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Power cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages above 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) up to 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV) – Test methods and requirements

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	8
INTRODUCTION.....	10
1 Scope.....	11
2 Normative references	11
3 Terms and definitions	13
3.1 Definitions of dimensional values (thicknesses, cross-sections, etc.)	13
3.2 Definitions concerning tests	14
3.3 Other definitions	14
4 Voltage designations, materials and rounding of numbers	16
4.1 Rated voltages.....	16
4.2 Cable insulating compounds	16
4.3 Cable metal screens/sheaths	16
4.4 Cable oversheathing compounds	16
4.5 Rounding of numbers.....	17
5 Precautions against water penetration in cables	17
6 Cable characteristics	17
7 Accessories characteristics	18
7.1 Gas immersed cable terminations	18
7.2 Composite Insulators for outdoor cable terminations	18
7.3 Accessory characteristics to be declared	19
8 Test conditions	20
8.1 Ambient temperature.....	20
8.2 High voltage tests	20
8.3 Waveform of lightning impulse test voltages.....	20
8.4 Relationship of test voltages to rated voltages	20
8.5 Determination of the cable conductor temperature	20
8.6 Tests on gas immersed terminations	20
9 Routine tests on cables and accessories	21
9.1 General.....	21
9.2 Partial discharge test	21
9.3 Voltage test	21
9.4 Electrical test on oversheath of the cable.....	22
10 Sample tests on cables.....	22
10.1 General.....	22
10.2 Frequency of tests	22
10.3 Repetition of tests.....	22
10.4 Conductor examination	23
10.5 Measurement of electrical resistance of conductor and metal screen	23
10.6 Measurement of thickness of cable insulation and oversheath	23
10.6.1 General	23
10.6.2 Requirements for the insulation	23
10.6.3 Requirements for the cable oversheath.....	24
10.7 Measurement of thickness of metal sheath.....	24
10.7.1 General	24
10.7.2 Lead or lead alloy sheath.....	24
10.7.3 Copper or aluminium sheath	25

10.7.4	Metal tape for CD design	25
10.8	Measurement of diameters	25
10.9	Hot set test for XLPE, EPR and HEPR insulations	26
10.9.1	Procedure	26
10.9.2	Requirements	26
10.10	Measurement of capacitance	26
10.11	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation	26
10.11.1	Procedure	26
10.11.2	Requirements	26
10.12	Lightning impulse voltage test	26
10.13	Water penetration test	27
10.14	Additional Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath	27
11	Sample tests on accessories	27
11.1	Tests on components of accessory	27
11.2	Tests on complete accessory	27
12	Type tests on cable systems	27
12.1	General	27
12.2	Range of type approval	28
12.3	Summary of type tests	29
12.4	Electrical type tests on cable systems	30
12.4.1	Test voltage values	30
12.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests	30
12.4.3	Bending test	30
12.4.4	Partial discharge tests	31
12.4.5	Tan δ measurement	31
12.4.6	Heating cycle voltage test	32
12.4.7	Lightning impulse voltage test followed by a power frequency voltage test	32
12.4.8	Examination	33
12.4.9	Resistivity of semi-conducting screens	33
12.5	Non-electrical type tests on cable components and on complete cable	34
12.5.1	General	34
12.5.2	Check of cable construction	34
12.5.3	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation before and after ageing	34
12.5.4	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of oversheaths before and after ageing	35
12.5.5	Ageing tests on pieces of complete cable to check compatibility of materials	35
12.5.6	Loss of mass test on PVC oversheaths of type ST ₂	36
12.5.7	Pressure test at high temperature on oversheaths	36
12.5.8	Test on for PVC oversheaths (ST ₁ , ST ₂) and LSHF oversheaths (ST ₁₂) at low temperature	36
12.5.9	Heat shock test for PVC oversheaths (ST ₁ and ST ₂)	37
12.5.10	Ozone resistance test for EPR and HEPR insulations	37
12.5.11	Hot set test for EPR, HEPR and XLPE insulations	37
12.5.12	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation	37

12.5.13	Measurement of carbon black content of for black PE oversheaths (ST ₃ and ST ₇)	37
12.5.14	Test under fire conditions	38
12.5.15	Water penetration test	40
12.5.16	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath	40
12.5.17	Shrinkage test for PE, HDPE and XLPE insulations	40
12.5.18	Shrinkage test for PE oversheaths (ST ₃ , ST ₇) and LSHF oversheaths (ST ₁₂)	41
12.5.19	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulation	41
12.5.20	Determination of the elastic modulus of HEPR insulation	41
13	Prequalification test of the cable system	41
13.1	General and range of prequalification test approval	41
13.2	Prequalification test on complete system	42
13.2.1	Summary of prequalification tests	42
13.2.2	Test voltage values	43
13.2.3	Test arrangement	43
13.2.4	Heating cycle voltage test	44
13.2.5	Lightning impulse voltage test	44
13.2.6	Examination	45
13.3	Tests for the extension of the prequalification of a cable system	45
13.3.1	Summary of the extension of prequalification test	45
13.3.2	Electrical part of the extension of prequalification tests on complete cable system	45
14	Type tests on cables	47
14.1	General	47
14.2	Range of type approval	48
14.3	Summary of type tests	48
14.4	Electrical type tests on completed cables	49
15	Type tests on accessories	49
15.1	General	49
15.2	Range of type approval	49
15.3	Summary of type tests	50
15.4	Electrical type tests on accessories	51
15.4.1	Test voltage values	51
15.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests	51
16	Electrical tests after installation (on-site tests)	51
16.1	General	51
16.2	DC voltage test of the oversheath	51
16.3	Tests using AC voltage test of the insulation	52
Annex A (informative)	Determination of the cable conductor temperature	62
A.1	Purpose	62
A.2	Calibration of the temperature of the main test loop	62
A.2.1	General	62
A.2.2	Installation of cable and temperature sensors	62
A.2.3	Calibration method	64
A.3	Heating for the test	64
A.3.1	Method 1 – Test using a reference cable	64

A.3.2	Method 2 – Test using conductor temperature calculations and measurement of the surface temperature.....	65
Annex B (normative)	Rounding of numbers.....	66
Annex C (informative)	List of type, prequalification and extension of prequalification tests for cable systems, cables and accessories.....	67
Annex D (normative)	Method of measuring resistivity of semi-conducting screens.....	70
Annex E (normative)	Water penetration test.....	73
E.1	Test piece.....	73
E.2	Test.....	73
E.3	Requirements.....	74
Annex F (normative)	Test for water penetration in the conductor.....	76
F.1	Test piece.....	76
F.2	Test.....	76
F.3	Requirements.....	76
Annex G (normative)	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath.....	79
G.1	Visual examination.....	79
G.2	Adhesion and peel strength.....	79
G.2.1	General.....	79
G.2.2	Test: Adhesion strength.....	79
G.2.3	Test: Peel strength of overlapped metal foil.....	80
G.2.4	Requirements.....	81
Annex H (normative)	Additional tests for accessories.....	83
H.1	General.....	83
H.2	Range of approval.....	85
H.2.1	Range of approval for joints without screen or metal sheath interruption.....	85
H.2.2	Range of approval for joints with screen or metal sheath interruption.....	86
H.2.3	Range of approval for accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection.....	86
H.2.4	Range of approval for terminations with sectionalizing insulation an insulated screen.....	86
H.3	Tests of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection.....	86
H.3.1	Conditioning of sample for test.....	86
H.3.2	Water immersion test.....	86
H.3.3	Electrical tests.....	87
H.3.4	Examination.....	88
H.4	Tests of terminations with sheath sectionalizing insulation an insulated screen.....	89
H.4.1	Conditioning of sample for test.....	89
H.4.2	DC voltage withstand test between screen and earth.....	89
H.4.3	Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth.....	89
H.4.4	Examination.....	89
H.5	Tests for composite insulators for outdoor terminations.....	90
H.5.1	Tests for ceramic insulators.....	90
H.5.2	Tests for composite insulators.....	90
H.6	Tests for gas-immersed terminations in case of changing insulating gas.....	90
H.6.1	General.....	90
H.6.2	Electrical tests.....	91

H.6.3	Leak rate test	91
Annex I (normative)	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulations.....	92
I.1	Test piece	92
I.2	Test procedure.....	92
I.2.1	General	92
I.2.2	Surfaces of large radius of curvature	92
I.2.3	Surfaces of small radius of curvature	92
I.2.4	Conditioning and test temperature	92
I.2.5	Number of measurements.....	93
Annex J (informative)	Guidance on examination of cable and accessories	94
Annex K (xxx informative)	Void Guidance for type test on heating-cycle-voltage-test interruption and cycle validity.....	95
K.1	Interruption of cycles during a heating cycle voltage test.....	95
K.1.1	Scheduled interruption of test	95
K.1.2	Non-scheduled interruption of test	95
K.2	Valid heating cycles	95
Annex L (normative)	Methods for determining the weighted value of halogen content of the non-metallic materials in the cable	96
L.1	Calculating the weighted value of the cable when the halogen content of individual materials is tested	96
L.2	Preparation of the test sample for measurement of halogen content on a sample representative of the non-metallic materials in the cable	96
Bibliography	97
Figure 1	– Example of the test arrangement for the prequalification test	44
Figure 2	– Example of extension of prequalification test arrangement for the prequalification of a system with another joint, designed for rigid as well as flexible installation	46
Figure A.1	– Typical test set-up for the reference loop and the main test loop.....	63
Figure A.2	– Example of an arrangement of the temperature sensors on the conductor of the reference loop.....	64
Figure D.1	– Preparation of samples for measurement of resistivity of conductor and insulation screens.....	72
Figure E.1	– Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test.....	75
Figure F.1	– Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test in the conductor.....	78
Figure G.1	– Adhesion of metal tape or foil	80
Figure G.2	– Example of overlapped metal foil.....	81
Figure G.3	– Peel strength of overlapped metal foil.....	81
Figure G.4	– Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (1).....	82
Figure G.5	– Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (2).....	82
Figure I.1	– Test on surfaces of large radius of curvature.....	93
Figure I.2	– Test on surfaces of small radius of curvature	93
Table 1	– Insulating compounds for cables	53
Table 2	– Oversheathing compounds for cables.....	53
Table 3	– Tan δ requirements for insulating compounds for cables.....	54
Table 4	– Test voltages.....	54

Table 5 – Non-electrical type tests for insulating and oversheathing compounds for cables	55
Table 6 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of insulating compounds for cables (before and after ageing)	56
Table 7 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of oversheathing compounds for cables (before and after ageing)	57
Table 8 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of insulating compounds for cables	58
Table 9 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of PVC and LSHF oversheathing for cables	59
Table 11 – Test requirements for fire performance characteristics of cables with PVC and LSHF oversheaths	60
Table 10 – Maximum mechanical Cantilever operating load for composite insulators for outdoor terminations	61
Table 12 – Test voltages for AC voltage test after installation	61
Table C.1 – Type tests on cable systems, on cables and on accessories	67
Table C.2 – Prequalification tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm	68
Table C.3 – Extension of prequalification EQ tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm	69
Table G.1 – Minimum acceptable adhesion or peel strength forces	82
Table H.1 – Test sequence	84
Table H.2 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection	88
Table H.3 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and screen of joints with screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection	88
Table H.4 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand tests between screen and earth of terminations with sheath sectionalizing insulation an insulated screen	89

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION
AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES
ABOVE 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) UP TO 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV) –
TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS****FOREWORD**

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This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.

IEC 60840 edition 5.1 contains the fifth edition (2020-05) [documents 20/1909/FDIS and 20/1910/RVD], its corrigendum (2021-02) and its amendment 1 (2023-06) [documents 20/2100/FDIS and 20/2107/RVD].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 60840 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

This fifth edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST₁₂ is introduced.
- Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which shall be applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.

NOTE For a more detailed history of events leading up to this fifth edition, see the Introduction.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendment 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,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

The first edition of IEC 60840, published in 1988, dealt only with cables. Accessories were added to the second edition, published in February 1999, which separately covered test methods and test requirements for

- a) cables alone,
- b) cables together with accessories (a cable system).

Some countries then suggested that a better discrimination be made between systems, cables and accessories, particularly for the lower voltages of the scope, for example 45 kV. This was taken into account in the third edition (2004) and has been retained subsequently, giving the type approval requirements and the range of approvals for:

- a) cable systems,
- b) cables alone,
- c) accessories alone.

Manufacturers and users may choose the most appropriate option for type approval.

The fourth edition (2011) introduced the prequalification test procedure, as a cable system inclusive of accessories, for cables with high electrical stresses at the conductor screen and/or insulation screen.

Other significant changes in the fourth edition were:

- a) The clause numbering of this document and IEC 62067 was coordinated to achieve as much commonality as possible.
- b) In the case of the sample test, the lightning impulse voltage test is no longer followed by a power frequency voltage test.

In this fifth edition the principle changes are as follows:

- a) New definitions have been added for three different cable screen designs following IEC TR 61901:2016.
- b) Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- c) Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- d) The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- e) A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST₁₂ is introduced.
- f) Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which are applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- g) A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- h) In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.
- i) A list of relevant CIGRE references is given in the bibliography.

POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES ABOVE 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) UP TO 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV) – TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS

1 Scope

This document specifies test methods and requirements for power cable systems, cables alone and accessories alone, for fixed installations and for rated voltages above 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) up to and including 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV).

The requirements apply to single-core cables and to individually screened three-core cables and to their accessories for usual conditions of installation and operation, but not to special cables, such as submarine cables and their accessories, for which modifications to the standard tests or the setup of special test conditions can be necessary.

This document does not cover transition joints between cables with extruded insulation and paper insulated cables.

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 60060-1:2010, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60060-3, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 3: Definitions and requirements for on-site testing*

IEC 60137, *Insulated bushings for alternating voltages above 1 000 V*

IEC 60228, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60229:2007, *Electric cables – Tests on extruded oversheaths with a special protective function*

IEC 60230, *Impulse tests on cables and their accessories*

IEC 60287-1-1:2006, *Electric cables – Calculation of the current rating – Part 1-1: Current rating equations (100 % load factor) and calculation of losses – General*

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for 1 kW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60332-1-3, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-3: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for determination of flaming droplets/particles*

IEC 60332-3-24, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C*

IEC 60754-2, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 2: Determination of acidity (by pH measurement) and conductivity*

IEC 60754-3, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 3: Measurement of low level of halogen content by ion chromatography*

IEC 60811-201, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 201: General tests – Measurement of insulation thickness*

IEC 60811-202:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 202: General tests – Measurement of thickness of non-metallic sheath*
IEC 60811-202:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-203, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 203: General tests – Measurement of overall dimensions*

IEC 60811-401, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 401: Miscellaneous tests – Thermal ageing methods – Ageing in an air oven*

IEC 60811-403, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 403: Miscellaneous tests – Ozone resistance test on cross-linked compounds*

IEC 60811-409, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 409: Miscellaneous tests – Loss of mass test for thermoplastic insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-501:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 501: Mechanical tests – Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation and sheathing compounds*
IEC 60811-501:2012/AMD1:2018

IEC 60811-502:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 502: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for insulations*

IEC 60811-503, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 503: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for sheaths*

IEC 60811-505, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 505: Mechanical tests – Elongation at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-506, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 506: Mechanical tests – Impact test at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-507, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 507: Mechanical tests – Hot set test for cross-linked materials*

IEC 60811-508:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 508: Mechanical tests – Pressure test at high temperature for insulations and sheaths*
IEC 60811-508:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-509, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 509: Mechanical tests – Test for resistance of insulations and sheaths to cracking (heat shock test)*

IEC 60811-605:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 605: Physical tests – Measurement of carbon black and/or mineral filler in polyethylene compounds*

IEC 60811-606, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 606: Physical tests – Methods for determining the density*

IEC 60885-3, *Electrical test methods for electric cables – Part 3: Test methods for partial discharge measurements on lengths of extruded power cables*

IEC 61034-2:2005, *Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions –Part 2: Test procedure and requirements*

IEC 61034-2:2005/AMD1:2013

IEC 61462:2007, *Composite hollow insulators – Pressurized and unpressurized insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltage greater than 1 000 V – Definitions, test methods, acceptance criteria and design recommendations*

IEC 62155, *Hollow pressurized and unpressurized ceramic and glass insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltages greater than 1 000 V*

IEC 62271-209, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 209: Cable connections for gas-insulated metal-enclosed switchgear for rated voltages above 52 kV. Fluid-filled and extruded insulation cables – Fluid-filled and dry-type cable-terminations*

ISO 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic – Determination of hardness – Part 2: Hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD*

FINAL VERSION

Power cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages above 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) up to 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV) – Test methods and requirements



CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	8
INTRODUCTION.....	10
1 Scope.....	11
2 Normative references	11
3 Terms and definitions	13
3.1 Definitions of dimensional values (thicknesses, cross-sections, etc.)	13
3.2 Definitions concerning tests	14
3.3 Other definitions	14
4 Voltage designations, materials and rounding of numbers	16
4.1 Rated voltages.....	16
4.2 Cable insulating compounds	16
4.3 Cable metal screens/sheaths	16
4.4 Cable oversheathing compounds	16
4.5 Rounding of numbers.....	17
5 Precautions against water penetration in cables	17
6 Cable characteristics	17
7 Accessories characteristics	18
7.1 Gas immersed cable terminations	18
7.2 Insulators for outdoor cable terminations	18
7.3 Accessory characteristics to be declared	19
8 Test conditions	20
8.1 Ambient temperature.....	20
8.2 High voltage tests	20
8.3 Waveform of lightning impulse test voltages.....	20
8.4 Relationship of test voltages to rated voltages	20
8.5 Determination of the cable conductor temperature	20
8.6 Tests on gas immersed terminations	20
9 Routine tests on cables and accessories	20
9.1 General.....	20
9.2 Partial discharge test	21
9.3 Voltage test	21
9.4 Electrical test on oversheath of the cable.....	21
10 Sample tests on cables.....	22
10.1 General.....	22
10.2 Frequency of tests	22
10.3 Repetition of tests.....	22
10.4 Conductor examination	22
10.5 Measurement of electrical resistance of conductor and metal screen	22
10.6 Measurement of thickness of cable insulation and oversheath	23
10.6.1 General	23
10.6.2 Requirements for the insulation	23
10.6.3 Requirements for the cable oversheath.....	23
10.7 Measurement of thickness of metal sheath.....	24
10.7.1 General	24
10.7.2 Lead or lead alloy sheath.....	24
10.7.3 Copper or aluminium sheath	24

10.7.4	Metal tape for CD design	25
10.8	Measurement of diameters	25
10.9	Hot set test for XLPE, EPR and HEPR insulations	25
10.9.1	Procedure	25
10.9.2	Requirements	25
10.10	Measurement of capacitance	25
10.11	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation	26
10.11.1	Procedure	26
10.11.2	Requirements	26
10.12	Lightning impulse voltage test	26
10.13	Water penetration test	26
10.14	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil bonded to the oversheath	26
11	Sample tests on accessories	26
11.1	Tests on components of accessory	26
11.2	Tests on complete accessory	27
12	Type tests on cable systems	27
12.1	General	27
12.2	Range of type approval	27
12.3	Summary of type tests	28
12.4	Electrical type tests on cable systems	29
12.4.1	Test voltage values	29
12.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests	29
12.4.3	Bending test	30
12.4.4	Partial discharge tests	31
12.4.5	Tan δ measurement	31
12.4.6	Heating cycle voltage test	31
12.4.7	Lightning impulse voltage test followed by a power frequency voltage test	32
12.4.8	Examination	32
12.4.9	Resistivity of semi-conducting screens	33
12.5	Non-electrical type tests on cable components and on complete cable	33
12.5.1	General	33
12.5.2	Check of cable construction	34
12.5.3	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation before and after ageing	34
12.5.4	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of oversheaths before and after ageing	34
12.5.5	Ageing tests on pieces of complete cable to check compatibility of materials	35
12.5.6	Loss of mass test on PVC oversheaths of type ST ₂	35
12.5.7	Pressure test at high temperature on oversheaths	35
12.5.8	Test for PVC oversheaths (ST ₁ , ST ₂) and LSHF oversheaths (ST ₁₂) at low temperature	36
12.5.9	Heat shock test for PVC oversheaths (ST ₁ and ST ₂)	36
12.5.10	Ozone resistance test for EPR and HEPR insulations	36
12.5.11	Hot set test for EPR, HEPR and XLPE insulations	36
12.5.12	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation	36

12.5.13	Measurement of carbon black content for black PE oversheaths (ST ₃ and ST ₇)	37
12.5.14	Test under fire conditions	37
12.5.15	Water penetration test	38
12.5.16	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath	39
12.5.17	Shrinkage test for PE, HDPE and XLPE insulations	39
12.5.18	Shrinkage test for PE oversheaths (ST ₃ , ST ₇) and LSHF oversheaths (ST ₁₂)	39
12.5.19	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulation	39
12.5.20	Determination of the elastic modulus of HEPR insulation	39
13	Prequalification test of the cable system	40
13.1	General and range of prequalification test approval	40
13.2	Prequalification test on complete system	41
13.2.1	Summary of prequalification tests	41
13.2.2	Test voltage values	41
13.2.3	Test arrangement	41
13.2.4	Heating cycle voltage test	42
13.2.5	Lightning impulse voltage test	43
13.2.6	Examination	43
13.3	Tests for the extension of the prequalification of a cable system	43
13.3.1	Summary of the extension of prequalification test	43
13.3.2	Electrical part of the extension of prequalification tests on complete cable system	43
14	Type tests on cables	45
14.1	General	45
14.2	Range of type approval	46
14.3	Summary of type tests	46
14.4	Electrical type tests on completed cables	46
15	Type tests on accessories	47
15.1	General	47
15.2	Range of type approval	47
15.3	Summary of type tests	48
15.4	Electrical type tests on accessories	48
15.4.1	Test voltage values	48
15.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests	48
16	Electrical tests after installation (on-site tests)	49
16.1	General	49
16.2	DC voltage test of the oversheath	49
16.3	Tests using AC voltage	49
Annex A (informative)	Determination of the cable conductor temperature	59
A.1	Purpose	59
A.2	Calibration of the temperature of the main test loop	59
A.2.1	General	59
A.2.2	Installation of cable and temperature sensors	59
A.2.3	Calibration method	61
A.3	Heating for the test	61
A.3.1	Method 1 – Test using a reference cable	61

A.3.2	Method 2 – Test using conductor temperature calculations and measurement of the surface temperature.....	62
Annex B (normative)	Rounding of numbers	63
Annex C (informative)	List of type, prequalification and extension of prequalification tests for cable systems, cables and accessories	64
Annex D (normative)	Method of measuring resistivity of semi-conducting screens	66
Annex E (normative)	Water penetration test.....	69
E.1	Test piece	69
E.2	Test	69
E.3	Requirements	70
Annex F (normative)	Test for water penetration in the conductor.....	71
F.1	Test piece	71
F.2	Test	71
F.3	Requirements	71
Annex G (normative)	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath	73
G.1	Visual examination.....	73
G.2	Adhesion and peel strength.....	73
G.2.1	General	73
G.2.2	Test: Adhesion strength.....	73
G.2.3	Test: Peel strength of overlapped metal foil	74
G.2.4	Requirements	75
Annex H (normative)	Additional tests for accessories.....	77
H.1	General.....	77
H.2	Range of approval.....	78
H.2.1	Range of approval for joints without screen or metal sheath interruption.....	78
H.2.2	Range of approval for joints with screen or metal sheath interruption.....	79
H.2.3	Range of approval for accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection.....	79
H.2.4	Range of approval for terminations with an insulated screen.....	79
H.3	Tests of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection	79
H.3.1	Conditioning of sample for test	79
H.3.2	Water immersion test.....	79
H.3.3	Electrical tests	80
H.3.4	Examination.....	81
H.4	Tests of terminations with an insulated screen	82
H.4.1	Conditioning of sample for test	82
H.4.2	DC voltage withstand test between screen and earth	82
H.4.3	Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth.....	82
H.4.4	Examination.....	82
H.5	Tests for insulators for outdoor terminations	82
H.5.1	Tests for ceramic insulators	82
H.5.2	Tests for composite insulators	83
H.6	Tests for gas-immersed terminations in case of changing insulating gas.....	83
H.6.1	General	83
H.6.2	Electrical tests	83
H.6.3	Leak rate test	84
Annex I (normative)	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulations.....	85

I.1	Test piece	85
I.2	Test procedure.....	85
I.2.1	General	85
I.2.2	Surfaces of large radius of curvature	85
I.2.3	Surfaces of small radius of curvature	85
I.2.4	Conditioning and test temperature	85
I.2.5	Number of measurements.....	86
Annex J (informative)	Guidance on examination of cable and accessories	87
Annex K (informative)	Guidance for type test on heating-cycle-voltage-test interruption and cycle validity	88
K.1	Interruption of cycles during a heating cycle voltage test.....	88
K.1.1	Scheduled interruption of test	88
K.1.2	Non-scheduled interruption of test	88
K.2	Valid heating cycles	88
Annex L (normative)	Methods for determining the weighted value of halogen content of the non-metallic materials in the cable	89
L.1	Calculating the weighted value of the cable when the halogen content of individual materials is tested	89
L.2	Preparation of the test sample for measurement of halogen content on a sample representative of the non-metallic materials in the cable	89
Bibliography	90
Figure 1	– Example of the test arrangement for the prequalification test	42
Figure 2	– Example of extension of prequalification test arrangement for the prequalification of a system with another joint, designed for rigid as well as flexible installation	44
Figure A.1	– Typical test set-up for the reference loop and the main test loop.....	60
Figure A.2	– Example of an arrangement of the temperature sensors on the conductor of the reference loop.....	61
Figure D.1	– Preparation of samples for measurement of resistivity of conductor and insulation screens	68
Figure E.1	– Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test.....	70
Figure F.1	– Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test in the conductor.....	72
Figure G.1	– Adhesion of metal tape or foil	74
Figure G.2	– Example of overlapped metal foil.....	75
Figure G.3	– Peel strength of overlapped metal foil.....	75
Figure G.4	– Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (1).....	76
Figure G.5	– Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (2).....	76
Figure I.1	– Test on surfaces of large radius of curvature.....	86
Figure I.2	– Test on surfaces of small radius of curvature	86
Table 1	– Insulating compounds for cables	50
Table 2	– Oversheathing compounds for cables.....	50
Table 3	– Tan δ requirements for insulating compounds for cables.....	51
Table 4	– Test voltages.....	51
Table 5	– Non-electrical type tests for insulating and oversheathing compounds for cables.....	52

Table 6 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of insulating compounds for cables (before and after ageing)	53
Table 7 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of oversheathing compounds for cables (before and after ageing)	54
Table 8 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of insulating compounds for cables	55
Table 9 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of PVC and LSHF oversheathing for cables	56
Table 11 – Test requirements for fire performance characteristics of cables with PVC and LSHF oversheaths	57
Table 10 – Cantilever operating load for insulators for outdoor terminations	58
Table 12 – Test voltages for AC voltage test after installation	58
Table C.1 – Type tests on cable systems, on cables and on accessories	64
Table C.2 – Prequalification tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm.....	65
Table C.3 – EQ tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm	65
Table G.1 – Minimum acceptable adhesion or peel strength forces	76
Table H.1 – Test sequence	78
Table H.2 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection	81
Table H.3 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and screen of joints with screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection.....	81
Table H.4 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand tests between screen and earth of terminations with an insulated screen	82

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION
AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES
ABOVE 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) UP TO 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV) –
TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS****FOREWORD**

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This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.

IEC 60840 edition 5.1 contains the fifth edition (2020-05) [documents 20/1909/FDIS and 20/1910/RVD], its corrigendum (2021-02) and its amendment 1 (2023-06) [documents 20/2100/FDIS and 20/2107/RVD].

This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 60840 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

This fifth edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST₁₂ is introduced.
- Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which shall be applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.

NOTE For a more detailed history of events leading up to this fifth edition, see the Introduction.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendment 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,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

INTRODUCTION

The first edition of IEC 60840, published in 1988, dealt only with cables. Accessories were added to the second edition, published in February 1999, which separately covered test methods and test requirements for

- a) cables alone,
- b) cables together with accessories (a cable system).

Some countries then suggested that a better discrimination be made between systems, cables and accessories, particularly for the lower voltages of the scope, for example 45 kV. This was taken into account in the third edition (2004) and has been retained subsequently, giving the type approval requirements and the range of approvals for:

- a) cable systems,
- b) cables alone,
- c) accessories alone.

Manufacturers and users may choose the most appropriate option for type approval.

The fourth edition (2011) introduced the prequalification test procedure, as a cable system inclusive of accessories, for cables with high electrical stresses at the conductor screen and/or insulation screen.

Other significant changes in the fourth edition were:

- a) The clause numbering of this document and IEC 62067 was coordinated to achieve as much commonality as possible.
- b) In the case of the sample test, the lightning impulse voltage test is no longer followed by a power frequency voltage test.

In this fifth edition the principle changes are as follows:

- a) New definitions have been added for three different cable screen designs following IEC TR 61901:2016.
- b) Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- c) Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- d) The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- e) A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST₁₂ is introduced.
- f) Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which are applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- g) A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- h) In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.
- i) A list of relevant CIGRE references is given in the bibliography.

POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES ABOVE 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) UP TO 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV) – TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS

1 Scope

This document specifies test methods and requirements for power cable systems, cables alone and accessories alone, for fixed installations and for rated voltages above 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV) up to and including 150 kV ($U_m = 170$ kV).

The requirements apply to single-core cables and to individually screened three-core cables and to their accessories for usual conditions of installation and operation, but not to special cables, such as submarine cables and their accessories, for which modifications to the standard tests or the setup of special test conditions can be necessary.

This document does not cover transition joints between cables with extruded insulation and paper insulated cables.

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 60060-1:2010, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60060-3, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 3: Definitions and requirements for on-site testing*

IEC 60137, *Insulated bushings for alternating voltages above 1 000 V*

IEC 60228, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60229:2007, *Electric cables – Tests on extruded oversheaths with a special protective function*

IEC 60230, *Impulse tests on cables and their accessories*

IEC 60287-1-1:2006, *Electric cables – Calculation of the current rating – Part 1-1: Current rating equations (100 % load factor) and calculation of losses – General*

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for 1 kW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60332-1-3, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-3: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for determination of flaming droplets/particles*

IEC 60332-3-24, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C*

IEC 60754-2, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 2: Determination of acidity (by pH measurement) and conductivity*

IEC 60754-3, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 3: Measurement of low level of halogen content by ion chromatography*

IEC 60811-201, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 201: General tests – Measurement of insulation thickness*

IEC 60811-202:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 202: General tests – Measurement of thickness of non-metallic sheath*
IEC 60811-202:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-203, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 203: General tests – Measurement of overall dimensions*

IEC 60811-401, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 401: Miscellaneous tests – Thermal ageing methods – Ageing in an air oven*

IEC 60811-403, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 403: Miscellaneous tests – Ozone resistance test on cross-linked compounds*

IEC 60811-409, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 409: Miscellaneous tests – Loss of mass test for thermoplastic insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-501:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 501: Mechanical tests – Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation and sheathing compounds*
IEC 60811-501:2012/AMD1:2018

IEC 60811-502:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 502: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for insulations*

IEC 60811-503, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 503: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for sheaths*

IEC 60811-505, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 505: Mechanical tests – Elongation at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-506, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 506: Mechanical tests – Impact test at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-507, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 507: Mechanical tests – Hot set test for cross-linked materials*

IEC 60811-508:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 508: Mechanical tests – Pressure test at high temperature for insulations and sheaths*
IEC 60811-508:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-509, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 509: Mechanical tests – Test for resistance of insulations and sheaths to cracking (heat shock test)*

IEC 60811-605:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 605: Physical tests – Measurement of carbon black and/or mineral filler in polyethylene compounds*

IEC 60811-606, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 606: Physical tests – Methods for determining the density*

IEC 60885-3, *Electrical test methods for electric cables – Part 3: Test methods for partial discharge measurements on lengths of extruded power cables*

IEC 61034-2:2005, *Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions –Part 2: Test procedure and requirements*

IEC 61034-2:2005/AMD1:2013

IEC 61462:2007, *Composite hollow insulators – Pressurized and unpressurized insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltage greater than 1 000 V – Definitions, test methods, acceptance criteria and design recommendations*

IEC 62155, *Hollow pressurized and unpressurized ceramic and glass insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltages greater than 1 000 V*

IEC 62271-209, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 209: Cable connections for gas-insulated metal-enclosed switchgear for rated voltages above 52 kV. Fluid-filled and extruded insulation cables – Fluid-filled and dry-type cable-terminations*

ISO 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic – Determination of hardness – Part 2: Hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD*