and accessories*

IEC 60812:2018, *Failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA and FMECA)*

~~IEC 60947 (all parts), Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear~~

IEC 60947-1:2020, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 1: General rules*

IEC 60947-2:2016/2024, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 2: Circuit-breakers*  
~~IEC 60947-2:2016/AMD1:2019~~

~~IEC 60947-3:2020, Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 3: Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse-combination units~~

IEC 60947-4-1:2018/2023, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters - Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters*

IEC 60947-5-1:2024, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 5-1: Control circuit devices and switching elements - Electromechanical control circuit devices*

IEC 61000-4-13:2002, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 4-13: Testing and measurement techniques - Harmonics and interharmonics including mains signaling at a.c. power port, low frequency immunity tests*

IEC 61000-4-13:2002/AMD1:2009

IEC 61000-4-13:2002/AMD2:2015

IEC 61439-1:2020, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies - Part 1: General rules*

IEC 61439-2:2020, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies - Part 2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies*

IEC 61557-12:2018, *Electrical safety in low voltage distribution systems up to 1 000 V AC and 1 500 V DC - Equipment for testing, measuring or monitoring of protective measures - Part 12: Power metering and monitoring devices (PMD)*

IEC 61557-12:2018/AMD1:2021

IEC 61812-1:2023, *Time relays and coupling relays for industrial and residential use - Part 1: Requirements and tests*

IEC 63208:2025, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Security aspects*

CISPR 11:2015/AMD1:2016, *Industrial, scientific and medical equipment - Radio-frequency disturbance characteristics - Limits and methods of measurement*

~~CISPR 11:2015/AMD1:2016~~

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in Clause 3 of IEC 60947-1:2020, and the following apply.

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

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

#### 3.1 Alphabetical index of terms

Reference

#### A

ATS (Automatic Transfer Switch) controller.....	3.2.9
Automatic transfer switching equipment (ATSE).....	3.2.4
Available source .....	3.3.11

#### B

Backup TSE (of a BTSE).....	3.2.13
Bypass / Isolation mode (of a BTSE).....	3.2.17
Bypass mode (of a BTSE).....	3.2.15
Bypass transfer switching equipment (BTSE).....	3.2.11

#### C

Contact transfer time .....	3.3.5
Class CB TSE.....	3.2.7
Class CC TSE.....	3.2.8
Class PC TSE.....	3.2.6
Closed transition.....	3.3.9

#### D

Derived transfer switching equipment (derived TSE).....	3.2.5
Dedicated wiring accessories.....	3.2.10

**F**

Fire pump TSE.....	3.2.21
Frequency supply deviation .....	3.3.4

**I**

Interlocking.....	3.3.10
Interlocking for ATSE having closed transition capability.....	3.3.15
In-phase transfer .....	3.3.8
Isolating switching devices (of a BTSE) .....	3.2.14

**L**

Load-break mode (of a BTSE).....	3.2.16
----------------------------------	--------

**M**

Main TSE (of a BTSE).....	3.2.12
Manually operated transfer switching equipment (MTSE) .....	3.2.2
Monitored supply deviation .....	3.3.2

**N**

Normal mode (of a BTSE).....	3.2.18
------------------------------	--------

**O**

OFF position.....	3.4.4
Open transition .....	3.3.7
Operating sequence.....	3.3.1
Operating transfer time .....	3.3.6

**P**

Position I.....	3.4.2
Position II .....	3.4.3

**R**

Remotely operated transfer switching equipment (RTSE).....	3.2.3
--	-------

**S**

Stand-alone ATS controller.....	3.2.20
Stand-alone ATS controller operating transfer time .....	3.3.13
Switching position.....	3.4.1
Synchronized sources.....	3.3.14

**T**

Test mode (of BTSE) .....	3.2.19
Transfer switching equipment (TSE) .....	3.2.1

**U**

Unavailable source .....	3.3.11
--------------------------	--------

**V**

Voltage supply deviation .....	3.3.3
--------------------------------	-------

**3.2 Transfer switching devices****3.2.1****transfer switching equipment****TSE**

equipment containing one or more switching devices and associated operating mechanism for disconnecting load circuits from one supply and connecting to another supply

**3.2.2****manually operated transfer switching equipment****MTSE**

transfer switching equipment operated manually and non-electrically

**3.2.3****remotely operated transfer switching equipment****RTSE**

transfer switching equipment that is electrically operated and not self-acting

Note 1 to entry: RTSE can have a feature for either local **and/or** operation, or manual operation, or both.

**3.2.4****automatic transfer switching equipment****ATSE**

self-acting transfer switching equipment, including all necessary sensing inputs, monitoring, and control logic for transferring operations

Note 1 to entry: ATSE can have a feature for local **and/or** operation, remote **and/or** operation, manual operation, or any combination thereof.

**3.2.5****derived transfer switching equipment****derived TSE**

TSE based on switching devices that have certain tests required for compliance with IEC 60947-6-1 as defined in Table 9, covered by IEC 60947-3 for Class PC, IEC 60947-2 or IEC 60947-6-2 for Class CB, or IEC 60947-4-1 for Class CC

Note 1 to entry: It is not necessary to repeat tests fully covered in the switching devices product standards.

**3.2.6****Class PC TSE**

transfer switch equipment based on mechanical switching devices, that do not **need** require electrical power to hold the main contacts open or closed and capable of making, carrying, and breaking currents under normal circuit conditions including operating overload conditions, and making and withstanding short-circuit currents