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TECHNICAL REPORT

Wind energy generation systems –
Part 12-4: Numerical site calibration for power performance testing of wind turbines

INTERNATIONAL
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FOREWORD

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The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a Technical Report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC TR 61400-12-4, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 88: Wind energy generation systems.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Draft TR	Report on voting
88/729/DTR	88/774/RVDTR

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 document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61400 series, under the general title *Wind energy generation systems*, can be found on the IEC website.

Future standards in this series will carry the new general title as cited above. Titles of existing standards in this series will be updated at the time of the next edition.

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

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- withdrawn,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

INTRODUCTION

IEC 61400-12-1 [1][1] is the International Standard for power performance measurements for electricity producing wind turbines. It specifies that in complex terrain, a site calibration (SC) is required to find the relation in flow characteristics between the measurement location and the test turbine. This approach requires – in addition to the permanent measurement mast that is used to measure the turbine power curve – installing a temporary mast at the location of the turbine being tested, prior to the turbine installation. The IEC 61400-12-1 approach is frequently used in industrial practice; however, it has a number of disadvantages:

- additional cost of the second mast and analysis of the site calibration results,
- additional time required for the site calibration in the range of 3 months,
- a site calibration decision has to be made before installing the wind turbine.

Due to these disadvantages, there is interest in the industry to find alternative methods for site calibration. One alternative is to use numerical simulations to derive flow correction factors (FCFs), i.e., the relation between wind speed at the wind turbine position and wind speed at the reference meteorological mast position.

The IEC TC 88 committee, “Wind energy generation systems,” initiated the work on this document to evaluate the potential application of numerical flow simulations for site calibration, i.e., numerical site calibration (NSC).

With NSC, the flow correction factors are calculated using numerical simulation of the flow. Despite eliminating some of the disadvantages mentioned earlier, NSC brings other challenges:

- dependence on simulation models,
- dependence on the setup of these models,
- dependence on the modeler’s expertise,
- uncertainty quantification of the model performance.

The project team (PT 61400-12-4) has outlined the current state of the art in numerical flow modelling and has summarized existing guidelines and past benchmarking experience of numerical model validation and verification. Based on the work undertaken, the project team identified the important technical aspects for using flow simulations over terrain for wind energy applications as well as the existing open issues including recommendations for further validation through benchmarking tests. The project team concluded that further work is needed before a standard for NSC can be issued.

1 Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

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1 Scope

This part of IEC 61400, which is a Technical Report, summarizes the current state of the art in numerical flow modelling, existing guidelines and past benchmarking experience in numerical model validation and verification. Based on the work undertaken, the document identifies the important technical aspects for using flow simulation over terrain for wind application as well as the existing open issues including recommendations for further validation through benchmarking tests.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.