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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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**Communication networks and systems for power utility automation –  
Part 6: Configuration description language for communication in electrical  
substations related to IEDs**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –

#### Part 6: Configuration description language for communication in electrical substations related to IEDs

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International Standard IEC 61850-6 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 57: Power systems management and associated information exchange.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published in 2004, and constitutes a technical revision.

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

- functional extensions added based on changes in other Parts, especially Parts 7-2 and 7-3;
- functional extensions concerning the engineering process, especially for configuration data exchange between system configuration tools, added;
- provision of clarifications and corrections. Issues that require clarification are published in a database available at [www.tissue.iec61850.com](http://www.tissue.iec61850.com). Arising incompatibilities are listed in 8.2.3.

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

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| FDIS         | Report on voting |
| 57/1025/FDIS | 57/1041/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 the parts in the IEC 61850 series, under the general title *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*, can be found on the IEC website. <sup>1)</sup>

This publication contains attached .xml and .xsd files. These files are intended to be used as a complement and do not form an integral part of this standard.

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 standard 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.**

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<sup>1)</sup> It has been decided to amend the general title of the IEC 61850 series from *Communication networks and systems in substations* to *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*. Henceforth, new editions within the IEC 61850 series will adopt this new general title.

## INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 61850 specifies a description language for the configuration of electrical substation IEDs. This language is called System Configuration description Language (SCL). It is used to describe IED configurations and communication systems according to IEC 61850-5 and IEC 61850-7-x. It allows the formal description of the relations between the utility automation system and the process (substation, switch yard). At the application level, the switch yard topology itself and the relation of the switch yard structure to the SAS functions (logical nodes) configured on the IEDs can be described.

NOTE The process description, which is in this standard restricted to switch yards and general process functions, will be enhanced by appropriate add-ons for wind mills, hydro plants and distributed energy resources (DER).

SCL allows the description of an IED configuration to be passed to a communication and application system engineering tool, and to pass back the whole system configuration description to the IED configuration tool in a compatible way. Its main purpose is to allow the interoperable exchange of communication system configuration data between an IED configuration tool and a system configuration tool from different manufacturers.

IEC 61850-8-1 and IEC 61850-9-2, which concern the mapping of IEC 61850-7-x to specific communication stacks, may extend these definitions according to their need with additional parts, or simply by restrictions on the way the values of objects have to be used.

## COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –

### Part 6: Configuration description language for communication in electrical substations related to IEDs

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61850 specifies a file format for describing communication-related IED (Intelligent Electronic Device) configurations and IED parameters, communication system configurations, switch yard (function) structures, and the relations between them. The main purpose of this format is to exchange IED capability descriptions, and SA system descriptions between IED engineering tools and the system engineering tool(s) of different manufacturers in a compatible way.

The defined language is called System Configuration description Language (SCL). The IED and communication system model in SCL is according to IEC 61850-5 and IEC 61850-7-x. SCSM specific extensions or usage rules may be required in the appropriate parts.

The configuration language is based on the Extensible Markup Language (XML) version 1.0 (see XML references in Clause 2).

This standard does not specify individual implementations or products using the language, nor does it constrain the implementation of entities and interfaces within a computer system. This part of the standard does not specify the download format of configuration data to an IED, although it could be used for part of the configuration data.

#### 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 61850-2, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 2: Glossary*

IEC 61850-5, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 5: Communication requirements for functions and device models*

IEC 61850-7-1, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-1: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Principles and models*

IEC 61850-7-2, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-2: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Abstract communication service interface (ACSI)*

IEC 61850-7-3, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-3: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Common data classes*

IEC 61850-7-4, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-4: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Compatible logical node classes and data classes*

IEC 61850-8-1, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 8-1: Specific Communication Service Mapping (SCSM) – Mappings to MMS (ISO 9506-1 and ISO 9506-2) and to ISO/IEC 8802-3*



IEC 61850-9-2, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 9-2: Specific Communication Service Mapping (SCSM) – Sampled values over ISO/IEC 8802-3*

IEC 81346-1, *Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products – Structuring principles and reference designations – Part 1: Basic rules*

ISO/IEC 8859-1, *Information technology – 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets – Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1*

RFC 1952, *GZIP file format specification version 4.3*, RFC, available at <<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt>>

RFC 2045, *Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part One: Format of Internet Message Bodies*, RFC, available at <<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2045.txt>>

*Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0*, W3C, available at <<http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/REC-xml-20001006>>

*XML Schema Part 1: Structures*, W3C, available at <<http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-1-20010502>>

*XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes*, W3C, available at <<http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-2-20010502/>>