

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Information technology equipment – Safety –
Part 1: General requirements**

**Matériels de traitement de l'information – Sécurité –
Partie 1: Exigences générales**

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IEC 60950-1

Edition 2.0 2005-12

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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE
CODE PRIX

XH

ICS 35.020; 35.260

ISBN 2-8318-8237-0

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	8
INTRODUCTION.....	10
0 Principles of safety	10
0.1 General principles of safety	10
0.2 Hazards	11
0.3 Materials and components	15
1 General	16
1.1 Scope.....	16
1.2 Definitions	18
1.3 General requirements	34
1.4 General conditions for tests	35
1.5 Components	40
1.6 Power interface	47
1.7 Markings and instructions	47
2 Protection from hazards.....	56
2.1 Protection from electric shock and energy hazards.....	56
2.2 SELV circuits.....	65
2.3 TNV circuits.....	67
2.4 Limited current circuits.....	72
2.5 Limited power sources.....	73
2.6 Provisions for earthing and bonding	75
2.7 Overcurrent and earth fault protection in primary circuits	83
2.8 Safety interlocks.....	86
2.9 Electrical insulation	89
2.10 Clearances, creepage distances and distances through insulation	94
3 Wiring, connections and supply.....	122
3.1 General.....	122
3.2 Connection to a mains supply	125
3.3 Wiring terminals for connection of external conductors	132
3.4 Disconnection from the mains supply	135
3.5 Interconnection of equipment	138
4 Physical requirements	140
4.1 Stability.....	140
4.2 Mechanical strength.....	141
4.3 Design and construction	145
4.4 Protection against hazardous moving parts	154
4.5 Thermal requirements.....	155
4.6 Openings in enclosures	159
4.7 Resistance to fire.....	166
5 Electrical requirements and simulated abnormal conditions	175
5.1 Touch current and protective conductor current.....	175
5.2 Electric strength	184
5.3 Abnormal operating and fault conditions.....	188

6	Connection to telecommunication networks	193
6.1	Protection of telecommunication network service persons, and users of other equipment connected to the network, from hazards in the equipment.....	193
6.2	Protection of equipment users from overvoltages on telecommunication networks	195
6.3	Protection of the telecommunication wiring system from overheating	198
7	Connection to cable distribution systems.....	199
7.1	General.....	199
7.2	Protection of cable distribution system service persons, and users of other equipment connected to the system, from hazardous voltages in the equipment.....	199
7.3	Protection of equipment users from overvoltages on the cable distribution system.....	199
7.4	Insulation between primary circuits and cable distribution systems.....	200
Annex A (normative)	Tests for resistance to heat and fire	202
Annex B (normative)	Motor tests under abnormal conditions	205
Annex C (normative)	Transformers.....	211
Annex D (normative)	Measuring instruments for touch current tests	215
Annex E (normative)	Temperature rise of a winding.....	217
Annex F (normative)	Measurement of clearances and creepage distances	218
Annex G (normative)	Alternative method for determining minimum clearances	226
Annex H (normative)	Ionizing radiation	234
Annex J (normative)	Table of electrochemical potentials (see 2.6.5.6).....	235
Annex K (normative)	Thermal controls.....	236
Annex L (normative)	Normal load conditions for some types of electrical business equipment	238
Annex M (normative)	Criteria for telephone ringing signals.....	240
Annex N (normative)	Impulse test generators	245
Annex P (normative)	Normative references.....	247
Annex Q (normative)	Voltage dependent resistors (VDRs)	251
Annex R (informative)	Examples of requirements for quality control programmes	252
Annex S (informative)	Procedure for impulse testing.....	255
Annex T (informative)	Guidance on protection against ingress of water	257
Annex U (normative)	Insulated winding wires for use without interleaved insulation	259
Annex V (normative)	AC power distribution systems	262
Annex W (informative)	Summation of touch currents.....	269
Annex X (informative)	Maximum heating effect in transformer tests.....	272
Annex Y (normative)	Ultraviolet light conditioning test.....	274
Annex Z (informative)	Overvoltage categories (see 2.10.3.2 and Clause G.2).....	275
Annex AA (normative)	Mandrel test (see 2.10.5.8).....	276
Annex BB (informative)	Changes in the second edition	279

Bibliography	282
Index	284
Figure 2A – Test finger	58
Figure 2B – Test pin	59
Figure 2C – Test probe	59
Figure 2D - Accessibility of internal conductive parts	60
Figure 2E – Voltages in SELV circuits under single fault conditions.....	66
Figure 2F – Maximum voltages permitted after a single fault.....	68
Figure 2G – Test generator.....	72
Figure 2H – Examples of application of insulation.....	93
Figure 2J – Thermal ageing time	119
Figure 2K – Abrasion resistance test for coating layers.....	120
Figure 4A – Impact test using a steel ball	143
Figure 4B – Examples of cross-sections of designs of openings preventing vertical access.....	160
Figure 4C – Examples of louvre design	160
Figure 4D – Enclosure openings.....	161
Figure 4E – Typical bottom of a fire enclosure for partially enclosed component or assembly.....	162
Figure 4F – Baffle plate construction	163
Figure 5A – Test circuit for touch current of single-phase equipment on a star TN or TT power supply system	177
Figure 5B – Test circuit for touch current of three-phase equipment on a star TN or TT power supply system	177
Figure 6A – Test for separation between a telecommunication network and earth.....	195
Figure 6B – Application points of test voltage	196
Figure B.1 – Determination of arithmetic average temperature	206
Figure C.1 – Determination of arithmetic average temperature	212
Figure D.1 – Measuring instrument.....	215
Figure D.2 – Alternative measuring instrument	216
Figure F.1 – Narrow groove	219
Figure F.2 – Wide groove.....	219
Figure F.3 – V-shaped groove	219
Figure F.4 – Rib.....	219
Figure F.5 – Uncemented joint with narrow groove	220
Figure F.6 – Uncemented joint with wide groove.....	220
Figure F.7 – Uncemented joint with narrow and wide grooves	220
Figure F.8 – Narrow recess.....	221
Figure F.9 – Wide recess	221
Figure F.10 – Coating around terminals.....	222
Figure F.11 – Coating over printed wiring	222

Figure F.12 – Measurements through openings in enclosures	223
Figure F.13 – Intervening, unconnected conductive part	223
Figure F.14 – Solid insulating material.....	224
Figure F.15 – Thin sheet insulating material	224
Figure F.16 – Cemented joints in multi-layer printed board.....	224
Figure F.17 – Component filled with insulating compound	225
Figure F.18 – Partitioned bobbin	225
Figure M.1 – Definition of ringing period and cadence cycle	241
Figure M.2 – I_{TS1} limit curve for cadenced ringing signal	242
Figure M.3 – Peak and peak-to-peak currents.....	242
Figure M.4 – Ringing voltage trip criteria	244
Figure N.1 – ITU-T impulse test generator circuit.....	245
Figure N.2 – IEC 60065 impulse test generator circuit	246
Figure S.1 – Waveform on insulation without surge suppressors and no breakdown	255
Figure S.2 – Waveforms on insulation during breakdown without surge suppressors	256
Figure S.3 – Waveforms on insulation with surge suppressors in operation	256
Figure S.4 – Waveform on short-circuited surge suppressor and insulation	256
Figure V.1 – Examples of TN-S power distribution systems.....	264
Figure V.2 – Example of TN-C-S power distribution system.....	265
Figure V.3 – Example of TN-C power distribution system	265
Figure V.4 – Example of single-phase, three-wire TN-C power distribution system	266
Figure V.5 – Example of three line and neutral TT power distribution system.....	266
Figure V.6 – Example of three line TT power distribution system.....	267
Figure V.7 – Example of three line (and neutral) IT power distribution system	267
Figure V.8 – Example of three line IT power distribution system.....	268
Figure W.1 – Touch current from a floating circuit.....	269
Figure W.2 – Touch current from an earthed circuit	270
Figure W.3 – Summation of touch currents in a PABX.....	270
Figure AA.1 – Mandrel	276
Figure AA.2 – Initial position of mandrel	277
Figure AA.3 – Final position of mandrel	277
Table 1A – Voltage ranges of SELV and TNV circuits	26
Table 1B – Equivalence of flammability classes	30
Table 1C – Capacitor ratings according to IEC 60384-14	42
Table 1D – Informative examples of application of capacitors	43
Table 2A – Distance through insulation of internal wiring	61
Table 2B – Limits for power sources without an overcurrent protective device	74
Table 2C – Limits for power sources with an overcurrent protective device.....	74

Table 2D – Minimum size of protective bonding conductors	78
Table 2E – Test duration, a.c. mains supplies.....	79
Table 2F – Informative examples of protective devices in single-phase equipment or subassemblies.....	85
Table 2G – Informative examples of protective devices in three-phase equipment	85
Table 2H – Examples of application of insulation	91
Table 2J – AC mains transient voltages.....	99
Table 2K – Minimum clearances for insulation in primary circuits and between primary and secondary circuits	100
Table 2L – Additional clearances in primary circuits.....	101
Table 2M – Minimum clearances in secondary circuits	102
Table 2N – Minimum creepage distances	107
Table 2P – Tests for insulation in non-separable layers	111
Table 2Q – Minimum separation distances for coated printed boards	116
Table 2R – Insulation in printed boards	117
Table 3A – Sizes of cables and conduits for equipment having a rated current not exceeding 16 A.....	127
Table 3B – Sizes of conductors	129
Table 3C – Physical tests on power supply cords	131
Table 3D – Range of conductor sizes to be accepted by terminals	133
Table 3E – Sizes of terminals for mains supply conductors and protective earthing conductors	134
Table 4A – Minimum property retention limits after UV exposure.....	151
Table 4B – Temperature limits, materials and components.....	157
Table 4C – Touch temperature limits	158
Table 4D – Size and spacing of openings in metal bottoms of fire enclosures.....	164
Table 4E – Summary of material flammability requirements	174
Table 5A – Maximum current.....	179
Table 5B – Test voltages for electric strength tests based on peak working voltages Part 1..	186
Table 5B – Test voltages for electric strength tests based on peak working voltages Part 2..	187
Table 5C – Test voltages for electric strength tests based on required withstand voltages.	188
Table 5D – Temperature limits for overload conditions.....	192
Table B.1 – Temperature limits for motor windings (except for running overload test)	206
Table B.2 – Permitted temperature limits for running overload tests	207
Table C.1 – Temperature limits for transformer windings.....	212
Table F.1 – Value of X	218
Table G.1 – AC mains transient voltages	227

Table G.2 – Minimum clearances up to 2 000 m above sea level.....	232
Table J.1 – Electrochemical potentials (V).....	235
Table N.1 – Component values for Figures N.1 and N.2.....	246
Table R.1 – Rules for sampling and inspection – coated printed boards	253
Table R.2 – Rules for sampling and inspection – reduced clearances.....	254
Table T.1 – Extract from IEC 60529	258
Table U.1 – Mandrel diameter	260
Table U.2 – Oven temperature	260
Table X.1 – Test steps	273
Table Z.1 – Overvoltage categories.....	275

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT – SAFETY –

Part 1: General requirements

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60950-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 108: Safety of electronic equipment within the field of audio/video, information technology and communication technology.

This second edition of IEC 60950-1 cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC 60950-1, issued in 2001, and constitutes a technical revision. The principal changes in this edition as compared with the first edition of IEC 60950-1 are given in Annex BB, including a list of changed subclause, table and figure numbers.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
108/135A/FDIS	108/147/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.

IEC 60950-1 includes the basic requirements for the safety of information technology equipment.

Additional parts of IEC 60950-1 will cover specific safety requirements for information technology equipment having limited applications or having special features as follows:

- Part 21: Remote feeding (published);
- Part 22: Equipment installed outdoors (planned);
- Part 23: Large data storage equipment (planned);

Except for notes, all text within a normative figure, or in a box under a normative table, is also normative. Text with a superscript reference is linked to a particular item in the table. Other text in a box under a table applies to the whole table.

Informative annexes and text beginning with the word "NOTE" are not normative. They are provided only to give additional information.

"Country" notes are also informative but call attention to requirements that are normative in those countries.

In this standard, the following print types are used:

- Requirements proper and normative annexes: roman type.
- Compliance statements and test specifications: italic type.
- Notes in the text and in tables: smaller roman type.
- Terms that are defined in 1.2: SMALL CAPITALS.

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- amended.

The contents of the corrigendum of August 2006 and August 2013 have been included in this copy.

INTRODUCTION

0 Principles of safety

The following principles have been adopted by technical committee 108 in the development of this standard.

These principles do not cover performance or functional characteristics of equipment.

Words printed in SMALL CAPITALS are terms that are defined in 1.2 of this standard.

0.1 General principles of safety

It is essential that designers understand the underlying principles of safety requirements in order that they can engineer safe equipment.

These principles are not an alternative to the detailed requirements of this standard, but are intended to provide designers with an appreciation of the basis of these requirements. Where the equipment involves technologies and materials or methods of construction not specifically covered, the design of the equipment should provide a level of safety not less than those described in these principles of safety.

Designers shall take into account not only normal operating conditions of the equipment but also likely fault conditions, consequential faults, foreseeable misuse and external influences such as temperature, altitude, pollution, moisture, overvoltages on the MAINS SUPPLY and overvoltages on a TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK or a CABLE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. Dimensioning of insulation spacings should take account of possible reductions by manufacturing tolerances, or where deformation could occur due to handling, shock and vibration likely to be encountered during manufacture, transport and normal use.

The following priorities should be observed in determining what design measures to adopt:

- where possible, specify design criteria that will eliminate, reduce or guard against hazards;
- where the above is not practicable because the functioning of the equipment would be impaired, specify the use of protective means independent of the equipment, such as personal protective equipment (which is not specified in this standard);
- where neither of the above measures is practicable, or in addition to those measures, specify the provision of markings and instructions regarding the residual risks.

There are two types of persons whose safety needs to be considered, USERS (or OPERATORS) and SERVICE PERSONS.

USER is the term applied to all persons other than SERVICE PERSONS. Requirements for protection should assume that USERS are not trained to identify hazards, but will not intentionally create a hazardous situation. Consequently, the requirements will provide protection for cleaners and casual visitors as well as the assigned USERS. In general, USERS

should not have access to hazardous parts, and to this end, such parts should only be in SERVICE ACCESS AREAS or in equipment located in RESTRICTED ACCESS LOCATIONS.

When USERS are admitted to RESTRICTED ACCESS LOCATIONS they shall be suitably instructed.

SERVICE PERSONS are expected to use their training and skill to avoid possible injury to themselves and others due to obvious hazards that exist in SERVICE ACCESS AREAS of the equipment or on equipment located in RESTRICTED ACCESS LOCATIONS. However, SERVICE PERSONS should be protected against unexpected hazards. This can be done by, for example, locating parts that need to be accessible for servicing away from electrical and mechanical hazards, providing shields to avoid accidental contact with hazardous parts, and providing labels or instructions to warn personnel about any residual risk.

Information about potential hazards can be marked on the equipment or provided with the equipment, depending on the likelihood and severity of injury, or made available for SERVICE PERSONS. In general, USERS shall not be exposed to hazards likely to cause injury, and information provided for USERS should primarily aim at avoiding misuse and situations likely to create hazards, such as connection to the wrong power source and replacement of fuses by incorrect types.

MOVABLE EQUIPMENT is considered to present a slightly increased risk of shock, due to possible extra strain on the supply cord leading to rupture of the earthing conductor. With HAND-HELD EQUIPMENT, this risk is increased; wear on the cord is more likely, and further hazards could arise if the units were dropped. TRANSPORTABLE EQUIPMENT introduces a further factor because it can be used and carried in any orientation; if a small metallic object enters an opening in the ENCLOSURE it can move around inside the equipment, possibly creating a hazard.

0.2 Hazards

Application of a safety standard is intended to reduce the risk of injury or damage due to the following:

- electric shock;
- energy related hazards;
- fire;
- heat related hazards;
- mechanical hazards;
- radiation;
- chemical hazards.

0.2.1 Electric shock

Electric shock is due to current passing through the human body. The resulting physiological effects depend on the value and duration of the current and the path it takes through the body. The value of the current depends on the applied voltage, the impedance of the source and the impedance of the body. The body impedance depends in turn on the area of contact, moisture in the area of contact and the applied voltage and frequency. Currents of approximately half a milliampere can cause a reaction in persons in good health and may cause injury indirectly due to involuntary reaction. Higher currents can have more direct effects, such as burn or muscle tetanization leading to inability to let go or to ventricular fibrillation.

Steady state voltages up to 42,4 V peak, or 60 V d.c., are not generally regarded as hazardous under dry conditions for an area of contact equivalent to a human hand. Bare parts that have to be touched or handled should be at earth potential or properly insulated.

Some equipment will be connected to telephone and other external networks. Some TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS operate with signals such as voice and ringing superimposed on a steady d.c. supply voltage; the total may exceed the values given above for steady-state voltages. It is common practice for the SERVICE PERSONS of telephone companies to handle parts of such circuits bare-handed. This has not caused serious injury, because of the use of cadenced ringing and because there are limited areas of contact with bare conductors normally handled by SERVICE PERSONS. However, the area of contact of a part accessible to the USER, and the likelihood of the part being touched, should be further limited (for example, by the shape and location of the part).

It is normal to provide two levels of protection for USERS to prevent electric shock. Therefore, the operation of equipment under normal conditions and after a single fault, including any consequential faults, should not create a shock hazard. However, provision of additional protective measures, such as protective earthing or SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION, is not considered a substitute for, or a relief from, properly designed BASIC INSULATION.

Harm may result from:

Contact with bare parts normally at HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES.

Breakdown of insulation between parts normally at HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES and accessible conductive parts.

Examples of measures to reduce risks:

Prevent USER access to parts at HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES by fixed or locked covers, SAFETY INTERLOCKS, etc. Discharge accessible capacitors that are at HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES.

Provide BASIC INSULATION and connect the accessible conductive parts and circuits to earth so that exposure to the voltage which can develop is limited because overcurrent protection will disconnect the parts having low impedance faults within a specified time; or provide a metal screen connected to protective earth between the parts, or provide DOUBLE INSULATION or REINFORCED INSULATION between the parts, so that breakdown to the accessible part is not likely to occur.

Contact with circuits connected to TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS that exceed 42,4 V peak or 60 V d.c.

Limit the accessibility and area of contact of such circuits, and separate them from unearthed parts to which access is not limited.

Breakdown of USER-accessible insulation.

Insulation that is accessible to the USER should have adequate mechanical and electrical strength to reduce the likelihood of contact with HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES.

TOUCH CURRENT (leakage current) flowing from parts at HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES to accessible parts, or failure of a protective earthing connection. TOUCH CURRENT may include current due to EMC filter components connected between PRIMARY CIRCUITS and accessible parts.

Limit TOUCH CURRENT to a specified value, or provide a high integrity protective earthing connection.

0.2.2 Energy related hazards

Injury or fire may result from a short-circuit between adjacent poles of high current supplies or high capacitance circuits, causing:

- burns;
- arcing;
- ejection of molten metal.

Even circuits whose voltages are safe to touch may be hazardous in this respect.

Examples of measures to reduce risks include:

- separation;
- shielding;
- provision of SAFETY INTERLOCKS.

0.2.3 Fire

Risk of fire may result from excessive temperatures either under normal operating conditions or due to overload, component failure, insulation breakdown or loose connections. Fires originating within the equipment should not spread beyond the immediate vicinity of the source of the fire, nor cause damage to the surroundings of the equipment.

Examples of measures to reduce risks include:

- providing overcurrent protection;
- using constructional materials having appropriate flammability properties for their purpose;
- selection of parts, components and consumable materials to avoid high temperature which might cause ignition;
- limiting the quantity of combustible materials used;