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This full version of IEC 61439-8:2026 includes the content of the references made to IEC 61439-1:2020

**Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies -
Part 8: Assemblies for use in photovoltaic installations**

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies -
Part 8: Assemblies for use in photovoltaic installations**

FOREWORD

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IEC 61439-8 has been prepared by subcommittee 121B: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies, of IEC technical committee 121: Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage. It is an International Standard.

This first edition will replace Annex DD, Annex EE and Annex FF from IEC 61439-2 edition 3 published in 2020 to create IEC 61439-8 as a standalone document. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous Annex DD in IEC 61439-2:2020:

- a) the scope has been modified to further define the characteristics of PVA;
- b) addition of several definitions of different type of boxes and other technical terms;
- c) consideration of IP code according to the different applications of PVA;

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

| Draft | Report on voting |
|---------------|------------------|
| 121B/224/FDIS | 121B/227/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. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61439 series, under the general title *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies* can be found on the IEC website.

This document is to be read in conjunction with IEC 61439-1:2020. The provisions of the general rules dealt with in IEC 61439-1 are only applicable to this document insofar as they are specifically cited. When this document states "addition", "modification" or "replacement", the relevant text in IEC 61439-1 is to be adapted accordingly.

Subclauses that are numbered with a 101 (102, 103, etc.) suffix are additional to the same subclause in IEC 61439-1.

Tables and figures in this document that are new are numbered starting with 101.

Annexes in this document are lettered AA, BB, etc.

In this document, general terms and definitions are defined in Subclause 3.1.

In this document, the term Photovoltaic Assembly (PVA) is defined in 3.1.101.

NOTE Throughout the IEC 61439 series of standards, the term assembly (see IEC 61439-1:2020, 3.1.1) is used for a low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assembly.

The reader's attention is drawn to the fact that Annex EE lists all the "in-some-country" clauses on differing practices of a less permanent nature relating to the subject of this document.

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

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INTRODUCTION to IEC 61439-1:2020

The purpose of this document is to harmonize as far as practicable all rules and requirements of a general nature applicable to low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies, in order to obtain uniformity of requirements and verification for assemblies and to avoid the need for verification in other standards. All those requirements for the various assembly standards which can be considered as general have therefore been gathered in this document together with specific subjects of wide interest and application, e.g. temperature-rise, dielectric properties, etc.

For each type of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assembly, only two main standards are necessary to determine all requirements and the corresponding methods of verification:

- the basic standard, (this document) referred to as “IEC 61439-1” in the specific standards, covering the various types of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies;
- the specific assembly standard hereinafter also referred to as the relevant assembly standard.

For a general rule to apply to a specific assembly standard, it should be explicitly referred to by quoting this document followed by the relevant clause or subclause number e.g. “IEC 61439-1:2020, 9.1.3”.

A specific assembly standard may not require, and hence need not call up, a general rule where it is not applicable, or it can add requirements if the general rule is deemed inadequate in the particular case, but it may not deviate from it unless there is substantial technical justification detailed in the specific assembly standard.

Where, in this document, a cross-reference is made to another clause, the reference is to be taken to apply to that clause as amended by the specific assembly standard, where applicable.

Requirements in this document that are subject to agreement between the assembly manufacturer and the user are summarized in Annex C (informative). This schedule also facilitates the supply of information on basic conditions and additional user specifications to enable proper design, application and utilization of the assembly.

For the IEC 61439 series, the following parts are published:

- a) IEC 61439-1: General rules
- b) IEC 61439-2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies (PSC-assemblies)¹
- c) IEC 61439-3: Distribution boards intended to be operated by ordinary persons (DBO)
- d) IEC 61439-4: Particular requirements for assemblies for construction sites (ACS)
- e) IEC 61439-5: Assemblies for power distribution in public networks
- f) IEC 61439-6: Busbar trunking systems (busways)
- g) IEC 61439-7: Assemblies for specific applications such as marinas, camping sites, market squares, electric vehicle charging stations
- h) IEC TR 61439-0: Guidance to specifying assemblies.

This list is not exhaustive; additional parts can be developed as the need arises.

¹ IEC 61439-2 includes requirements for assemblies for use in photovoltaic installations.

INTRODUCTION to IEC 61439-8:2026

The photovoltaic technology enables electricity to be produced directly from sunlight, which is a source of renewable energy. Photovoltaic (PV) energy is one of the most promising technologies meeting the pressing need for green renewable energy and is a part of the answer to the challenge of sustainable development. Pushed by sustainable energy policies, extensive country engagement, technology development, and cost reduction, the number of photovoltaic (PV) installations according to IEC 60364-7-712 is increasing rapidly.

PV installations are usually split into two main categories:

- large scale-utility PV installations, where electricity production can be stored or exported to the grid.
- small PV installations, for example rooftop installation, where the produced energy can be consumed locally or exported to the grid.

PV applications have characteristics that require assemblies with specific performance. A typical arrangement of a PV installation is shown in Figure 101. Further examples are provided in Annex FF.

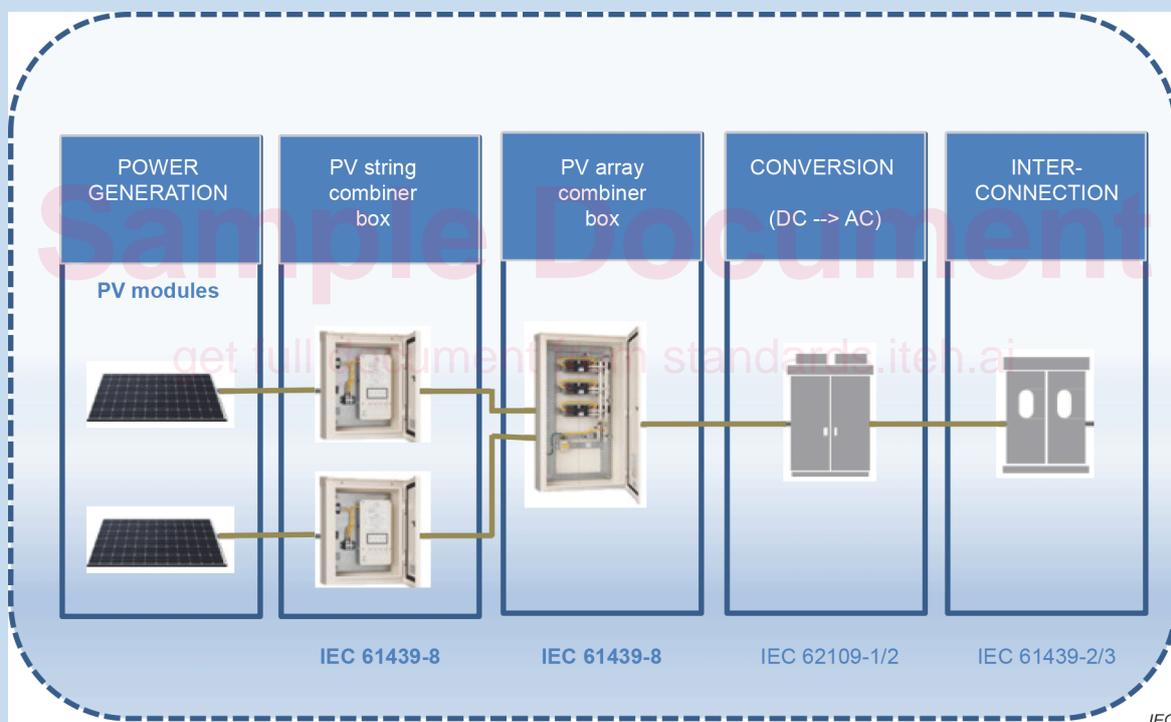


Figure 101 – Example of a large scale-utility PV installation

1 Scope

This part of the IEC 61439 series specifies requirements for the design and verification of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies for use in photovoltaic installations.

PVAs have the following characteristics:

- assemblies used for the combination of electrical energy in DC systems for which the input and output voltage does not exceed 1 500 V DC;
- assemblies supplied from an AC network where the voltage does not exceed 1 000 V AC for auxiliary and control purposes;
- stationary assemblies with an enclosure;
- assemblies intended for operation by authorised persons (see IEC 61439-1:2020, 3.7.17), but can be located in an area accessible to ordinary persons (see IEC 61439-1:2020, 3.7.16);
- suitable for indoor or outdoor installation.

NOTE 1 PV installations having PV modules with micro-inverters that are connected directly to inter-connection assemblies according to IEC 61439-2 or IEC 61439-3 are not covered by this document.

NOTE 2 Requirements for PVA including other types of DC distribution circuits, for example battery circuits, connected in the same assembly are under consideration.

This document identifies definitions, specifies the service conditions, details the construction requirements, defines the technical characteristics, and provides verifications for PVAs.

PVAs can also include control or signalling devices, or both, associated with the distribution of electrical energy.

This document applies to all PVAs whether they are designed and manufactured on a one-off basis or fully standardized and manufactured in quantity. Either the manufacture or assembly, or both, can be carried out by an entity other than the original manufacturer (see IEC 61439-1:2020, 3.10.1).

This document does not apply to:

- individual devices, for example, circuit-breakers, fuse switches and self-contained components such as, motor starters, switch mode power supplies (SMPS), uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), basic drive modules (BDM), complete drive modules (CDM), adjustable speed power drives systems (PDS), stand-alone energy storage systems (battery and capacitor systems), other electronic equipment which comply with their relevant product standards, such as junction boxes of photovoltaic modules. This document describes their integration into a PVA or an empty enclosure used as a part of a PVA;
- photovoltaic power conversion equipment (PCE) incorporating DC combination sub-systems, covered by the IEC 62109 series.

Some applications, such as either explosive atmospheres or functional safety, or both, can be subject to the requirements of other standards or local installation rules in addition to those specified in the IEC 61439 series.

This document does not apply to the specific types of assemblies covered by other parts of the IEC 61439 series.