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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications – Part 2: Lithium systems

Accumulateurs alcalins et autres accumulateurs à électrolyte non acide – Exigences de sécurité pour les accumulateurs portables étanches, et pour les batteries qui en sont constituées, destinés à l'utilisation dans des applications portables – Partie 2: Systèmes au lithium

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SECONDARY CELLS AND BATTERIES CONTAINING ALKALINE OR OTHER NON-ACID ELECTROLYTES – SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTABLE SEALED SECONDARY CELLS, AND FOR BATTERIES MADE FROM THEM, FOR USE IN PORTABLE APPLICATIONS –

Part 2: Lithium systems

FOREWORD

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IEC 62133-2 edition 1.1 contains the first edition (2017-02) [documents 21A/620/FDIS and 21A/628/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2021-07) [documents 21A/760/FDIS and 21A/729B/RVD].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 62133-2 has been prepared by subcommittee 21A: Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes, of IEC technical committee 21: Secondary cells and batteries.

This first edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to IEC 62133:2012:

– separation of nickel systems into a separate Part 1;
– inclusion of coin cell requirements;
– update of assembly of cells into batteries (5.6);
– mechanical tests [vibration, shock] (7.3.8.1, 7.3.8.2);
– insertion of IEC TR 62914 within the Bibliography.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The following different practices of a less permanent nature exist in the countries indicated below.

7.3.9: Design evaluation – Forced internal short-circuit test only applies to Korea, Japan, Switzerland and France.

A list of all parts of the IEC 62133 series, published under the general title *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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Part 2: Lithium systems

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62133 specifies requirements and tests for the safe operation of portable sealed secondary lithium cells and batteries containing non-acid electrolyte, under intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

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.

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IEC 60050-482:2004, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 482: Primary and secondary cells and batteries* (available at http://www.electropedia.org)

IEC 61960, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Secondary lithium cells and batteries for portable applications*

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ISO/IEC Guide 51, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-482, ISO/IEC Guide 51 and the following apply.

3.1
safety
freedom from unacceptable risk

3.2
risk
combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

3.3
harm
physical injury or damage to the health of people or damage to property or to the environment

3.4
hazard
potential source of harm

3.5
intended use
use of a product, process or service in accordance with specifications, instructions and information provided by the supplier

3.6
reasonably foreseeable misuse
use of a product, process or service in a way which is not intended by the supplier, but which may result from readily predictable human behaviour

3.7
secondary cell
basic manufactured unit providing a source of electrical energy by direct conversion of chemical energy, that consists of electrodes, separators, electrolyte, container and terminals, and that is designed to be charged electrically

3.8
secondary battery
assembly of secondary cell(s) which may include associated safety and control circuits and case, ready for use as a source of electrical energy characterized by its voltage, size, terminal arrangement, capacity and rate capability

Note 1 to entry: Includes single cell batteries.

3.9
leakage
unplanned, visible escape of liquid electrolyte

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3.10
venting
release of excessive internal pressure from a cell or battery in a manner intended by design to preclude rupture or explosion

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3.11
rupture
mechanical failure of a cell container or battery case induced by an internal or external cause, resulting in exposure or spillage but not ejection of materials

3.12
explosion
failure that occurs when a cell container or battery case opens violently and major components are forcibly expelled

3.13
fire
emission of flames from a cell or battery

3.14
portable battery
battery for use in a device or appliance which is conveniently hand-carried

3.15
portable cell
cell intended for assembly in a portable battery

3.16
lithium ion polymer cell
cell using gel polymer electrolyte or solid polymer electrolyte, not liquid electrolyte

3.17
rated capacity
capacity value of a cell or battery determined under specified conditions and declared by the manufacturer

Note 1 to entry: The rated capacity is the quantity of electricity C_5 Ah (ampere-hours) declared by the manufacturer which a single cell can deliver when discharged at the reference test current of 0,2 I_t A to a specified final voltage, after charging, storing and discharging under specified conditions.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-03-15, modified – Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.18
reference test current
I_t
charge or discharge current expressed as a multiple of I_t A, where I_t A = C_5 Ah/1 h, as defined in IEC 61434, and based on the rated capacity (C_5 Ah) of the cell or battery

3.19
upper limit charging voltage
highest charging voltage in the cell operating region, which is specified by the cell manufacturer

3.20
maximum charging current
maximum charging current in the cell operating region, which is specified by the cell manufacturer

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3.21
coin cell
button cell
coin battery
small round cell or battery in which the overall height is less than the diameter

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Note 1 to entry: In English, the term “coin cell” or “coin battery” is used for lithium batteries only while the term “button cell” or “button battery” is only used for non-lithium batteries. In languages other than English, the terms “coin” and “button” are often used interchangeably, regardless of the electrochemical system.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004 482-02-40, modified — The term “coin battery” has been added, and the NOTE “In practice terms, the term coin is used exclusively for non-aqueous lithium cells.” has been replaced with Note 1 to entry.)]

3.22
cylindrical cell
cell with a cylindrical shape in which the overall height is equal to or greater than the diameter

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-02-39]

3.23
prismatic cell
cell having the shape of a parallelepiped whose faces are rectangular

Note 1 to entry: Prismatic cells may be provided with either a rigid metal case or flexible laminate film case.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-02-38, modified – The source term is "prismatic" (adj.). In the definition, "qualifies a cell or a battery" has been replaced with "cell". Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.24
cell block
parallel connection
arrangement of cells or batteries wherein all the positive terminals and all the negative terminals, respectively, are connected together

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-03-39, modified — The term "cell block" has been added.]

3.25
functional safety
part of the overall safety that depends on functional and physical units operating correctly in response to their inputs

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-351:2013, 351-57-06]

3.26
end-of-discharge voltage
final voltage
specified voltage of a battery at which the battery discharge is terminated

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-03-30, modified — The terms "cut-off voltage" and "end-point voltage" have been deleted.]

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4 Parameter measurement tolerances

The overall accuracy of controlled or measured values, relative to the specified or actual parameters, shall be within these tolerances:

a) ± 1 % for voltage;
b) ± 1 % for current;
c) ± 2 °C for temperature;
d) ± 0,1 % for time;
e) ± 1 % for dimension;
f) ± 1 % for capacity.

These tolerances comprise the combined accuracy of the measuring instruments, the measurement techniques used, and all other sources of error in the test procedure.

The details of the instrumentation used shall be provided in any report of results.

5 General safety considerations

5.1 General

The safety of secondary cells and batteries requires the consideration of two sets of applied conditions:

1) intended use;
2) reasonably foreseeable misuse.

Cells and batteries shall be so designed and constructed that they are safe under conditions of both intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse. It is expected that cells or batteries subjected to misuse may fail to function following such experience. They shall not however

present significant hazards. It may also be expected that cells and batteries subjected to intended use shall not only be safe but shall continue to be functional in all respects.

Potential hazards which are the subject of this document are:

- fire,
- burst/explosion,
- leakage of cell electrolyte,
- venting,
- burns from excessively high external temperatures,
- rupture of battery case with exposure of internal components.

Conformity with 5.2 to 5.7 for cells and batteries other than coin cells, with an internal resistance greater than 3 Ω, is checked by inspection, by the tests of Clauses 7, and in accordance with the appropriate standard (see Clause 2 and Table 1). The internal resistance is to be measured in accordance with Annex D.

5.2 Insulation and wiring

The insulation resistance between the positive terminal and externally exposed metal surfaces of the battery excluding electrical contact surfaces shall be not less than 5 MΩ at 500 V DC when measured 60 s after applying the voltage.

Internal wiring and insulation should be sufficient to withstand the maximum anticipated current, voltage and temperature requirements. The orientation of wiring should be such that adequate clearances and creepage distances are maintained between conductors. The mechanical integrity of internal connections should be sufficient to accommodate conditions of reasonably foreseeable misuse (i.e. solder alone is not considered a reliable means of connection.).

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5.3 Venting

Battery cases and cells shall incorporate a pressure relief mechanism or shall be so constructed that they will relieve excessive internal pressure at a value and rate that will preclude rupture, explosion and self-ignition. If encapsulation is used to support cells within an outer case, the type of encapsulant and the method of encapsulation shall neither cause the battery to overheat during normal operation nor inhibit pressure relief.

5.4 Temperature, voltage and current management

The design of batteries shall be such that abnormal temperature-rise conditions are prevented. Batteries shall be designed to be within temperature, voltage and current limits as specified by the cell manufacturer. Batteries shall be provided with specifications and charging instructions for equipment manufacturers so that specified chargers are designed to maintain charging within the temperature, voltage and current limits specified.

5.5 Terminal contacts

The size and shape of the terminal contacts shall ensure that they can carry the maximum anticipated current. External terminal contact surfaces shall be formed from conductive materials with good mechanical strength and corrosion resistance. Terminal contacts shall be arranged so as to minimize the risk of short-circuit.