



PRE-RELEASE VERSION (FDIS)

**Insulating liquids - Determination of the breakdown voltage at power frequency -
Test method**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 29.040

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FINAL DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARD (FDIS)

PROJECT NUMBER:

IEC 60156 ED4

DATE OF CIRCULATION:

2024-06-21

CLOSING DATE FOR VOTING:

2024-08-02

SUPERSEDES DOCUMENTS:

10/1201/CDV, 10/1217/RVC

IEC TC 10 : FLUIDS FOR ELECTROTECHNICAL APPLICATIONS

SECRETARIAT:

Italy

SECRETARY:

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OF INTEREST TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

TC 14, SC 17A, TC 20, SC 36A, TC 38

HORIZONTAL STANDARD:

FUNCTIONS CONCERNED:

EMC

ENVIRONMENT

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SAFETY

SUBMITTED FOR CENELEC PARALLEL VOTING

NOT SUBMITTED FOR CENELEC PARALLEL VOTING

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TITLE:

Insulating liquids – Determination of the breakdown voltage at power frequency – Test method

PROPOSED STABILITY DATE: 2030

NOTE FROM TC/SC OFFICERS:

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	5
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Electrical apparatus.....	6
4.1 General.....	6
4.2 Voltage regulator	6
4.3 Step-up transformer.....	7
4.4 Switching system	7
4.5 Current-limiting resistors.....	7
4.6 Measuring system.....	7
5 Test assembly	7
5.1 General.....	7
5.2 Test cell.....	8
5.3 Electrodes	9
5.4 Stirring device.....	9
6 Preparation of electrodes.....	9
7 Test assembly preparation.....	9
8 Sampling	10
9 Test procedure	10
9.1 Sample preparation.....	10
9.2 Filling of the cell	10
9.3 Application of the voltage.....	10
10 Report	11
11 Test data dispersion and reproducibility.....	11
11.1 Test data dispersion	11
11.2 Reproducibility	12
Annex A (informative) Improved test method.....	13
A.1 Test procedure for improved test method	13
A.2 Report.....	14
Annex B (informative) Special test method for low volume samples	15
Annex C (informative) Representative material for a performance test	16
Bibliography.....	17
Figure 1 – Example of test cell with spherical electrodes 12,5 mm to 13,0 mm diameter	8
Figure 2 – Example of test cell with partially hemispherical electrodes with 25 mm radius and 36 mm diameter.....	8
Figure 3 – Graphical representation of coefficient of variation versus mean breakdown voltage.....	12
Figure A.1 – Example of a sequence of breakdown shots for determination of the breakdown voltage.....	14

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

INSULATING LIQUIDS – DETERMINATION OF THE BREAKDOWN VOLTAGE AT POWER FREQUENCY – TEST METHOD

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IEC 60156 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 10: Fluids for electrotechnical applications. It is an International Standard.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition constitutes a technical revision and, mainly, confirms the content of the previous edition even if some advances are included. The test method has not been changed for practical reasons, due to the very large number of instrumentations disseminated around the world.

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

Draft	Report on voting
10/XX/FDIS	10/XX/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

INTRODUCTION

As normally applied, breakdown voltage of insulating liquids is not a basic material property but an empirical test procedure intended to indicate the presence of contaminants such as water and solid suspended matter and the advisability of carrying out drying and filtration treatment.

The AC breakdown voltage value of insulating liquids strongly depends on the particular set of conditions used in its measurement. Therefore, standardized testing procedures and equipment are essential for the unambiguous interpretation of test results.

The method described in this document applies to either acceptance tests on new deliveries of insulating liquids or testing of treated liquids prior to or during filling into electrical equipment, or to the monitoring and maintenance of insulating liquid-filled apparatus in service. It specifies rigorous sample-handling procedures and temperature control that should be adhered to when certified results are required. For routine tests, especially in the field, less stringent procedures may be practicable, and it is the responsibility of the user to determine their effect on the results.

Annex A describes, for comparison, an alternative test method which could be introduced in the future. Annex B describes special test methods, using cells which may include low volume samples. Annex C describes a reference material for a performance test and check according to IEC 60060-3 [1]¹.

¹ Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

INSULATING LIQUIDS – DETERMINATION OF THE BREAKDOWN VOLTAGE AT POWER FREQUENCY – TEST METHOD

1 Scope

This document specifies the method for determining the dielectric breakdown voltage of insulating liquids at power frequency. The test procedure is performed in a specified apparatus, where the oil sample is subjected to an increasing AC electrical field until breakdown occurs. The method applies to all types of insulating liquids of nominal viscosity up to 350 mm²/s at 40 °C. It is appropriate both for acceptance testing on unused liquids at the time of their delivery and for establishing the condition of samples taken in monitoring and maintenance of equipment.

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 60475, *Method of sampling insulating liquids*