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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# IEC 61400-1

Third edition  
2005-08

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**Wind turbines –**

**Part 1:  
Design requirements**

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# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## WIND TURBINES –

### Part 1: Design requirements

#### FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as “IEC Publication(s)”). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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International Standard IEC 61400-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 88: Wind turbines.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 1999. It constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- the title has been changed to “Design requirements” in order to reflect that the standard presents safety requirements rather than requirements for safety or protection of personnel;
- wind turbine class designations have been adjusted and now refer to reference wind speed and expected value of turbulence intensities only;
- turbulence models have been expanded and include an extreme turbulence model;
- gust models have been adjusted and simplified;

- design load cases have been rearranged and amended;
- the inclusion of turbulence simulations in the load calculations is emphasised and a scheme for extreme load extrapolation has been specified;
- the partial safety factors for loads have been adjusted and simplified;
- the partial safety factors for materials have been amended and specified in terms of material types and component classes;
- the requirements for the control and protection system have been amended and clarified in terms of functional characteristics;
- a new clause on assessment of structural and electrical compatibility has been introduced with detailed requirements for assessment, including information on complex terrain, earthquakes and wind farm wake effects.

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

| FDIS        | Report on voting |
|-------------|------------------|
| 88/228/FDIS | 88/232/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.

IEC 61400 consists of the following parts under the general title *Wind turbine generator systems*:

- Part 1: Design requirements
- Part 2: Design requirements for small wind turbines
- Part 11: Acoustic noise measurement techniques
- Part 12: Wind turbine power performance testing
- Part 13: Measurement of mechanical loads
- Part 14: Declaration of apparent sound power level and tonality values
- Part 21: Measurement and assessment of power quality characteristics of grid connected wind turbines
- Part 23: Full-scale structural testing of rotor blades
- Part 24: Lightning protection

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.

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

## INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 61400 outlines minimum design requirements for wind turbines and is not intended for use as a complete design specification or instruction manual.

Any of the requirements of this standard may be altered if it can be suitably demonstrated that the safety of the system is not compromised. This provision, however, does not apply to the classification and the associated definitions of external conditions in Clause 6. Compliance with this standard does not relieve any person, organization, or corporation from the responsibility of observing other applicable regulations.

The standard is not intended to give requirements for wind turbines installed offshore, in particular for the support structure. A future document dealing with offshore installations is under consideration.

## WIND TURBINES –

### Part 1: Design requirements

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61400 specifies essential design requirements to ensure the engineering integrity of wind turbines. Its purpose is to provide an appropriate level of protection against damage from all hazards during the planned lifetime.

This standard is concerned with all subsystems of wind turbines such as control and protection mechanisms, internal electrical systems, mechanical systems and support structures.

This standard applies to wind turbines of all sizes. For small wind turbines IEC 61400-2 may be applied.

This standard should be used together with the appropriate IEC and ISO standards mentioned in Clause 2.

#### 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 60204-1:1997, *Safety of machinery – Electrical equipment of machines – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 60204-11:2000, *Safety of machinery – Electrical equipment of machines – Part 11: Requirements for HV equipment for voltages above 1 000 V a.c. or 1 500 V d.c. and not exceeding 36 kV*

IEC 60364 (all parts), *Electrical installations of buildings*

IEC 60721-2-1:1982, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 2: Environmental conditions appearing in nature. Temperature and humidity*

IEC 61000-6-1:1997, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6: Generic standards – Section 1: Immunity for residential, commercial and light-industrial environments*

IEC 61000-6-2:1999, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6: Generic standards – Section 2: Immunity for industrial environments 15*

IEC 61000-6-4:1997, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6: Generic standards – Section 4: Emission standard for industrial environments*

IEC 61024-1:1990, *Protection of structures against lightning – Part 1: General principles*

IEC 61312-1:1995, *Protection against lightning electromagnetic impulse – Part 1: General principle*

IEC 61400-21:2001, *Wind turbine generator systems – Part 21: Measurement and assessment of power quality characteristics of grid connected wind turbines*



IEC 61400-24: 2002, *Wind turbine generator systems – Part 24: Lightning protection*

ISO 76:1987, *Rolling bearings – Static load ratings*

ISO 281:1990, *Rolling bearings – Dynamic load ratings and rating life*

ISO 2394:1998, *General principles on reliability for structures*

ISO 2533:1975, *Standard Atmosphere*

ISO 4354:1997, *Wind actions on structures*

ISO 6336 (all parts), *Calculation of load capacity of spur and helical gears*

ISO 9001:2000, *Quality management systems – Requirements*