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# TECHNICAL REPORT



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**Optical fibres –  
Reliability – Power law theory**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Symbols .....	8
4 General approach.....	10
5 Formula types.....	10
6 Measuring parameters for fibre reliability.....	11
6.1 Overview.....	11
6.2 Length and equivalent length .....	11
6.3 Reliability parameters .....	12
6.3.1 Overview .....	12
6.3.2 Proof-testing.....	12
6.3.3 Static fatigue .....	12
6.3.4 Dynamic fatigue.....	13
6.4 Parameters for the low-strength region .....	13
6.4.1 Overview .....	13
6.4.2 Variable proof test stress .....	13
6.4.3 Dynamic fatigue.....	14
6.5 Measured numerical values.....	17
7 Examples of numerical calculations .....	17
7.1 Overview.....	17
7.2 Failure rate calculations .....	18
7.2.1 FIT rate formulae.....	18
7.2.2 Long lengths in tension.....	18
7.2.3 Short lengths in uniform bending .....	20
7.3 Lifetime calculations .....	22
7.3.1 Lifetime formulae.....	22
7.3.2 Long lengths in tension.....	22
7.3.3 Short lengths in uniform bending .....	23
7.3.4 Short lengths with uniform bending and tension.....	25
8 Fibre weakening and failure.....	26
8.1 Crack growth and weakening .....	26
8.2 Crack fracture .....	28
8.3 Features of the general results .....	29
8.4 Stress and strain.....	30
9 Fatigue testing.....	30
9.1 Overview.....	30
9.2 Static fatigue.....	30
9.3 Dynamic fatigue .....	32
9.3.1 Overview .....	32
9.3.2 Fatigue to breakage.....	32
9.3.3 Fatigue to a maximum stress .....	34
9.4 Comparisons of static and dynamic fatigue .....	34
9.4.1 Intercepts and parameters obtained.....	34
9.4.2 Time duration .....	34

9.4.3	Dynamic and inert strengths .....	35
9.4.4	Plot non-linearities .....	36
9.4.5	Environments .....	36
10	Proof-testing .....	37
10.1	Overview .....	37
10.2	The proof test cycle .....	37
10.3	Crack weakening during proof-testing .....	38
10.4	Minimum strength after proof-testing .....	39
10.4.1	Overview .....	39
10.4.2	Fast unloading .....	39
10.4.3	Slow unloading .....	40
10.4.4	Boundary condition .....	41
10.5	Varying the proof test stress .....	41
11	Statistical description of strength by Weibull probability models .....	41
11.1	Overview .....	41
11.2	Strength statistics in uniform tension .....	41
11.2.1	Unimodal probability distribution .....	41
11.2.2	Bimodal probability distribution .....	43
11.3	Strength statistics in other geometries .....	43
11.3.1	Stress non-uniformity .....	43
11.3.2	Uniform bending .....	44
11.3.3	Two-point bending .....	45
11.4	Weibull analysis for static fatigue before proof-testing .....	45
11.5	Weibull analysis for dynamic fatigue before proof-testing .....	47
11.6	Weibull distribution after proof-testing .....	49
11.7	Weibull analysis for static fatigue after proof-testing .....	51
11.8	Weibull analysis for dynamic fatigue after proof-testing .....	53
12	Reliability prediction .....	54
12.1	Reliability under general stress and constant stress .....	54
12.2	Lifetime and failure rate from fatigue testing .....	55
12.3	Certain survivability after proof-testing .....	56
12.4	Failures in time .....	57
13	<i>B</i> -value: elimination from formulae, and measurements .....	58
13.1	Overview .....	58
13.2	Approximate Weibull distribution after proof-testing .....	58
13.2.1	Overview .....	58
13.2.2	"Risky region" during proof-testing .....	58
13.2.3	Other approximations .....	59
13.3	Approximate lifetime and failure rate .....	61
13.4	Estimation of the <i>B</i> -value .....	62
13.4.1	Overview .....	62
13.4.2	Fatigue intercepts .....	62
13.4.3	Dynamic fatigue failure stress .....	62
13.4.4	Obtaining the strength .....	62
13.4.5	Stress pulse measurement .....	63
13.4.6	Flaw growth measurement .....	63

Annex A (informative) Statistical strength degradation map.....	64
Bibliography.....	65
Figure 1 – Weibull dynamic fatigue plot near the proof test stress level.....	16
Figure 2 – Instantaneous FIT rates of 1 km fibre versus time for applied stress/proof test stress percentages (bottom to top): 10 %, 15 %, 20 %, 25 %, 30 %.....	19
Figure 3 – Averaged FIT rates of 1 km fibre versus time for applied stress/proof test stress percentages (bottom to top): 10 %, 15 %, 20 %, 25 %, 30 % .....	19
Figure 4 – Instantaneous FIT rates of bent fibre with 1 m effective length versus time .....	21
Figure 5 – Averaged FIT rates of bent fibre with 1 m effective length versus time for bend diameters (top to bottom): 10 mm, 20 mm, 30 mm, 40 mm, 50 mm.....	21
Figure 6 – 1 km lifetime versus failure probability for applied stress/proof test stress percentages (top to bottom): 10 %, 15 %, 20 %, 25 %, 30 %.....	23
Figure 7 – Lifetimes of bent fibre with 1 m effective length versus failure probability for bend diameters (bottom-right to top-left): 10 mm, 20 mm, 30 mm, 40 mm, 50 mm.....	24
Figure 8 – Static fatigue – Applied stress versus time for a particular applied stress .....	31
Figure 9 – Static fatigue – Schematic data of failure time versus applied stress .....	32
Figure 10 – Dynamic fatigue – Applied stress versus time for a particular applied stress rate .....	32
Figure 11 – Dynamic fatigue – Schematic data of failure time versus applied stress rate .....	34
Figure 12 – Proof-testing – Applied stress versus time.....	38
Figure 13 – Static fatigue schematic Weibull plot .....	47
Figure 14 – Dynamic fatigue schematic Weibull plot.....	48
Figure A.1 – Schematic diagram of the statistical strength degradation map .....	64
Table 1 – Symbols .....	8
Table 2 –FIT rates of 1 km fibre in Figures 2 and 3 at various times.....	20
Table 3 – FIT rates of 1 metre effective length bent fibre in Figures 4 and 5 at various times .....	22
Table 4 – FIT rates of Table 3 neglecting stress versus strain non-linearity.....	22
Table 5 – 1 km lifetimes in years of Figure 6 for various failure probabilities .....	23
Table 6 – Lifetimes of bent fibre with 1 metre effective length in years of Figure 7 for various failure probabilities .....	24
Table 7 – Lifetimes in years of Table 6 neglecting stress versus strain non-linearity .....	245
Table 8 – Calculated results in case of bend plus 30 % of proof test tension for 30 years .....	26

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### OPTICAL FIBRES –

### Reliability – Power law theory

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IEC/TR 62048, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 86A: Fibres and cables, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2011, and constitutes a technical revision.

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

- correction to the unit of failure rates in Table 1;

- correction to the FIT equation for instantaneous failure rate [19]<sup>1</sup> in addition to all call-outs and derivations;
- insertion of a new note about fibre length dependency of failure rates;
- addition of informative Annex A and relevant reference;
- editorial corrections of inconsistencies.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
86A/1537/DTR	86A/1554/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report 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.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication 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

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

## INTRODUCTION

Reliability is expressed as an expected lifetime or as an expected failure rate. The results cannot be used for specifications or for the comparison of the quality of different fibres. This technical report develops the theory behind the experimental principles used in measuring the fibre parameters needed in the reliability formulae. Much of the theory is taken from the referenced literature and is presented here in a unified manner. The primary results are formulae for lifetime or for failure rate, given in terms of the measurable parameters. Conversely, an allowed maximum service stress or extreme value of another parameter may be calculated for an acceptable lifetime or failure rate.

For readers interested only in the final results of this technical report – a summary of the formulae used and numerical examples in the calculation of fibre reliability – Clauses 6 and 7 – are sufficient and self-contained. Readers wanting a detailed background with algebraic derivations will find this in Clauses 8 to 12. An attempt is made to unify the approach and the notation to make it easier for the reader to follow the theory. Also, it should ensure that the notation is consistent in all test procedures. The Bibliography has a limited set of mostly theoretical references, but it is not necessary to read them to follow the analytical development in this technical report. Annex A introduces a statistical strength degradation (SSD) map which gives intuitive understanding of the physical meaning of the formulae appearing in Clauses 10 and 11.

NOTE Clauses 8 to 12 reference the  $B$ -value, and this is done for theoretical completeness only. There are as yet no agreed methods for measuring  $B$ , so the Bibliography gives only a brief analytical outline of some proposed methods and furthermore develops theoretical results for the special case in which  $B$  can be neglected.

## OPTICAL FIBRES – Reliability – Power law theory

### 1 Scope

This technical report is a guideline that gives formulae to estimate the reliability of fibre under a constant service stress based on a power law for crack growth.

NOTE Power law is derived empirically, but there are other laws which have a more physical basis (for example, the exponential law). All these laws generally fit short-term experimental data well but lead to different long-term predictions. The power law has been selected as a most reasonable representation of fatigue behaviour by the experts of several standard-formulating bodies.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60793-1-30, *Optical fibres – Part 1-30: Measurement methods and test procedures – Fibre proof test*

IEC 60793-1-31, *Optical fibres – Part 1-31: Measurement methods and test procedures – Tensile strength*