



# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

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**Artificial pollution tests on high-voltage ceramic and glass insulators to be used on d.c. systems**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| FOREWORD.....   | 4  |
| INTRODUCTION.....   | 6  |
| 1 Scope.....  | 8  |
| 2 Normative references.....   | 8  |
| 3 Terms and definitions .....   | 8  |
| 4 General test requirements.....  | 11 |
| 4.1 General.....  | 11 |
| 4.2 Test methods .....  | 12 |
| 4.3 Arrangement of insulator for test.....  | 12 |
| 4.3.1 Test configuration .....  | 12 |
| 4.3.2 Insulator cleaning.....   | 12 |
| 4.4 Requirements for the test circuit .....   | 13 |
| 4.4.1 Test voltage.....   | 13 |
| 4.4.2 Atmospheric corrections .....   | 13 |
| 4.4.3 Characteristics of the measuring systems .....  | 13 |
| 4.4.4 Identification of flashover .....   | 13 |
| 5 Salt fog method .....   | 14 |
| 5.1 General information.....  | 14 |
| 5.2 Salt solution .....   | 14 |
| 5.3 Spraying system .....   | 16 |
| 5.4 Conditions before starting the test .....   | 19 |
| 5.5 Preconditioning process .....   | 19 |
| 5.6 Withstand test.....   | 20 |
| 5.7 Acceptance criteria for the withstand test.....   | 20 |
| 6 Solid layer method.....   | 20 |
| 6.1 General information.....  | 20 |
| 6.2 Main characteristics of inert materials.....  | 21 |
| 6.3 Composition of the contaminating suspension.....  | 21 |
| 6.4 Application of the pollution layer .....  | 22 |
| 6.5 Determination of the degree of pollution of the test insulator .....                            | 23 |
| 6.6 Test procedure.....   | 23 |
| 6.7 Withstand test and acceptance criteria.....   | 24 |
| Annex A (informative) Method for checking the uniformity of the layer .....                         | 25 |
| Annex B (informative) Determination of the withstand characteristics of insulators.....             | 27 |
| B.1 General.....  | 27 |
| B.2 Determination of the maximum withstand degree of pollution at a given test voltage.....         | 27 |
| B.3 Determination of the maximum withstand voltage at a given degree of pollution.....              | 27 |
| B.4 Determination of the 50 % withstand voltage at a given degree of pollution.....                 | 28 |
| Annex C (informative) Additional recommendations concerning the solid layer method procedures ..... | 29 |
| C.1 General.....  | 29 |
| C.2 Contamination practice.....   | 29 |
| C.3 Drying of the pollution layer .....   | 29 |
| C.4 Checking the wetting action of the fog .....  | 29 |

|   |  |    |
|---|--|----|
| C.5   | Checking fog uniformity for large or complex test objects .....      | 30 |
| C.6   | Fog input to the test chamber .....                                  | 30 |
| C.7   | Duration of the withstand test .....                                 | 31 |
| C.8   | Evaluation of the reference salt deposit density ( <i>SDD</i> )..... | 31 |
| Annex D (informative) Information to check equipment for artificial pollution tests .....   |  | 32 |
| Annex E (informative) Supplementary information on artificial pollution tests on insulators for voltage systems of $\pm 600$ kV and above (solid layer method procedure B) .....                              |  | 34 |
| E.1   | General.....   | 34 |
| E.2   | Test chamber .....   | 34 |
| E.3   | Fog generator .....  | 34 |
| E.4   | Wetting action and uniformity of fog density .....                   | 34 |
| E.5   | Test of very large insulators .....                                  | 34 |
| Annex F (informative) Further investigation .....   |  | 35 |
| Bibliography .....  |  | 36 |
|   |  |    |
| Figure 1 – Ripple amplitude and actual mean voltage, measured on a resistive load absorbing 100 mA.....   |  | 9  |
| Figure 2 – Voltage drop and voltage overshoot and leakage current.....  |  | 14 |
| Figure 3 – Value of factor b versus solution temperature $\theta$ .....   |  | 16 |
| Figure 4 – Typical construction of fog spray nozzle.....  |  | 18 |
| Figure 5 – Test layout for inclined insulators.....   |  | 19 |
| Figure A.1 – Arrangement of the probe electrodes .....  |  | 25 |
| Figure A.2 – Circuit diagram of the meter .....   |  | 26 |
| Figure C.1 – Determination of layer conductance and evaluation of its rise time $T_C = t_2 - t_1$ .....   |  | 31 |
|   |  |    |
| Table 1 – Salt-fog method: correspondence between the value of salinity and volume conductivity of the solution at a temperature of 20 °C .....   |  | 15 |
| Table 2 – Main characteristics of the inert materials used in solid layer suspensions .....   |  | 21 |
| Table 3 – Kaolin (or Tonoko) composition: approximate correspondence between the reference degrees of pollution on the insulator and the volume conductivity of the suspension at a temperature of 20 °C..... |  | 22 |
| Table D.1 – (Provisional) .....   |  | 33 |

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

# ARTIFICIAL POLLUTION TESTS ON HIGH-VOLTAGE CERAMIC AND GLASS INSULATORS TO BE USED ON D.C. SYSTEMS

## FOREWORD

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- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 61245, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 36: Insulators.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1993. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) Corrections and the addition of explanatory material;
- b) The addition of Clause 4.4.2 on atmospheric correction;
- c) The change of upper limit of volume conductivity of tap water for insulator cleaning to 0,1 S/m;
- d) The extension to UHV voltages; and
- e) The addition of Annex B "Determination of the withstand characteristics of insulators" and Annex E "Supplementary information on artificial pollution tests on insulators for voltage systems of  $\pm 600$  kV and above (solid layer method procedure B)

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

| Enquiry draft | Report on voting |
|---------------|------------------|
| 36/352/DTS    | 36/359/RVC       |

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical specification 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 website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- transformed into an International standard,
- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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

The contents of the corrigendum of August 2018 have been included in this copy.

## INTRODUCTION

The electrical strength of d.c. insulation under pollution conditions determines, in many cases, the dimensions and the design of the insulation.

The d.c. test procedures as specified in this technical specification follow closely the ones established for a.c. by IEC 60507. This does not exclude the possibility that at a later time other d.c. test procedures will be defined.

The main differences between this technical specification and IEC 60507 are:

- test circuit requirements include ripple factor, voltage drop and voltage overshoot. No requirements are made for the minimum short circuit current or ratio between short circuit and leakage currents;
- different criteria for the identification of flashover are given;
- for the salt fog test, a pre-conditioning process with d.c. voltage may be used by agreement;
- the wetting rate, rather than the steam injection rate, is prescribed; the measurement of the layer conductance is used to check the wetting action of the fog;
- as regards the solid layer methods, only the test procedure type "B" is considered due to the high scatter of the results obtained with tests carried out according to the type "A" procedure.

The tests are deemed to be not a suitable measure to prove the insulation performance of polymeric or special types of insulators (e.g. insulators with semiconducting glaze or covered with any organic insulating material) under polluted conditions. The test procedures given in this standard do not take account of the different properties of insulators such as surface hydrophobicity and hydrophobicity transfer through the pollution layer etc. These questions are under consideration by CIGRE SC D1.

For the test methods described in this technical specification, it is recommended that the voltage for the withstand voltage tests be specified as the highest value of operating voltage which occurs under normal operating conditions. Other test voltages may be agreed upon. If not otherwise specified and agreed between the parties, voltage of the negative polarity will be applied.

Only those test methods in which the voltage is held constant during the whole test are considered suitable for standardization. Variants in which the voltage is raised continuously to flashover are not included in this technical specification.

The leakage current may be used for interpretation of the test results, and therefore it is recommended that this current be continuously measured during the artificial pollution tests.

To achieve repeatable results, the artificial layer for d.c. pollution tests should be as uniform as possible, since non-uniformity can influence d.c. withstand and flashover voltages.

The amount of non-soluble material on the insulator surface may affect the test results. Although this matter is under consideration and no requirements can be given, the definition of non-soluble deposit density has been introduced into this technical specification for reference.

The type and quantity of non-soluble material, the steam rate and the preconditioning procedure with salt fog (either by a.c. or d.c. voltage) may affect the test results.

The standard results are intended as results obtained in laboratories close to sea level (altitude  $\leq 1\,000$  m). Test results obtained at higher altitude or in test chambers with non-standard air densities are to be corrected for air density.

## ARTIFICIAL POLLUTION TESTS ON HIGH-VOLTAGE CERAMIC AND GLASS INSULATORS TO BE USED ON D.C. SYSTEMS

### 1 Scope

This technical specification is applicable for the determination of the d.c. withstand characteristics of ceramic and glass insulators to be used outdoors and exposed to polluted atmospheres, on d.c. systems with the highest voltage of the system greater than  $\pm 1\,000$  V.

These tests are not applicable to polymeric insulators, to greased insulators or to special types of insulators (e.g. insulators with semiconducting glaze or covered with any organic insulating material).

The object of this technical specification is to prescribe procedures for artificial pollution tests applicable to insulators for overhead lines, substations and traction lines and to bushings.

It may also be applied to hollow insulators with suitable precautions to avoid internal flashover. In applying these procedures to apparatus incorporating hollow insulators, the relevant technical committees should consider their effect on any internal equipment and the special precautions which may be necessary.

### 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 TS 60815-1, *Selection and dimensioning of high-voltage insulators intended for use in polluted conditions – Part 1: Definitions, information and general principles*

IEC 60060-1, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60060-2, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 2: Measuring systems*