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Fibre optic communication subsystem test procedures – Part 4-4: Cable plants and links – Polarization mode dispersion measurement for installed links

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FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61280-4-4 has been prepared by subcommittee 86C: Fibre optic systems and active devices, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2006. This second edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) theory is removed and replaced with a reference to IEC TR 61282-9;
b) a new method, wavelength scanning OTDR and SOP analysis (WSOSA), is added as Annex G;
c) a brief description of each method is added to Clause 5;
d) Methods E and F are converted to informative Annexes E and F;

e) a new Clause (6) on measurement configurations is added;

f) a new Clause (7) on measurement considerations is added;

g) Clause 10 on procedure is expanded;

h) several of the apparatus diagrams are improved;

i) several clarifications about what is measured and what is calculated have been made in Annex H.

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

CDV	Report on voting
86C/1378/CDV	86C/1419/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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

A list of all parts in the IEC 61280 series, published under the general title *Fibre optic communication subsystem test procedures*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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- withdrawn,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

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

Polarization mode dispersion (PMD) is a statistical parameter. The reproducibility of measurements depends on the particular method, but is limited also by the PMD level of the link and the accessible wavelength range. Gisin [1][1] derived a theoretical limit to this reproducibility independent of the measurement method by assuming ideal measurement conditions.

Originally, the principles of IEC 61280-4-4:2006 were closely aligned with those of IEC 60793-1-48:2003 on optical fibre and optical fibre cable test method, which focuses on aspects related to the measurement of factory lengths. However, IEC 60793-1-48:2007 removed some of the test methods that are no longer of interest to fibre and cable manufacturers. These have been retained as informative Annexes D, E, and F in this document, and a new test method G has been added.

This document also updates test methods A, B and C and adds more information applicable to testing of installed cabling.

NOTE 1 Test methods for factory lengths of optical fibres and optical fibre cables are given in IEC 60793-1-48.

NOTE 2 Test methods for optical amplifiers (OAs) are given in IEC 61290-11-1 and IEC 61290-11-2.

NOTE 3 Test methods for passive optical components are given in IEC 61300-3-32.

NOTE 4 Guidelines for the calculation of PMD for links that include components such as dispersion compensators or optical amplifiers are given in IEC TR 61282-3.

NOTE 5 Further general guidance on PMD measurements and background theory is contained in IEC TR 61282-9.

[1] Figures in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

FIBRE OPTIC COMMUNICATION SUBSYSTEM TEST PROCEDURES –

Part 4-4: Cable plants and links – Polarization mode dispersion measurement for installed links

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61280 provides uniform methods of measuring polarization mode dispersion (PMD) of single-mode installed links. An installed link is the optical path between transmitter and receiver, or a portion of that optical path. These measurements can be used to assess the suitability of a given link for high bit rate applications, or to provide insight on the relationships of various related transmission attributes. This document focuses on the measurement methods and requirements for measuring long lengths of installed cabling that can also include other optical elements, such as splices, connectors, amplifiers, chromatic dispersion compensating modules, dense wavelength division multiplexing or multiplexer (DWDM) components, multiplexers, wavelength selective switches, re-configurable optical add drop multiplexer (ROADMS).

This document focuses on the apparatus, procedures, and calculations needed to complete measurements. IEC TR 61282-9 explains the theory behind the test methods.

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 60793-1-44, *Optical fibres – Part 1-44: Measurement methods and test procedures – Cut-off wavelength*

IEC 61300-3-35, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic test and measurement procedures – Part 3-35: Examinations and measurements – Visual inspection of fibre optic connectors and fibre-stub transceivers*

IEC TR 61282-9, *Fibre optic communication system design guides – Part 9: Guidance on polarization mode dispersion measurements and theory*

IEC TR 62627-01, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Part 01: Fibre optic connector cleaning methods*