



TECHNICAL REPORT

**Communication networks and systems for power utility automation -
Part 1-1: Introduction and overview**

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	5
1 Scope	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations	6
3.1 Terms and definitions	6
3.2 Abbreviated terms	8
4 Objectives	9
5 Approach of the IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] standard	10
5.1 Scope of application	10
5.2 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] within the IEC Power Utility control system reference architecture	11
5.3 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] within Smart Grid reference architecture	12
5.4 Standardization approach	12
5.5 How to cope with fast innovation of communication technology	13
5.6 Representation of functions and communication interfaces	13
5.7 Requirements for a physical communication system	16
6 Content of IEC 61850 (all parts) [1]	16
6.1 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] general requirements (parts 1 to 5)	16
6.2 Three pillars of interoperability and conformance testing (Part 6 and above)	17
6.3 Understanding the structure of the IEC 61850 documentation	18
6.4 IEC 61850 data modelling	20
6.4.1 Main principle (explained in IEC 61850-7-1 [28])	20
6.4.2 Standard name space introduction	22
6.4.3 Name space extension	23
6.5 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] communication services	23
6.6 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] SCL language	25
6.7 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] data and communication security	25
6.8 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] conformance testing	26
6.9 UCA/IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] international users' group	26
6.10 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] maintenance	26
6.11 Quality assurance process	27
7 IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] system life cycle	27
7.1 Reason for inclusion	27
7.2 Engineering-tools and parameters	27
7.3 Main tools and configuration data flows	28
7.4 Quality and life-cycle management	29
7.5 General requirements	29
Bibliography	30
Figure 1 – Scope of application of IEC 61850 (all parts) [1]	11
Figure 2 – Power utility control system reference architecture (IEC 62357 (all parts) [10])	12
Figure 3 – IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] specifying approach	13
Figure 4 – Interface model within substation and between substations	14
Figure 5 – Relationship between functions, logical nodes, and physical nodes (examples)	15

Figure 6 – Links between IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] parts.....	19
Figure 7 – IEC 61850 (all parts) [1] Data modelling.....	21
Figure 8 – Basic reference model.....	24
Figure 9 – Exchange of system parameters.....	28
Table 1 – Published versions of this technical report.....	5

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**Communication networks and systems for power utility automation -
Part 1-1: Introduction and overview**

FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.

2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.

3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.

4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.

5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.

6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.

7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.

8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.

9) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s), which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at <https://patents.iec.ch>. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

IEC TR 61850-1-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 57: Power systems management and associated information exchange. It is a Technical Report.

This document replaces the second edition of IEC TR 61850-1 published in 2013. The number has been changed from IEC TR 61850-1 to IEC TR 61850-1-1, as in the meantime there is also a document with the number IEC 61850-1-2. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) Updates to the TISSUE process.
- b) Descriptions of the namespace concepts.
- c) Renumbering the document from IEC 61850-1 to 61850-1-1.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
57/2859/DTR	57/2890/RVDTR

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

The language used for the development of this Technical Report is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61850 series, published under the general title *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

This corrected version of IEC TR 61850-1-1:2026 incorporates the following correction:

- Addition of bibliographic reference numbers in the content

INTRODUCTION

IEC 61850-1-1 is an introduction and overview of the [IEC 61850 \(all parts\) \[1\]](#) standard series. It describes the philosophy, work approach and contents of the other parts.

[Table 1](#) gives an overview of all published versions of this technical report.

Table 1 – Published versions of this technical report

Edition	Publication date	Webstore
Edition 1	2003-04	IEC TR 61850-1:2003
Edition 2	2013-03	IEC TR 61850-1:2013
Edition 1	2026-xx	IEC TR 61850-1-1:2026

1 Scope

This technical report is applicable to *power utility automation systems (PUAS)*. It defines the communication between intelligent electronic devices (IEDs) in such a system, and the related system requirements.

This part gives an introduction and overview of the [IEC 61850 \(all parts\) \[1\]](#) standard series. It refers to and might include text and figures coming from other parts of the [IEC 61850 \(all parts\) \[1\]](#) standard series.

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 61850 (series), *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*

Bibliography

- [1] IEC 61850 (all parts), *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*
- [2] IEEE 100:2000, *The Authoritative Dictionary of IEEE Standards Terms, Seventh Edition*
- [3] IEC 61850-6, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 6: Configuration description language for communication in electrical substations related to IEDs*
- [4] IEC 61850-7-2, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-2: Basic information and communication structure - Abstract communication service interface (ACSI)*
- [5] IEC 61850-7-410, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-410: Basic communication structure - Hydroelectric power plants - Communication for monitoring and control*
- [6] IEC 61850-7-420, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-420: Basic communication structure - Distributed energy resources and distribution automation logical nodes*
- [7] IEC 61400-25 (all parts), *Communications for monitoring and control of wind power plants*
- [8] IEC TR 61850-90-1, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 90-1: Use of IEC 61850 for the communication between substations*
- [9] IEC TR 61850-90-2, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 90-2: Using IEC 61850 for communication between substations and control centres*
- [10] IEC 62357 (all parts), *Power systems management and associated information exchange*
- [11] IEC 61970 (all parts), *Energy management system application program interface (EMS-API)*
- [12] IEC 61968 (all parts), *Application integration at electric utilities - System interfaces for distribution management*
- [13] IEC 61850-5:2013, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 5: Communication requirements for functions and device models*
- [14] IEC TR 61850-90-4, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 90-4: Network engineering guidelines*
- [15] IEC TS 61850-1-2, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 1-2: Guideline on extending IEC 61850*
- [16] IEC TS 61850-2, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 2: Glossary*
- [17] IEC 61850-3, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 3: General requirements*

- [18] IEC 61850-4, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 4: System and project management*
- [19] IEC 60870-5-101, *Telecontrol equipment and systems - Part 5-101: Transmission protocols - Companion standard for basic telecontrol tasks*
- [20] IEC 60870-5-104, *Telecontrol equipment and systems - Part 5-104: Transmission protocols - Network access for IEC 60870-5-101 using standard transport profiles*
- [21] IEC TS 61850-80-1, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 80-1: Guideline to exchanging information from a CDC-based data model using IEC 60870-5-101 or IEC 60870-5-104*
- [22] IEC TR 61850-7-5, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-5: IEC 61850 modelling concepts*
- [23] IEC 61850-7-4, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-4: Basic communication structure - Compatible logical node classes and data object classes*
- [24] IEC 61850-7-3, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-3: Basic communication structure - Common data classes*
- [25] IEC 61850-8-1, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 8-1: Specific communication service mapping (SCSM) - Mappings to MMS (ISO 9506-1 and ISO 9506-2) and to ISO/IEC 8802-3*
- [26] IEC 61850-9-2, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 9-2: Specific communication service mapping (SCSM) - Sampled values over ISO/IEC 8802-3*
- [27] IEC 61850-10, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 10: Conformance testing*
- [28] IEC 61850-7-1, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-1: Basic communication structure - Principles and models*
- [29] IEC 61850-7 (all parts), *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Basic communication structure*
- [30] IEC TS 61850-7-7, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation - Part 7-7: Machine-processable format of IEC 61850-related data models for tools*
- [31] IEC 60870-5-103, *Telecontrol equipment and systems - Part 5-103: Transmission protocols - Companion standard for the informative interface of protection equipment*
- [32] IEC 81346-1, *Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products - Structuring principles and reference designations - Part 1: Basic rules*
- [33] IEC 62351 (all parts), *Power systems management and associated information exchange - Data and communications security*
- [34] ISO 9001:2008, *Quality management systems - Requirements*