

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Arc welding equipment –  
Part 3: Arc striking and stabilizing devices**

**Matériel de soudage à l'arc –  
Partie 3: Dispositifs d'amorçage et de stabilisation de l'arc**



## THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2019 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.

Droits de reproduction réservés. Sauf indication contraire, aucune partie de cette publication ne peut être reproduite ni utilisée sous quelque forme que ce soit et par aucun procédé, électronique ou mécanique, y compris la photocopie et les microfilms, sans l'accord écrit de l'IEC ou du Comité national de l'IEC du pays du demandeur. Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de l'IEC ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de l'IEC de votre pays de résidence.

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

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://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](http://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 It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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](http://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](http://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](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

#### Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 000 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 16 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

#### IEC Glossary - [std.iec.ch/glossary](http://std.iec.ch/glossary)

67 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

### A propos de l'IEC

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

### A propos des publications IEC

Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

#### Recherche de publications IEC - [webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)

La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études,...). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

#### IEC Just Published - [webstore.iec.ch/justpublished](http://webstore.iec.ch/justpublished)

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et une fois par mois par email.

#### Service Clients - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

#### Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)

Le premier dictionnaire d'électrotechnologie en ligne au monde, avec plus de 22 000 articles terminologiques en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 16 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

#### Glossaire IEC - [std.iec.ch/glossary](http://std.iec.ch/glossary)

67 000 entrées terminologiques électrotechniques, en anglais et en français, extraites des articles Termes et Définitions des publications IEC parues depuis 2002. Plus certaines entrées antérieures extraites des publications des CE 37, 77, 86 et CISPR de l'IEC.

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

---

**Arc welding equipment –  
Part 3: Arc striking and stabilizing devices**

**Matériel de soudage à l'arc –  
Partie 3: Dispositifs d'amorçage et de stabilisation de l'arc**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
ELECTROTECHNIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

---

ICS 25.160.30

ISBN 978-2-8322-6498-0

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

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms and definitions .....	6
4 Environmental conditions.....	7
5 Tests.....	7
5.1 Test conditions .....	7
5.2 Measuring instruments.....	7
5.3 Conformity of components .....	7
5.4 Type tests.....	7
5.5 Routine tests.....	8
5.5.1 Stand-alone unit .....	8
5.5.2 Built-in unit .....	8
6 Protection against electric shock .....	8
6.1 Insulation .....	8
6.1.1 General .....	8
6.1.2 Clearances .....	8
6.1.3 Creepage distances .....	8
6.1.4 Insulation resistance.....	9
6.1.5 Dielectric strength.....	9
6.2 Protection against electric shock in normal service (direct contact) .....	10
6.3 Protection against electric shock in case of a fault condition (indirect contact) .....	10
6.4 Protective provision .....	10
7 Thermal requirements.....	10
8 Thermal protection.....	10
9 Abnormal operation .....	10
10 Connection to the supply network .....	11
11 Output .....	11
11.1 Rated peak voltage .....	11
11.2 Impulse current .....	12
11.2.1 Risk of electric shock.....	12
11.2.2 Electric charge.....	12
11.2.3 Direct contact .....	12
11.2.4 Series contact.....	13
11.3 Mean energy .....	14
11.4 Output circuit capacitance discharging .....	15
11.5 Additional requirements .....	15
12 Control circuits .....	16
13 Hazard reducing device .....	16
14 Mechanical provisions .....	16
15 Rating plate .....	16
15.1 General requirements .....	16
15.2 Description .....	17
15.3 Contents .....	17

16	Adjustment of the output.....	18
17	Instructions and markings.....	18
17.1	Instructions .....	18
17.2	Markings .....	18
	Annex A (informative) Examples of coupling systems for arc striking and stabilizing devices .....	19
	Annex B (informative) Example of a rating plate.....	20
	Bibliography .....	21
	Figure 1 – Rated peak voltage .....	11
	Figure 2 – Measurement of electric charge of impulse current.....	12
	Figure 3 – Measuring circuit for direct contact.....	13
	Figure 4 – Measuring circuit for serial contact.....	14
	Figure 5 – Measurement of mean energy .....	15
	Figure 6 – Measuring circuit for capacitance discharging .....	15
	Figure 7 – Rating plate .....	17
	Figure A.1 – Examples of coupling systems for arc striking and stabilizing devices .....	19
	Figure B.1 – Stand-alone unit .....	20
	Table 1 – Minimum clearances and creepage distances for arc striking and stabilizing circuits.....	9
	Table 2 – Maximum peak voltages .....	11

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**ARC WELDING EQUIPMENT –****Part 3: Arc striking and stabilizing devices****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 60974-3 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 26: Electric welding.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2013 and constitutes a technical revision.

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

- changes induced by the publication of IEC 60974-1:2017;
- reference to IEC 60974-1:2017/AMD1:2019 in Clause 2;
- Figure 2 is updated where a subtraction of the proportion of the no-load voltage is shown;
- requirement for safe operation of the arc striking and stabilising devices in the event of failure, in 11.5;
- requirements for the rating plate as in IEC 60974-1:2017, Clause 15.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
26/671/FDIS	26/676/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.

In this document, the following print types are used:

- conformity statements: in *italic* type.
- terms used throughout this document which have been defined in Clause 3: SMALL CAPITALS.

This International Standard is to be read in conjunction with IEC 60974-1:2017.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 60974 series, published under the general title *Arc welding equipment*, 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.

## ARC WELDING EQUIPMENT –

### Part 3: Arc striking and stabilizing devices

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60974 specifies safety requirements for industrial and professional ARC STRIKING and ARC STABILIZING DEVICES used in arc welding and allied processes.

This document is applicable to ARC STRIKING and STABILIZING DEVICES which are stand-alone (separate from the welding equipment) or built in (housed in a single enclosure with other arc welding equipment).

NOTE 1 Typical allied processes are, for example, plasma arc cutting and arc spraying.

NOTE 2 This document does not include electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) requirements.

#### 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 60974-1:2017, *Arc welding equipment – Part 1: Welding power sources*  
IEC 60974-1:2017/AMD1:2019

IEC 60974-7:2013, *Arc welding equipment – Part 7: Torches*

IEC 61140, *Protection against electric shock – Common aspects for installation and equipment*

#### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60974-1 and IEC 60974-7 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

##### 3.1

##### **arc striking device**

device which superimposes a voltage on the welding circuit to ignite an arc

##### 3.2

##### **arc stabilizing device**

device which superimposes a voltage on the welding circuit to maintain an arc