INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

IEC 60904-1

Second edition
2006-09

Photovoltaic devices –

Part 1: Measurement of photovoltaic current-voltage characteristics

*This **English-language** version is derived from the original **bilingual** publication by leaving out all French-language pages. Missing page numbers correspond to the French-language pages.*

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International Electrotechnical Commission, 3, rue de Varembé, PO Box 131, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 919 02 11 Telefax: +41 22 919 03 00 E-mail: inmail@iec.ch Web: www.iec.ch

Commission Electrotechnique Internationale
International Electrotechnical Commission
Международная Электротехническая Комиссия

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60904-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1987. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows:

– Added object.
– Added normative references.
– Updated original Clause 2 (General Measurement Requirements), removing Figure 1 as it is obsolete.
– Provided more detail and guidance on how to measure in sunlight or simulated sunlight.
– Expanded original Clause 6 (Test Report) with requirements based on ISO 17025.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/433/FDIS	82/450/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 2.

A list of all parts of IEC 60904 series, under the general title *Photovoltaic devices*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result 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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES –

Part 1: Measurement of photovoltaic current-voltage characteristics

1 Scope and object

This part of IEC 60904 describes procedures for the measurement of current-voltage characteristics of photovoltaic devices in natural or simulated sunlight. These procedures are applicable to a single photovoltaic solar cell, a sub-assembly of photovoltaic solar cells, or a PV module.

NOTE 1 This standard may be applicable to multi-junction test specimens, if each sub-junction generates the same amount of current as it would under the reference AM1,5 spectrum in IEC 60904-3.

NOTE 2 This standard may be applicable to PV devices designed for use under concentrated irradiation if they are irradiated using direct normal irradiance and a mismatch correction with respect to a direct normal reference spectrum is performed.

The purpose of this standard is to lay down basic requirements for the measurement of current-voltage characteristics of photovoltaic devices, to define procedures for different measuring techniques in use and to show practices for minimising measurement uncertainty.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60891: *Procedures for temperature and irradiance corrections to measured I-V characteristics of crystalline silicon photovoltaic (PV) devices*

IEC 60904-2: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 2: Requirements for reference solar cells*

IEC 60904-3: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data*

IEC 60904-5: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 5: Determination of equivalent cell temperature (ECT) of photovoltaic (PV) devices by the open-circuit voltage method*

IEC 60904-6: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 6: Requirements for reference solar modules*

IEC 60904-7: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 7: Computation of spectral mismatch error introduced in the testing of a photovoltaic device*

IEC 60904-9: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 9: Solar simulator performance requirements*

IEC 60904-10: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 10: Methods for linearity measurements*

ISO/IEC 17025: *General requirements for competence of testing and calibration laboratories*