IEC 60112

Edition 6.0 2025-06
COMMENTED VERSION

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials

ICS 19.080, 29.035.01

ISBN 978-2-8327-0535-3

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

_____

Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials

FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
9) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s), which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at https://patents.iec.ch. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This commented version (CMV) of the official standard IEC 60112:2025 edition 6.0 allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous IEC 60112:2020 edition 5.0. Furthermore, comments from IEC TC 112 experts are provided to explain the reasons of the most relevant changes, or to clarify any part of the content.

A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. Experts' comments are identified by a blue-background number. Mouse over a number to display a pop-up note with the comment.

This publication contains the CMV and the official standard. The full list of comments is available at the end of the CMV.

IEC 60112 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 112: Evaluation and qualification of electrical insulating materials and systems. It is an International Standard.

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition published in 2020. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) In 7.3, the term "resistivity" has been replaced by "conductivity".

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

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

Draft	Report on voting
112/679/FDIS	112/686/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.

1 Scope

This document specifies the method of test for the determination of the proof and comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials on pieces taken from parts of equipment and on plaques of material using alternating voltage.

This document provides a procedure for the determination of erosion when required.

~~NOTE 1~~ The proof tracking index is used as an acceptance criterion as well as a means for the quality control of materials and fabricated parts. The comparative tracking index is mainly used for the basic characterization and comparison of the properties of materials. 1

This test method evaluates the composition of the material as well as the surface of the material being evaluated. Both the composition and surface condition directly influence the results of the evaluation and are considered when using the results in material selection process.

The described test method is designed for a test voltage up to 600 V AC, because higher test voltages and DC voltage will lead to a reduced test severity. 2

Test results are not directly suitable for the evaluation of safe creepage distances when designing electrical apparatus.

~~NOTE 2 This is in compliance with IEC 60664-1, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests.*~~

~~NOTE 3 This test discriminates between materials with relatively poor resistance to tracking, and those with moderate or good resistance, for use in equipment which can be used under moist conditions. More severe tests of longer duration are available for the assessment of performance of materials for outdoor use, utilizing higher voltages and larger test specimens (see the inclined plane test of IEC 60587). Other test methods such as the inclined method can rank materials in a different order from the drop test given in this document.~~

The results of this method have been used for insulation coordination of equipment. It is important that use of these results also considers the overvoltage levels, creepage distances, and establishes the pollution degree to which the product insulation system will be expected to be subjected. This is in compliance with IEC 60664-1. 3

This basic safety publication focusing on a safety test method is primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of safety publications in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications.

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.

ISO 4287, *Geometrical Product Specification (GPS) – Surface texture: Profile method – Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters*

IEC 60112

Edition 6.0 2025-06

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION
PUBLICATION FONDAMENTALE DE SÉCURITÉ

Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials

Méthode de détermination des indices de résistance et de tenue au cheminement des matériaux isolants solides

ICS 19.080, 29.035.01

ISBN 978-2-8327-0492-9

IEC 60112:2025-06(en-fr)

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

_____

Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials

FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
9) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s), which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at https://patents.iec.ch. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

IEC 60112 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 112: Evaluation and qualification of electrical insulating materials and systems. It is an International Standard.

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition published in 2020. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) In 7.3, the term "resistivity" has been replaced by "conductivity".

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

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

Draft	Report on voting
112/679/FDIS	112/686/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.

1 Scope

This document specifies the method of test for the determination of the proof and comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials on pieces taken from parts of equipment and on plaques of material using alternating voltage.

This document provides a procedure for the determination of erosion when required.

The proof tracking index is used as an acceptance criterion as well as a means for the quality control of materials and fabricated parts. The comparative tracking index is mainly used for the basic characterization and comparison of the properties of materials.

This test method evaluates the composition of the material as well as the surface of the material being evaluated. Both the composition and surface condition directly influence the results of the evaluation and are considered when using the results in material selection process.

The described test method is designed for a test voltage up to 600 V AC, because higher test voltages and DC voltage will lead to a reduced test severity.

Test results are not directly suitable for the evaluation of safe creepage distances when designing electrical apparatus.

The results of this method have been used for insulation coordination of equipment. It is important that use of these results also considers the overvoltage levels, creepage distances, and establishes the pollution degree to which the product insulation system will be expected to be subjected. This is in compliance with IEC 60664-1.

This basic safety publication focusing on a safety test method is primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of safety publications in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications.

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.

ISO 4287, *Geometrical Product Specification (GPS) – Surface texture: Profile method – Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters*

SOMMAIRE

COMMISSION ÉLECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

_____

Méthode de détermination des indices de résistance et de tenue au cheminement des matériaux isolants solides

AVANT-PROPOS

1) La Commission Électrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est une organisation mondiale de normalisation composée de l'ensemble des comités électrotechniques nationaux (Comités nationaux de l'IEC). L'IEC a pour objet de favoriser la coopération internationale pour toutes les questions de normalisation dans les domaines de l'électricité et de l'électronique. À cet effet, l'IEC – entre autres activités – publie des Normes internationales, des Spécifications techniques, des Rapports techniques, des Spécifications accessibles au public (PAS) et des Guides (ci-après dénommés "Publication(s) de l'IEC"). Leur élaboration est confiée à des comités d'études, aux travaux desquels tout Comité national intéressé par le sujet traité peut participer. Les organisations internationales, gouvernementales et non gouvernementales, en liaison avec l'IEC, participent également aux travaux. L'IEC collabore étroitement avec l'Organisation Internationale de Normalisation (ISO), selon des conditions fixées par accord entre les deux organisations.
2) Les décisions ou accords officiels de l'IEC concernant les questions techniques représentent, dans la mesure du possible, un accord international sur les sujets étudiés, étant donné que les Comités nationaux de l'IEC intéressés sont représentés dans chaque comité d'études.
3) Les Publications de l'IEC se présentent sous la forme de recommandations internationales et sont agréées comme telles par les Comités nationaux de l'IEC. Tous les efforts raisonnables sont entrepris afin que l'IEC s'assure de l'exactitude du contenu technique de ses publications; l'IEC ne peut pas être tenue responsable de l'éventuelle mauvaise utilisation ou interprétation qui en est faite par un quelconque utilisateur final.
4) Dans le but d'encourager l'uniformité internationale, les Comités nationaux de l'IEC s'engagent, dans toute la mesure possible, à appliquer de façon transparente les Publications de l'IEC dans leurs publications nationales et régionales. Toutes divergences entre toutes Publications de l'IEC et toutes publications nationales ou régionales correspondantes doivent être indiquées en termes clairs dans ces dernières.
5) L'IEC elle-même ne fournit aucune attestation de conformité. Des organismes de certification indépendants fournissent des services d'évaluation de conformité et, dans certains secteurs, accèdent aux marques de conformité de l'IEC. L'IEC n'est responsable d'aucun des services effectués par les organismes de certification indépendants.
6) Tous les utilisateurs doivent s'assurer qu'ils sont en possession de la dernière édition de cette publication.
7) Aucune responsabilité ne doit être imputée à l'IEC, à ses administrateurs, employés, auxiliaires ou mandataires, y compris ses experts particuliers et les membres de ses comités d'études et des Comités nationaux de l'IEC, pour tout préjudice causé en cas de dommages corporels et matériels, ou de tout autre dommage de quelque nature que ce soit, directe ou indirecte, ou pour supporter les coûts (y compris les frais de justice) et les dépenses découlant de la publication ou de l'utilisation de cette Publication de l'IEC ou de toute autre Publication de l'IEC, ou au crédit qui lui est accordé.
8) L'attention est attirée sur les références normatives citées dans cette publication. L'utilisation de publications référencées est obligatoire pour une application correcte de la présente publication.
9) L'IEC attire l'attention sur le fait que la mise en application du présent document peut entraîner l'utilisation d'un ou de plusieurs brevets. L'IEC ne prend pas position quant à la preuve, à la validité et à l'applicabilité de tout droit de brevet revendiqué à cet égard. À la date de publication du présent document, l'IEC n'a pas reçu notification qu'un ou plusieurs brevets pouvaient être nécessaires à sa mise en application. Toutefois, il y a lieu d'avertir les responsables de la mise en application du présent document que des informations plus récentes sont susceptibles de figurer dans la base de données de brevets, disponible à l'adresse https://patents.iec.ch. L'IEC ne saurait être tenue pour responsable de ne pas avoir identifié de tels droits de brevets.

L'IEC 60112 a été établie par le comité d'études 112 de l'IEC: Évaluation et qualification des systèmes et matériaux d'isolement électrique. Il s'agit d'une Norme internationale.

Cette sixième édition annule et remplace la cinquième édition parue en 2020. Cette édition constitue une révision technique.

Cette édition inclut les modifications techniques majeures suivantes par rapport à l'édition précédente:

a) Au 7.3, le terme "résistivité" a été remplacé par "conductivité".

Elle a le statut d'une publication fondamentale de sécurité conformément au Guide 104 de l'IEC.

Le texte de cette Norme internationale est issu des documents suivants:

Projet	Rapport de vote
112/679/FDIS	112/686/RVD

Le rapport de vote indiqué dans le tableau ci-dessus donne toute information sur le vote ayant abouti à son approbation.

La langue employée pour l'élaboration de cette Norme internationale est l'anglais.

Ce document a été rédigé selon les Directives ISO/IEC, Partie 2, il a été développé selon les Directives ISO/IEC, Partie 1 et les Directives ISO/IEC, Supplément IEC, disponibles sous www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. Les principaux types de documents développés par l'IEC sont décrits plus en détail sous www.iec.ch/publications.

Le comité a décidé que le contenu de ce document ne sera pas modifié avant la date de stabilité indiquée sur le site web de l'IEC sous webstore.iec.ch dans les données relatives au document recherché. À cette date, le document sera

- reconduit,
- supprimé, ou
- révisé.

1 Domaine d'application

Le présent document spécifie la méthode d'essai pour la détermination des indices de résistance et de tenue au cheminement des matériaux isolants solides sur des échantillons prélevés sur des parties d'équipement et des plaques de matériau en utilisant une tension alternative.

Il fournit une procédure pour la détermination de la valeur de l'érosion quand cela est exigé.

L'indice de tenue au cheminement est utilisé comme critère d'acceptation ainsi que comme critère de contrôle de la qualité des matériaux et parties fabriquées. L'indice de résistance au cheminement est principalement utilisé pour effectuer la comparaison et la caractérisation de base des propriétés des matériaux.

Cette méthode d'essai évalue la composition et la surface du matériau soumis à l'essai. La composition et les conditions de surface influencent directement les résultats de l'évaluation et sont prises en considération lors de l'utilisation des résultats au moment de la sélection des matériaux.

La méthode d'essai décrite est conçue pour une tension d'essai jusqu'à 600 V en courant alternatif, car des tensions d'essai supérieures et une tension continue conduisent à une moindre sévérité d'essai.

Les résultats d'essai tels quels ne sont pas adaptés à l'évaluation des lignes de fuite de sécurité lors de la conception des appareillages électriques.

Les résultats de cette méthode ont été utilisés pour la coordination de l'isolement des matériels. Il est important que l'utilisation de ces résultats prenne également en considération les niveaux de surtension et les lignes de fuite et définisse le degré de pollution auquel il est prévu de soumettre le système de l'isolement du produit. Ceci est conforme à l'IEC 60664-1.

La présente publication fondamentale de sécurité qui porte essentiellement sur une méthode d'essai de sécurité est principalement destinée à être utilisée par les comités d'études pour l'établissement de leurs publications de sécurité, conformément aux principes exposés dans le Guide IEC 104 et dans le Guide ISO/IEC 51.

L'une des responsabilités d'un comité d'études consiste, le cas échéant, à utiliser les publications fondamentales de sécurité dans le cadre de l'élaboration de ses publications.

2 Références normatives

Les documents suivants sont cités dans le texte de sorte qu'ils constituent, pour tout ou partie de leur contenu, des exigences du présent document. Pour les références datées, seule l'édition citée s'applique. Pour les références non datées, la dernière édition du document de référence s'applique (y compris les éventuels amendements).

ISO 4287, *Spécification géométrique des produits (GPS) – État de surface: Méthode du profil – Termes, définitions et paramètres d'état de surface*