

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



**Solar thermal electric plants –
Part 3-3: Systems and components – General requirements and test methods
for solar receivers**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 27.160

ISBN 978-2-8322-7784-3

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references	8
3 Terms, definitions, symbols and units	9
4 Performance test of the receiver	9
4.1 General.....	9
4.2 Identification and geometry	9
4.3 Manufacturer's instructions	9
4.4 Calibration of testing instrumentation	9
4.5 Heat loss test.....	9
4.5.1 General	9
4.5.2 Objective	10
4.5.3 Receiver tube setup and location	10
4.5.4 Inspection.....	11
4.5.5 Test methodology – Resistance heating method	11
4.5.6 Test methodology – Joule effect method.....	15
4.5.7 Thermal emittance (optional)	21
4.5.8 Heat loss and emittance curve models.....	22
4.5.9 Test report.....	24
4.6 Optical characterization test.....	24
4.6.1 General	24
4.6.2 Objective	24
4.6.3 Method of non-destructive optical characterization (optional).....	27
4.6.4 Optical efficiency test – A transient method (optional).....	28
4.6.5 Optical efficiency test (optional).....	31
4.7 Durability tests for the receiver	34
4.7.1 General	34
4.7.2 Antireflective glass envelope coating durability tests	34
4.7.3 Impact resistance test (optional)	37
4.7.4 External and/or internal thermal shock test	40
4.7.5 Thermal stability test of absorber selective coatings for full receiver tube	40
4.7.6 Thermal stability of selective absorber coatings for coated stainless-steel samples	41
4.7.7 Thermal cycling test.....	43
4.7.8 Bellows test.....	44
Annex A (informative) Test report form	48
A.1 Description of receiver tube (supplied by the manufacturer)	48
A.1.1 General specifications	48
A.1.2 Size and construction parameters of the receiver tube tested	48
A.1.3 Optical and thermal parameters (nominal temperature).....	48
A.1.4 Operating parameters	48
A.1.5 Interfaces	49
A.2 Test results – Heat loss	49
A.2.1 Details of test SETUP	49
A.2.2 Heat loss test	49

A.2.3	Linear fit of heat loss results to absorber temperature	50
A.2.4	Linear fit of emittance data to absorber temperature	50
A.3	Test results, optical characterization test	50
A.4	Test results, optical efficiency test	51
A.4.1	General	51
A.4.2	Details of test SETUP	51
A.4.3	Solar simulator test (if relevant, depending on test method).....	51
A.5	Test results – Stationary abrasion resistance test	51
A.5.1	Test conditions	51
A.5.2	Results	51
A.6	Test results – Condensation test.....	51
A.7	Test results – Impact resistance test: Method 1 – Ice balls.....	52
A.7.1	Test conditions	52
A.7.2	Procedure.....	52
A.7.3	Test results.....	52
A.8	Test results – Impact resistance test: Method 2 – Steel balls	52
A.8.1	Test conditions	52
A.8.2	Procedure.....	52
A.8.3	Test results.....	52
A.9	Test results – Thermal stability test of absorber selective coating for full receiver tube.....	52
A.9.1	Test conditions	52
A.9.2	Test results.....	52
A.10	Test results – Thermal stability test of absorber selective coated stainless-steel samples.....	53
A.10.1	Instrumentation.....	53
A.10.2	Test conditions	53
A.10.3	Test results.....	53
A.11	Test results – Thermal cycling test.....	53
A.11.1	Test conditions	53
A.11.2	Test results.....	53
A.12	Test results – Bellows test	53
A.12.1	Test conditions	53
A.12.2	Test results.....	53
Annex B (informative) Application notes: Temperature measurement in heat-loss test with cartridge heater – Temperature measurement offset correction		54
Bibliography.....		55
Figure 1 – Solar receiver schematic sketch		7
Figure 2 – Resistance heating method schematic sketch		16
Figure 3 – Test bench for heat loss measurements of solar receiver tubes.....		18
Figure 4 – Position of thermocouples and sections of voltage measurement		19
Figure 5 – Example heat loss curve		23
Figure 6 – Measurement principle		27
Figure 7 – Test bench for optical efficiency – Transient method		29
Figure 8 – Schematic of abrasion equipment.....		35
Figure 9 – Drawing of receiver rotation in abrasion equipment for a tube or piece.....		35
Figure 10 – Example of a test bench for testing bellows fatigue		45

Table 1 – Evaluation periods.....	12
Table 2 – Stability requirements.....	12
Table 3 – Evaluation periods.....	19
Table 4 – Stability requirements.....	20
Table 5 – Permitted deviation of measured parameters during a measurement period	30
Table 7 – Ice ball test mass and speed	38
Table 8 – Monitored parameters during waiting period	41

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SOLAR THERMAL ELECTRIC PLANTS –**Part 3-3: Systems and components –
General requirements and test methods for solar receivers**

FOREWORD

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- the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts, or
- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

Technical Specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 62862-3-3, which is a Technical Specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 117: Solar thermal electric plants.

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

Draft TS	Report on voting
117/104/DTS	117/107/RVDTS

Full information on the voting for the approval of this Technical Specification 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.

A list of all parts in the IEC 62862 series, published under the general title *Solar thermal electric plants*, 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 "<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 receiver is one of the most important and most sensitive components of Fresnel and parabolic trough power plants. Large mirrors are aligned to concentrate solar radiation up to 80 times along the focal line of the mirrors onto the specially coated, evacuated receivers. The generated heat is transported to a power generation unit, using a heat transfer fluid, and converted to electricity.

The quality and long-term performance stability of the receiver has a decisive influence on how effectively solar radiation can be converted into heat. For the power plant to achieve maximum efficiency, the receiver has to absorb as much solar radiation as possible and convert it into heat with minimized losses.

The solar receiver (see schematic in Figure 1) mainly consists of:

- a steel absorber tube: heat transfer fluid flows through the stainless-steel absorber tube. A high-quality absorber coating converts the solar radiation into heat and minimizes infrared heat loss at the same time;
- a glass cover tube: the cover is made from borosilicate glass and is coated with an antireflective film to increase solar transmittance;
- evacuated space (annulus) or filled with noble gas between absorber tube and glass cover tube: the vacuum between steel absorber and glass cover is essential to suppress gas heat convection;
- bellows: the bellows are necessary to compensate for different rates of heat expansion of the steel absorber and the glass cover. In contrast to the glass cover, the hot absorber expands considerably when operating.

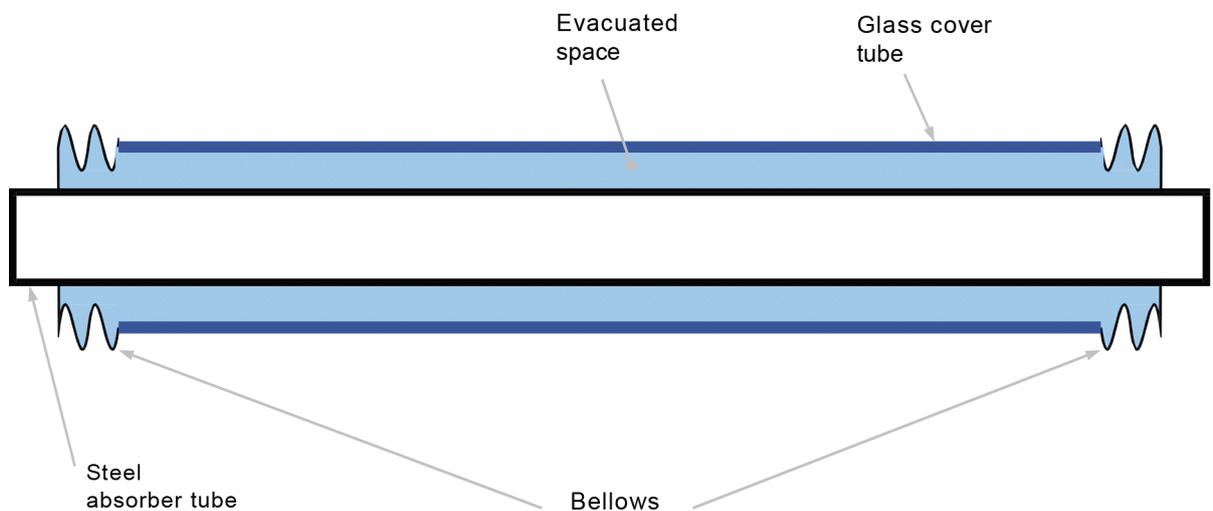


Figure 1 – Solar receiver schematic sketch

SOLAR THERMAL ELECTRIC PLANTS –

Part 3-3: Systems and components – General requirements and test methods for solar receivers

1 Scope

This document specifies the technical requirements, tests, durability and technical performance parameters of solar thermal receivers for absorbing concentrated solar radiation and transferring the heat to a fluid used in concentrated solar thermal power plants with linear-focus solar collectors. The receivers addressed consist of an absorber tube and an insulating glass envelope tube.

NOTE 1 Most of the test methods included in this document apply to solar receivers used both in solar thermal electric plants with parabolic-trough and Fresnel collectors.

This document includes the definitions of technical properties and characterization of geometry and performance parameters as well as the test methods for optical characterization, heat loss, and durability.

NOTE 2 The experience accumulated so far regarding the different test methods currently available for receiver tubes is not extensive enough to determine which test method is the best; this document describes all the different methods currently available without defining one recommended method.

For the sake of clarity, it is stated here that the thermal loss tests described in this document do not deliver the thermal loss of the receiver tubes when they are installed in commercial solar fields.

Thermal losses obtained by indoor testing on a single receiver are significantly lower than the thermal losses in outdoor, real operating conditions at commercial solar fields. However, the indoor test procedures described in this document are suitable for receiver tube performance comparison.

The thermal losses taken into account for solar field design are obtained by testing complete collectors operating under real solar conditions.

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 TS 62862-1-1, *Solar thermal electric plants – Part 1-1: Terminology*

ISO 6270-2:2017, *Paints and varnishes – Determination of resistance to humidity – Part 2: Condensation (in-cabinet exposure with heated water reservoir)*

ISO 9806:2017, *Solar energy – Solar thermal collectors – Test methods*

ISO 9488:1999, *Solar energy – Vocabulary*

MIL-E-12397 – *Eraser, Rubber-Pumice (for testing coated optical elements)*

ASTM G173 – 03 – Standard Tables for Reference Solar Spectral Irradiances: Direct Normal and Hemispherical on 37° Tilted Surface