

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



Extended thermal cycling of PV modules – Test procedure

Cycle thermique étendu de modules PV – Procédure d'essai

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 27.160

ISBN 978-2-8322-6598-7

<p>Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.</p> <p>Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.</p>
--

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	5
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Sampling	7
5 Marking and documentation.....	7
6 Modifications	8
7 Test procedure	8
7.1 Initial evaluations.....	8
7.2 Thermal cycling test.....	8
7.2.1 Purpose.....	8
7.2.2 Apparatus.....	8
7.2.3 Procedure.....	8
7.3 Final evaluations.....	9
7.4 Requirements	10
8 Reporting.....	10
Annex A (normative) Calculation of the required number of thermal cycles	11
Annex B (informative) Acceleration factors based on deployed climate	14
Bibliography.....	17
Figure A.1 – Number of equivalent cycles as a function of maximum cycle temperature over maximum module operating temperature.....	11
Figure A.2 – Survivorship plot for a Weibull distribution with a shape parameter of 6 and a survivorship probability of 95% at 500 cycles	12
Figure B.1 – Plot of module cell temperature over the course of one day to illustrate the maximum temperature, maximum temperature change and temperature reversal terms	14
Figure B.2 – Combination of factors that indicate extended thermal cycling is advised for a specific location	15
Table 1 – Number of required thermal cycles, N_R	9
Table A.1 – Effect of sample size on test time.....	13
Table B.1 – Cell temperature factors.....	15
Table B.2 – Module and mounting specific model parameters	16

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**EXTENDED THERMAL CYCLING OF PV MODULES –
TEST PROCEDURE****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.

International Standard IEC 62892 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1537/FDIS	82/1560/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.

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.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication 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 IEC 61215 series defines test requirements for the design qualification of flat-plate PV modules for long-term operation in general open-air climates. IEC TS 62941 provides technical guidance in application of the type-approval testing.

This document, IEC 62892, supplements IEC 61215 by providing an extended thermal cycling test intended to differentiate PV modules with improved durability to thermal cycling and evaluate modules for deployment in locations most susceptible to thermal cycling type stress.

EXTENDED THERMAL CYCLING OF PV MODULES – TEST PROCEDURE

1 Scope

This document defines a test sequence that extends the thermal cycling test of IEC 61215-2. It is intended to differentiate PV modules with improved durability to thermal cycling and evaluate modules for deployment in locations most susceptible to thermal cycling type stress¹. This document is based on the ability for 95 % of the modules represented by the samples submitted for this test to pass an equivalency of 500 thermal cycles, as defined in IEC 61215-2:2016, 4.11.3, with a maximum power degradation of less than 5 %. Provisions are also provided to reduce overall test time by increasing the maximum cycle temperature and/or the number of modules submitted for test.

The test procedure in this document was developed based on analysis of the stress on tin-lead solder bonds on crystalline silicon solar cells in a glass superstrate type package. Changes to lead-free solder have an effect on the acceleration factors but not enough to change the overall results of this test. Monolithic type modules with integral cell interconnection do not suffer from this specific type of stress but there are still electrical connections within the module, for example between the integrated cell circuit and the module bus bars, that may be subject to wear out from thermal cycling. Flexible modules (without glass) are not stressed in the same way as those with glass superstrates or substrates, therefore use of the equivalency factor employed in this document may not be applicable to these modules.

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 61215-1:2016, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1: Test requirements*

IEC 61215-1-1, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1-1: Special requirements for testing of crystalline silicon terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules*

IEC 61215-1-2, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1-2: Special requirements for testing of thin-film Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) based photovoltaic (PV) modules*

IEC 61215-1-3, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1-3: Special requirements for testing of thin-film amorphous silicon based photovoltaic (PV) modules*

IEC 61215-1-4, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1-4: Special requirements for testing of thin-film Cu(In,Ga)(S,Se)₂ based photovoltaic (PV) modules*

¹ Guidance is provided in Annex B to assess if this test is warranted for the targeted deployment location.

IEC 61215-2:2016, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 2: Test procedures*

IEC 61730-1, *Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification – Part 1: Requirements for construction*

IEC 61730-2, *Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification – Part 2: Requirements for testing*

IEC TS 61836, *Solar photovoltaic energy systems – Terms, definitions and symbols*

IEC TS 62915, *Photovoltaic (PV) modules – Type approval, design and safety qualification – Retesting*

IEC TS 62941:2016, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Guideline for increased confidence in PV module design qualification and type approval*