

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

CONSOLIDATED VERSION

BASIC EMC PUBLICATION

**Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) -
Part 4-27: Testing and measurement techniques - Unbalance, immunity test for
equipment with input current not exceeding 16 A per phase**



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED
Copyright © 2025 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

IEC Secretariat
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

IEC publications search -
webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee, ...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished
Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

IEC Customer Service Centre - webstore.iec.ch/csc
If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: sales@iec.ch.

IEC Products & Services Portal - products.iec.ch

Discover our powerful search engine and read freely all the publications previews, graphical symbols and the glossary. With a subscription you will always have access to up to date content tailored to your needs.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 500 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 25 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	5
INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 2	6
1 Scope and object	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 General	8
5 Test levels	9
6 Test equipment	10
6.1 Test generators	10
6.2 Verification of the characteristics of the test generators	10
7 Test set-up	11
8 Test procedures	12
8.1 Laboratory reference conditions	12
8.1.1 Climatic conditions	12
8.1.2 Electromagnetic conditions	12
8.2 Execution of the test	12
9 Evaluation of test results	13
10 Test report	13
Annex A (informative) Sources, effects and measurement of unbalance	17
A.1 Sources	17
A.2 Effects	17
A.3 Measurement	17
A.3.1 Symmetrical components	17
A.3.2 Negative and zero unbalance factors	19
A.3.3 Measurement consideration	19
Annex B (informative) Calculation of the degree of unbalance	20
B.1 General	21
B.2 Method 1	21
B.3 Method 2	22
B.4 Example calculation	22
Annex C (informative) Information on test levels	24
Annex D (informative) Electromagnetic environment classes	25
Bibliography	26
Figure 1 – Example of unbalanced three-phase supply voltage (Class 2, Test 3)	14
Figure 2 – Succession of three unbalance sequences of the test (the voltages U_a , U_b , U_c rotate through the phases L_1 , L_2 , L_3)	15
Figure 3 – Schematic diagram of test instrumentation for unbalance	16
Figure 4 – Example of test generator verification load	11
Figure A.1 – Unbalanced voltage vectors	18
Figure A.2 – Components of the unbalanced vectors in figure A.1	18

Table 1 – Test levels.....9

Table 2 – Characteristics of the generator 10

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) -
Part 4-27: Testing and measurement techniques -
Unbalance, immunity test for equipment with input current
not exceeding 16 A per phase**

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) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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

IEC 61000-4-27 edition 1.2 contains the first edition (2000-08) [documents 77A/308/FDIS and 77A/314/RVD], its amendment 1 (2009-02) [documents 77A/672/FDIS and 77A/675/RVD] and its amendment 2 (2025-09) [documents 77A/1236/CDV and 77A/1249/RVC].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendments 1 and 2. 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 61000-4-27 has been prepared by subcommittee 77A: Low-frequency phenomena, of IEC technical committee 77: Electromagnetic compatibility.

It forms part 4-27 of IEC 61000. It has the status of basic EMC publication in accordance with IEC Guide 107.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
77A/308/FDIS	77A/314/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Annexes A, B, C and D are for information only.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendments 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.

INTRODUCTION

This standard is part of IEC 61000 series, according to the following structure:

Part 1: General

General considerations (introduction, fundamental principles)

Definitions, terminology

Part 2: Environment

Description of the environment

Classification of the environment

Compatibility levels

Part 3: Limits

Emission limits

Immunity limits (in so far as they do not fall under the responsibility of product committees)

Part 4: Testing and measurement techniques

Measurement techniques

Testing techniques

Part 5: Installation and mitigation guidelines

Installation guidelines

Mitigation methods and devices

Part 6: Generic standards

Part 9: Miscellaneous

Each part is further subdivided into several parts, published either as International Standards or as technical specifications or technical reports, some of which have already been published as sections. Others will be published with the part number followed by a dash and completed by a second number identifying the subdivision (example: 61000-6-1).

INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 2

This amendment contains the following main changes in comparison with IEC 61000-4-27:2000/AMD1:2009:

The angles in Table 1 (test levels) suggest a three-phase system with a negative phase sequence while the intention is to have a positive phase sequence and thus the signs and values of all angles in Table 1 should be corrected. In addition, the value of k_{u2} of class 2, test 3 is 28 % instead of 25 %. The Table 1 is modified accordingly

Class X is defined as special and levels 2 and 3 refers to Annex D instead of 61000-2-4.

U_N is deleted from Table 1, and it is moved to the new Clause 3 (Terms, definitions, and abbreviations). The definition 3.5 U_N nominal phase to neutral voltage is added.

In addition, the definition of rise and fall time is added (as in 61000-4-11:2020).

The text in Note 1 in Table 1 is deleted and replaced by " U_b is lagging against U_a , and U_c is leading against U_a ".

In Table 1 Add NOTE 2: The product committee may specify any test level; however, for equipment connected to public supply systems, it is recommended that the levels should not be lower than those defined for class 2.

The sentence under Table 1 becomes NOTE 2 in the Table 1.

Some changes are introduced also in Table 2 (Characteristics of the generator). Main changes:

- Modified output current capability which must be able to provide a crest factor of at least 3 when U_N applied to calibration load.
- Modified voltage rise time adding (from 10 % to 90 %)
- Modified phase shifting
- Modified phase accuracy (put 50 Hz or 60 Hz).

In Clause 7 a sentence is added: The equipment under test (EUT) is set up at a steady mains voltage

In subclause 8.2 the last sentence "After each group of tests a full functional check shall be performed." Is deleted. In addition, Figure 2 is simplified.

In Clause 10 updated Figures 1 and 2 are included.

A new informative Annex B is proposed which includes two different calculation methods:

- method 1 does not require complex or vector calculus.
- method 2 uses phasors and matrices but is more compact.

Both methods are mathematically equivalent.

1 Scope and object

This part of IEC 61000 is a basic EMC (electromagnetic compatibility) publication. It considers immunity tests for electric and/or electronic equipment (apparatus and system) in its electromagnetic environment. Only conducted phenomena are considered, including immunity tests for equipment connected to public and industrial networks.

The object of this standard is to establish a reference for evaluating the immunity of electrical and electronic equipment when subjected to unbalanced power supply voltage.

This standard applies to 50 Hz/60 Hz three-phase powered electrical and/or electronic equipment with rated line current up to 16 A per phase.

This standard does not apply to equipment with three-phase plus neutral connection if that equipment operates as a group of single-phase loads connected between phase and neutral.

This standard does not apply to electrical and/or electronic equipment connected to a.c. 400 Hz distribution networks.

This standard does not include tests for the zero-sequence unbalance factor.

The immunity test levels required for a specific electromagnetic environment together with performance criteria are indicated in the product, product family or generic standards as applicable. This immunity test should be included in product, product family or generic standards when equipment is likely to show reduced performance or function when exposed to a supply voltage with voltage unbalance.

The verification of the reliability of electrical components (capacitors, motors, etc.) and long-term effects (greater than a few minutes) is not considered in this standard.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of IEC 61000. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of IEC 61000 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

IEC 60050(161), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 161: Electromagnetic compatibility*

IEC 61000-2-4, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 2: Environment – Section 4: Compatibility levels in industrial plants for low-frequency conducted disturbances*

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	5
INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 2	6
1 Scope and object	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 General	8
5 Test levels	9
6 Test equipment	9
6.1 Test generators	9
6.2 Verification of the characteristics of the test generators	10
7 Test set-up	11
8 Test procedures	12
8.1 Laboratory reference conditions	12
8.1.1 Climatic conditions	12
8.1.2 Electromagnetic conditions	12
8.2 Execution of the test	12
9 Evaluation of test results	13
10 Test report	13
Annex A (informative) Sources, effects and measurement of unbalance	17
A.1 Sources	17
A.2 Effects	17
A.3 Measurement	17
A.3.1 Symmetrical components	17
A.3.2 Negative and zero unbalance factors	19
A.3.3 Measurement consideration	19
Annex B (informative) Calculation of the degree of unbalance	20
B.1 General	20
B.2 Method 1	20
B.3 Method 2	21
B.4 Example calculation	22
Annex C (informative) Information on test levels	23
Annex D (informative) Electromagnetic environment classes	24
Bibliography	25
Figure 1 – Example of unbalanced three-phase supply voltage (Class 2, Test 3)	14
Figure 2 – Succession of three unbalance sequences of the test (the voltages U_a , U_b , U_c rotate through the phases L_1 , L_2 , L_3)	15
Figure 3 – Schematic diagram of test instrumentation for unbalance	16
Figure 4 – Example of test generator verification load	11
Figure A.1 – Unbalanced voltage vectors	18
Figure A.2 – Components of the unbalanced vectors in figure A.1	18

Table 1 – Test levels.....9

Table 2 – Characteristics of the generator 10

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) -
Part 4-27: Testing and measurement techniques -
Unbalance, immunity test for equipment with input current
not exceeding 16 A per phase**

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) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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

IEC 61000-4-27 edition 1.2 contains the first edition (2000-08) [documents 77A/308/FDIS and 77A/314/RVD], its amendment 1 (2009-02) [documents 77A/672/FDIS and 77A/675/RVD] and its amendment 2 (2025-09) [documents 77A/1236/CDV and 77A/1249/RVC].

This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendments 1 and 2. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 61000-4-27 has been prepared by subcommittee 77A: Low-frequency phenomena, of IEC technical committee 77: Electromagnetic compatibility.

It forms part 4-27 of IEC 61000. It has the status of basic EMC publication in accordance with IEC Guide 107.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
77A/308/FDIS	77A/314/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Annexes A, B, C and D are for information only.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendments 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.

INTRODUCTION

This standard is part of IEC 61000 series, according to the following structure:

Part 1: General

General considerations (introduction, fundamental principles)

Definitions, terminology

Part 2: Environment

Description of the environment

Classification of the environment

Compatibility levels

Part 3: Limits

Emission limits

Immunity limits (in so far as they do not fall under the responsibility of product committees)

Part 4: Testing and measurement techniques

Measurement techniques

Testing techniques

Part 5: Installation and mitigation guidelines

Installation guidelines

Mitigation methods and devices

Part 6: Generic standards

Part 9: Miscellaneous

Each part is further subdivided into several parts, published either as International Standards or as technical specifications or technical reports, some of which have already been published as sections. Others will be published with the part number followed by a dash and completed by a second number identifying the subdivision (example: 61000-6-1).

INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 2

This amendment contains the following main changes in comparison with IEC 61000-4-27:2000/AMD1:2009:

The angles in Table 1 (test levels) suggest a three-phase system with a negative phase sequence while the intention is to have a positive phase sequence and thus the signs and values of all angles in Table 1 should be corrected. In addition, the value of k_{u2} of class 2, test 3 is 28 % instead of 25 %. The Table 1 is modified accordingly

Class X is defined as special and levels 2 and 3 refers to Annex D instead of 61000-2-4.

U_N is deleted from Table 1, and it is moved to the new Clause 3 (Terms, definitions, and abbreviations). The definition 3.5 U_N nominal phase to neutral voltage is added.

In addition, the definition of rise and fall time is added (as in 61000-4-11:2020).

The text in Note 1 in Table 1 is deleted and replaced by “ U_b is lagging against U_a , and U_c is leading against U_a ”.

In Table 1 Add NOTE 2: The product committee may specify any test level; however, for equipment connected to public supply systems, it is recommended that the levels should not be lower than those defined for class 2.

The sentence under Table 1 becomes NOTE 2 in the Table 1.

Some changes are introduced also in Table 2 (Characteristics of the generator). Main changes:

- Modified output current capability which must be able to provide a crest factor of at least 3 when U_N applied to calibration load.
- Modified voltage rise time adding (from 10 % to 90 %)
- Modified phase shifting
- Modified phase accuracy (put 50 Hz or 60 Hz).

In Clause 7 a sentence is added: The equipment under test (EUT) is set up at a steady mains voltage

In subclause 8.2 the last sentence “After each group of tests a full functional check shall be performed.” Is deleted. In addition, Figure 2 is simplified.

In Clause 10 updated Figures 1 and 2 are included.

A new informative Annex B is proposed which includes two different calculation methods:

- method 1 does not require complex or vector calculus.
- method 2 uses phasors and matrices but is more compact.

Both methods are mathematically equivalent.

1 Scope and object

This part of IEC 61000 is a basic EMC (electromagnetic compatibility) publication. It considers immunity tests for electric and/or electronic equipment (apparatus and system) in its electromagnetic environment. Only conducted phenomena are considered, including immunity tests for equipment connected to public and industrial networks.

The object of this standard is to establish a reference for evaluating the immunity of electrical and electronic equipment when subjected to unbalanced power supply voltage.

This standard applies to 50 Hz/60 Hz three-phase powered electrical and/or electronic equipment with rated line current up to 16 A per phase.

This standard does not apply to equipment with three-phase plus neutral connection if that equipment operates as a group of single-phase loads connected between phase and neutral.

This standard does not apply to electrical and/or electronic equipment connected to a.c. 400 Hz distribution networks.

This standard does not include tests for the zero-sequence unbalance factor.

The immunity test levels required for a specific electromagnetic environment together with performance criteria are indicated in the product, product family or generic standards as applicable. This immunity test should be included in product, product family or generic standards when equipment is likely to show reduced performance or function when exposed to a supply voltage with voltage unbalance.

The verification of the reliability of electrical components (capacitors, motors, etc.) and long-term effects (greater than a few minutes) is not considered in this standard.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of IEC 61000. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of IEC 61000 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

IEC 60050(161), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 161: Electromagnetic compatibility*

IEC 61000-2-4, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 2: Environment – Section 4: Compatibility levels in industrial plants for low-frequency conducted disturbances*