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# TECHNICAL REPORT



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## Hydrogen effects in optical fibre cables – Guidelines

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	5
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 General .....	6
4 Evaluation of hydrogen induced effects .....	6
5 Hydrogen effects in optical fibre cables .....	7
Bibliography.....	9
Table 1 – Evaluation criteria for single-mode (SM) optical fibre cables.....	7

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### HYDROGEN EFFECTS IN OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES – GUIDELINES

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IEC TR 62690, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 86A: Fibres and cables, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
86A/1586/DTR	86A/1605/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- withdrawn,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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## INTRODUCTION

There is extensive application of optical fibre cables worldwide, both for terrestrial and submarine environments, with the provision of stable transmission characteristics over many years.

In the early 1980s, it was established that some optical fibre designs in certain cable constructions were prone to hydrogen-induced attenuation increases. The mechanism of the hydrogen induced loss was quickly established and after extensive research and development programs, fibre designs were optimized to minimize the effects. Cable designers established suitable design rules and optimized the selection of cable materials so as to also minimize the effects of hydrogen induced attenuation increases during service life.

## HYDROGEN EFFECTS IN OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES – GUIDELINES

### 1 Scope

The purpose of this technical report is to provide information concerning the behaviour of fibres and cables when exposed to hydrogen effects.

The application of multimode fibres is very rarely subject to hydrogen effects. For that reason, this technical report only highlights the effects of hydrogen to single-mode fibres.

### 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 60794-3, *Optical fibre cables – Part 3: Sectional specification – Outdoor cables*

IEC 60794-4, *Optical fibre cables – Part 4: Sectional specification – Aerial optical cables along electrical power lines*

IEC 60794-5, *Optical fibre cables – Part 5: Sectional specification – Microduct cables for installation by blowing*