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BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

General safety requirements for residual current operated protective devices

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	7
INTRODUCTION.....	9
1 Scope.....	10
2 Normative references	10
3 Terms and definitions	11
4 Classification.....	12
4.1 According to the method of operation.....	12
4.2 According to the type of installation	12
4.3 According to the possibility of adjusting the residual operating current.....	12
4.4 According to their operating characteristics and behaviour in presence of DC components	12
4.5 According to time-delay (in presence of a residual current)	12
4.6 According to the protection against external influences.....	12
4.7 According to the method of mounting	12
4.8 According to the method of connection	13
4.9 According to the type of terminals	13
4.10 According to the number of poles and current paths.....	13
4.11 According to the instantaneous tripping current.....	13
4.12 According to the I^2t characteristics	14
4.13 According to overcurrent protection.....	14
4.14 According to the method of construction	14
4.15 According to the intended use.....	14
4.16 According to the range of ambient air temperature	15
5 Characteristics of residual current devices.....	15
5.1 Summary of characteristics	15
5.2 Rated quantities and other characteristics.....	15
5.2.1 Rated voltages	15
5.2.2 Rated current (I_n).....	16
5.2.3 Rated frequency	16
5.2.4 Rated making and breaking capacity (I_m).....	16
5.2.5 Rated residual operating current ($I_{\Delta n}$).....	16
5.2.6 Rated residual non-operating current ($I_{\Delta no}$)	16
5.2.7 Rated residual making and breaking capacity ($I_{\Delta m}$)	16
5.2.8 Rated conditional short-circuit current.....	16
5.2.9 Rated conditional residual short-circuit current ($I_{\Delta c}$).....	16
5.2.10 Operating characteristics in case of residual currents with DC components.....	17
5.3 Standard and preferred values	18
5.3.1 Values of rated operational voltage (U_e).....	18
5.3.2 Values of rated current (I_n).....	18
5.3.3 Standard values of rated residual operating current ($I_{\Delta n}$)	18
5.3.4 Standard value of residual non-operating current ($I_{\Delta no}$)	18
5.3.5 Preferred values of rated frequency	18
5.3.6 Standard values of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})	18
5.3.7 Standard values of operating time	18

5.3.8	Standard minimum value of non-operating overcurrent in case of a load through an RCD with two current paths.....	19
5.3.9	Standard minimum value of non-operating overcurrent in case of a single-phase load through a three- or four-pole or four-current-paths RCD	19
5.3.10	Minimum value of the rated making and breaking capacity (I_m)	19
5.3.11	Minimum value of the rated residual making and breaking capacity ($I\Delta_m$)	19
5.3.12	Preferred values of the rated conditional short-circuit current	19
5.3.13	Preferred values of the rated conditional residual short-circuit current ($I\Delta_c$)	19
5.4	Coordination with short-circuit protective devices (SCPDs)	19
6	Marking and other product information.....	20
6.1	Information and marking for RCDs according to 4.15.1	20
6.2	Information and marking for RCDs according to 4.15.2 and 4.15.3	21
7	Conditions for operation in service and for installation	22
7.1	Preferred ranges of application, reference values of influencing quantities/factors and the associated test tolerances	22
7.2	Conditions of installation	22
7.3	Pollution degree.....	22
7.4	Additional standard conditions for operation in service and for installation when an RCD is incorporated or embedded in an equipment.....	22
8	Requirements for construction and operation	22
8.1	Mechanical design	22
8.1.1	General	22
8.1.2	Mechanism	24
8.1.3	Clearance and creepage distances	25
8.1.4	Screws, current-carrying parts and connections	25
8.1.5	Terminals for external conductors	26
8.2	Protection against electric shock.....	26
8.3	Dielectric properties and isolating capability.....	26
8.4	Temperature rise	27
8.5	Operating characteristics	27
8.5.1	General	27
8.5.2	Operation in response to the type of residual current	27
8.5.3	Operation in presence of a residual current equal to and greater than $I\Delta_n$	28
8.5.4	Additional requirements for RCDs according to 4.15.2 and 4.15.3.....	29
8.6	Mechanical and electrical endurance	29
8.7	Performance at short-circuit currents	29
8.8	Resistance to mechanical shock and impact	29
8.9	Resistance to heat	29
8.10	Resistance to abnormal heat and to fire	29
8.11	Test device	30
8.12	Requirements for RCDs in case of loss of supply	30
8.13	Behaviour of RCDs in case of overcurrent in the main circuit	30
8.14	Behaviour of RCDs in case of current surges caused by impulse voltages	30
8.15	Void	30
8.16	Reliability	30
8.17	Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).....	31

8.18	Resistance to temporary overvoltages (TOV)	31
9	Preparation of test clauses for RCD product standards and of test clauses for RCD incorporated or embedded in an equipment.....	31
9.1	General.....	31
9.1.1	General test conditions	31
9.1.2	Additional test conditions for preparation of standards for RCDs according to 4.15.2	32
9.1.3	Additional test conditions for preparation of standards for RCDs according to 4.15.3	32
9.1.4	Tests not specified in this document	32
9.2	Operating characteristics	32
9.2.1	General requirements for operating characteristics tests.....	32
9.2.2	Tests of RCDs of type AC	33
9.2.3	Tests of RCDs of type A	33
9.2.4	Tests of RCD of type F	34
9.2.5	Tests of RCDs of type B	35
9.3	Tests of electrical endurance	37
9.4	Tests of behaviour of the RCD under short-circuit conditions	37
9.4.1	General	37
9.4.2	Short-circuit tests	38
9.4.3	Behaviour of the RCD during and after the tests	39
9.5	Test of the trip-free mechanism.....	39
9.6	Verification of the operation of the test device.....	40
9.7	Tests of behaviour of RCDs in case of current surges caused by impulse voltages	40
9.7.1	Current surge test for all RCDs (0,5 µs/100 kHz ring wave test).....	40
9.7.2	Verification of behaviour at surge currents (8/20 µs surge current test).....	40
9.8	Tests of reliability.....	41
9.8.1	Climatic test.....	41
9.8.2	Test with temperature of 40 °C	41
9.8.3	Verification of the resistance to ageing	42
9.9	Tests of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).....	42
9.9.1	General	42
9.9.2	Specific requirements for RCDs for household and similar uses.....	43
Annex A (informative)	Recommended diagram for short-circuit tests	54
Annex B (informative)	Possible load and fault currents	57
Annex C (informative)	Correspondence between clauses and modules	60
Annex D (informative)	Relationship with product standards	62
D.1	General.....	62
D.2	RCD product standards.....	62
D.3	Application of RCDs	62
Bibliography	.....	64
Figure 1 – Void	.....	52
Figure 2 – Void	.....	52
Figure 3 – Void	.....	52
Figure 4 – Void	.....	52
Figure 5 – Void	.....	52

Figure 6 – Void	52
Figure 7 – Void	52
Figure 8 – Void	52
Figure 9 – Void	52
Figure 10 – Void	52
Figure 11 – Void	52
Figure 12 – Void	52
Figure 13 – Void	52
Figure 14 – Void	52
Figure 15 – Void	53
Figure 16 – Current ring wave 0,5 μ s/100 kHz	53
Figure A.1 – Diagram for all the short-circuit tests.....	55
Figure A.2 – Detail of impedance Z or Z ₁	56
Figure B.1 – Possible fault currents in systems with semiconductors	59
Table 1 – Values of influencing quantities	43
Table 2 – Marking for RCDs according to 4.15.1	44
Table 3 – Marking for RCDs according to 4.15.2 and 4.15.3.....	46
Table 4 – Standard values of maximum break time of non time-delay type RCDs for AC residual current.....	46
Table 5 – Standard values of maximum break time of non time-delay type RCDs for half-wave pulsating DC residual current.....	47
Table 6 – Standard values of maximum break time of non time-delay type RCDs for residual direct currents which result from rectifying circuits and/or smooth DC residual current.....	47
Table 7 – Acceptable alternative standard values of maximum break times for RCDs with a rated residual current of 6 mA and non time-delay type intended to be used in bi-phase system 120 V with middle point	47
Table 8 – Standard values of break time for AC residual current for time-delay type residual current devices	47
Table 9 – Standard values of break time for pulsating DC residual current for time-delay type residual current devices	48
Table 10 – Standard values of break time for rectifying circuits and smooth DC residual current for time-delay type residual current devices	48
Table 11 – Void	48
Table 12 – Void	48
Table 13 – Tripping current limits	48
Table 14 – Tripping current limits	49
Table 15 – Different frequency component values of test currents and starting current values (I_{Δ}) for verifying the operating in case of steady increased residual current.....	49
Table 16 – Operating current ranges for composite residual current.....	49
Table 17 – Tripping current ranges for type B RCDs at frequencies which differ from the rated frequency 50/60 Hz.....	49
Table 18 – Tripping current limits.....	50
Table 19 – Void	50
Table 20 – Void	50

Table 21 – Void	50
Table 22 – Void	50
Table 23 – Void	50
Table 24 – Void	50
Table 25 – Void	50
Table 26 – Void	50
Table 27 – Void	50
Table 28 – Void	50
Table 29 – Void	50
Table 30 – Withstand values and duration of temporary overvoltages	50
Table 31 – Void	50
Table 32 – Void	50
Table 33 – Void	50
Table 34 – Void	51
Table 35 – Void	51
Table 36 – Minimum values of I^2t and I_p	51
Table 37 – Void	51
Table 38 – Void	51
Table 39 – Void	51
Table 40 – Void	51
Table 41 – Void	51
Table 42 – Void	51
Table 43 – Void	51
Table 44 – Void	51
Table 45 – List of electromagnetic phenomena covered by IEC 61543	52
Table C.1 – Correspondence between clauses and modules used in this standard	60

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDUAL CURRENT
OPERATED PROTECTIVE DEVICES**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60755 has been prepared by subcommittee 23E: Circuit breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

This first edition cancels and replaces IEC TR 60755 published in 2008 and constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to IEC TR 60755:

- a) restructuring of the document, as a Group Safety Publication, in compliance with Guide 104;
- b) introduction of classification for type F RCDs;
- c) introduction of Clause 9 for tests of RCDs (operating characteristics, electrical endurance, behaviour in short-circuit conditions, trip-free mechanism, test device, surges, reliability, EMC).

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

FDIS	Report on voting
23E/1035/FDIS	23E/1036/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard 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.

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

The following differing practices of a less permanent nature exist in the countries indicated below:

- 5.3.3: 0,015 A, 0,05 A and 0,2 A are also considered standard values (Korea and Japan);
- 5.3.12: 1 000 A, 2 000 A, 2 500 A, 7 500 A and 9 000 A are also considered preferred values (Korea and Japan);
- 8.1.1.1: multiple settings are not allowed (Australia, Germany, Denmark, the UK and Switzerland);
- 8.1.2: the colours red and green are not used for contact position indication (US).

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.

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

INTRODUCTION

IEC 60755 has been prepared as a Group Safety Publication by subcommittee 23E in accordance with its Group Safety Function for residual current devices. It is intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards for residual current unit, function or devices when it is intended to provide protective measures according to IEC 60364 (all parts).

There are two basic conditions of protection against the risk of electric shock: fault protection (indirect contact) and basic protection (direct contact).

Fault protection implies that the device is used to prevent dangerous voltages persisting on accessible installation metalworks, which are earthed but become live under earth fault conditions.

Under such conditions, the risk arises not from the user making direct contact with a live conductive part, but making contact with earthed metalwork, which itself is in contact with a live conductive part.

The primary or basic function of residual current devices is to provide fault protection. However, where devices have an adequate sensitivity (i.e. units having operating residual currents not exceeding 30 mA), they provide the additional benefit of people (and livestock) protection to a user making direct contact with a live conductive part where other methods of protection failed.

The operating characteristics given in this document are therefore based on requirements, which themselves are based on the information contained in IEC 60479-1 and IEC 60479-2.

Residual current devices having rated residual operating currents not exceeding 300 mA also provide protection against the risk of fire resulting from earth fault currents which can exist for lengthy periods without operating the overcurrent protective device.

GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED PROTECTIVE DEVICES

1 Scope

This document provides general minimum requirements, recommendations and information for the drafting of standards on residual current operated protective devices (hereinafter referred to as residual current devices, "RCDs"). It applies to any device providing residual current protection intended primarily for protection against electric shock hazard.

NOTE 1 Residual current monitors (RCMs) according to IEC 62020, whose purpose is to monitor an electrical installation and not to provide protection, are not covered by this document and cannot be considered similar or equivalent to RCDs.

NOTE 2 RCDs for DC supply system are under consideration.

NOTE 3 For the relationship between this document and the RCD product standards, see Annex D.

This document is primarily intended to be used as a reference for drafting product safety standard for devices identified as "RCD" or "residual current device" either for general use or incorporated or embedded in equipment.

This document is also intended to be used as a reference for defining the design requirements and the applicable testing procedure for an RCD incorporated or embedded in an equipment.

This basic safety publication is primarily intended for use by technical Committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51. It is not intended for use by manufacturers or certification bodies.

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. The requirements, test methods or test conditions of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant 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.

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*

IEC 60068-2-30:2005, *Environmental testing – Part 2-30: Tests – Test Db: Damp heat, cyclic (12 h + 12 h cycle)*

IEC 60068-3-4, *Environmental testing – Part 3-4: Supporting documentation and guidance – Damp heat tests*

IEC 60364 (all parts), *Low-voltage electrical installations*

IEC 60364-4-41, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock*

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment* (available at <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>)

IEC 60479 (all parts), *Effects of current on human beings and livestock*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60664-1, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC 61000-6-1, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6-1: Generic standards – Immunity standard for residential, commercial and light-industrial environments*

IEC 61000-6-2, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6-2: Generic standards – Immunity standard for industrial environments*

IEC 61000-6-3, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6-3: Generic standards – Emission standard for residential, commercial and light-industrial environments*

IEC 61000-6-4, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6-4: Generic standards – Emission standard for industrial environments*

IEC 61140, *Protection against electric shock – Common aspects for installation and equipment*

IEC 61543:1995, *Residual current-operated protective devices (RCDs) for household and similar use – Electromagnetic compatibility*

IEC 61543:1995/AMD1:2004

IEC 61543:1995/AMD2:2005

IEC 62873-2, *Residual current operated circuit-breakers for household and similar use – Part 2: Residual current devices (RCDs) – Vocabulary*

IEC GUIDE 104, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

ISO/IEC Guide 51, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*

CISPR 14-1, *Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements for household appliances, electric tools and similar apparatus – Part 1: Emission*