

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear –
Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and
motor-starters**

**Appareillage à basse tension –
Partie 4-1: Contacteurs et démarreurs de moteurs – Contacteurs et démarreurs
électromécaniques**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

**Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters –
Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters**

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International Standard IEC 60947-4-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 17B: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear, of IEC technical committee 17: Switchgear and controlgear.

This third edition replaces the second edition published in 2000 and its Amendments 1 (2002) and 2 (2005). It is a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition (2000) and its Amendments 1 (2002) and 2 (2005):

- deletion of the test at -5 °C and $+20\text{ °C}$ for thermal overload relays that are not compensated for ambient air temperature;
- addition of conditions of the tests according to Annex Q of IEC 60947-1;
- EMC tests: clarification of acceptance criteria and alignment with IEC 60947-1 for fast transient severity level;
- Annex B, test for Icd: modification of the duration of the dielectric test voltage from 5 s to 60 s;

- Annex B, electrical durability: improvement of the statistical aspects;
- Annex H: clarification and introduction of new extended functions within electronic overload relays;
- Annex K, procedure to determine data for electromechanical contactors used in functional safety applications: creation of this new annex.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
17B/1674/FDIS	17B/1677/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 2.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60947 series can be found, under the general title *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear*, on the IEC website.

This standard shall be read in conjunction with IEC 60947-1, *Low voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 1: General rules*. The provisions of the general rules are applicable to this standard, where specifically called for.

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- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition; or
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LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters

1 Scope and object

1.1 Scope

This part of IEC 60947 applies to the types of equipment listed in 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 whose main contacts are intended to be connected to circuits the rated voltage of which does not exceed 1 000 V a.c. or 1 500 V d.c.

Starters and/or contactors dealt with in this standard are not normally designed to interrupt short-circuit currents. Therefore, suitable short-circuit protection (see 9.3.4) forms part of the installation but not necessarily of the contactor or the starter.

In this context, this standard gives requirements for:

- contactors associated with overload and/or short-circuit protective devices;
- starters associated with separate short-circuit protective devices and/or with separate short-circuit and integrated overload protective devices;
- contactors or starters combined, under specified conditions, with their own short-circuit protective devices. Such combinations, e.g. combination starters or protected starters are rated as units.

For circuit-breakers and fuse-combination units used as short-circuit protective devices in combination starters and in protected starters, the requirements of IEC 60947-2 and IEC 60947-3 respectively apply.

Equipment covered by this standard is as follows.

1.1.1 AC and DC contactors

AC and DC contactors intended for closing and opening electric circuits and, if combined with suitable relays (see 1.1.2), for protecting these circuits against operating overloads which may occur therein.

NOTE For contactors combined with suitable relays and which are intended to provide short-circuit protection, the relevant conditions specified for circuit-breakers (IEC 60947-2) additionally apply.

This standard applies also to the actuators of contactor relays and to the contacts dedicated exclusively to the coil circuit of a contactor.

Contactors or starters with an electronically controlled electromagnet are also covered by this standard.

1.1.2 AC motor-starters

AC motor-starters intended to start and accelerate motors to normal speed, to ensure continuous operation of motors, to switch off the supply from the motor and to provide means for the protection of motors and associated circuits against operating overloads.

For overload relays for starters, including those based on electronic technology with or without extended functions according to Annex H, the requirements of this standard apply.

1.1.2.1 Direct-on-line (full voltage) a.c. starters

Direct-on-line starters intended to start and accelerate a motor to normal speed, to provide means for the protection of the motor and its associated circuits against operating overloads, and to switch off the supply from the motor.

This standard applies also to reversing starters.

1.1.2.2 Reduced voltage a.c. starters

Reduced voltage a.c. starters intended to start and accelerate a motor to normal speed by connecting the line voltage across the motor terminals in more than one step or by gradually increasing the voltage applied to the terminals, to provide means for the protection of the motor and its associated circuits against operating overloads, and to switch off the supply from the motor.

Automatic change-over devices may be used to control the successive switching operations from one step to the others. Such automatic change-over devices are, for example, time-delay contactor relays or specified time all-or-nothing relays, under-current devices and automatic acceleration control devices (see 5.10).

1.1.2.2.1 Star-delta starters

Star-delta starters intended to start a three-phase motor in the star connection, to ensure continuous operation in the delta connection, to provide means for the protection of the motor and its associated circuits against operating overloads, and to switch off the supply from the motor.

The star-delta starters dealt with in this standard are not intended for reversing motors rapidly and, therefore, utilization category AC-4 does not apply.

NOTE In the star connection, the current in the line and the torque of the motor are about one-third of the corresponding values for delta connection. Therefore, star-delta starters are used when the inrush current due to the starting is to be limited, or when the driven machine requires a limited torque for starting. Figure 1 indicates typical curves of starting current, of starting torque of the motor and of torque of the driven machine.

1.1.2.2.2 Two-step auto-transformer starters

Two-step auto-transformer starters, intended to start and accelerate an a.c. induction motor from rest with reduced torque to normal speed and to provide means for the protection of the motor and its associated circuits against operating overloads, and to switch off the supply from the motor.

This standard applies to auto-transformers which are part of the starter or which constitute a unit specially designed to be associated with the starter.

Auto-transformer starters with more than two steps are not covered by this standard.

The auto-transformer starters dealt with in this standard are not intended for inching duty or reversing motors rapidly and, therefore, utilization category AC-4 does not apply.

NOTE In the starting position, the current in the line and the torque of the motor related to the motor starting with rated voltage are reduced approximately as the square of the ratio (starting voltage):(rated voltage). Therefore, auto-transformer starters are used when the inrush current due to the starting is to be limited or when the driven machine requires a limited torque for starting. Figure 2 indicates typical curves of starting current, of starting torque of the motor and of torque of the driven machine.

1.1.2.3 Rheostatic rotor starters

Starters intended to start an a.c. induction motor having a wound rotor by cutting out resistors previously inserted in the rotor circuit, to provide means for the protection of the motor against operating overloads and to switch off the supply from the motor.

In the case of asynchronous slip-ring motors (wound-rotors), the highest voltage between open slip-rings is not greater than twice the rated insulation voltage of the switching devices inserted in the rotor circuit (see 5.3.1.1.2).

NOTE This requirement is based on the fact that the electric stresses are less severe in the rotor than in the stator and are of short duration.

This standard applies also to starters for two directions of rotation when reversal of connections is made with the motor stopped (see 5.3.5.5). Operations including inching and plugging necessitate additional requirements and are subject to agreement between manufacturer and user.

This standard applies to resistors which are part of the starter or constitute a unit specially designed to be associated with the starter.

1.2 Exclusions

This standard does not apply to:

- d.c. starters;
- star-delta starters, rheostatic rotor starters, two-step auto-transformer starters intended for special applications and designed for continuous operation in the starting position;
- unbalanced rheostatic rotor starters, i.e. where the resistances do not have the same value in all phases;
- equipment designed not only for starting, but also for adjustment of speed;
- liquid starters and those of the "liquid-vapour" type;
- semiconductor contactors and starters making use of semiconductor contactors in the main circuit;
- rheostatic stator starters;
- contactors or starters designed for special applications;
- auxiliary contacts of contactors and contacts of contactor relays. These are dealt with in IEC 60947-5-1.

1.3 Object

The object of this standard is to state:

- a) the characteristics of contactors and starters and associated equipment;
- b) the conditions applicable to contactors and starters with reference to:
 - 1) their operation and behaviour,
 - 2) their dielectric properties,
 - 3) the degrees of protection provided by their enclosures, where applicable,
 - 4) their construction;
- c) the tests intended for confirming that these conditions have been met, and the methods to be adopted for these tests;
- d) the information to be given with the equipment or in the manufacturer's literature.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60034-1:2004, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 1: Rating and performance*

IEC 60085:2007, *Electrical insulation – Thermal evaluation and designation*

IEC 60300-3-5:2001, *Dependability management – Part 3-5: Application guide – Reliability test conditions and statistical test principles*

IEC 60410:1973, *Sampling plans and procedures for inspection by attributes*

IEC 60947-1:2007, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 1: General rules*

IEC 60947-2:2006, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 2: Circuit-breakers*

IEC 60947-3:2008, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 3: Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse-combination units*

IEC 60947-5-1:2003, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 5-1: Control circuit devices and switching elements – Electromechanical control circuit devices*

IEC 61000-4-2:2008, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-2: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrostatic discharge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-3:2006, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-3: Testing and measurement techniques – Radiated, radio-frequency, electromagnetic field immunity test*
Amendment 1 (2007)

IEC 61000-4-4:2004, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-4: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrical fast transient/burst immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-5:2005, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-5: Testing and measurement techniques – Surge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-6:2008, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-6: Testing and measurement techniques – Immunity to conducted disturbances, induced by radio-frequency fields*

IEC 61439-1:2009, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies – Part 1: General rules*

IEC 61508 (all parts), *Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems*

IEC 61511 (all parts), *Functional safety – Safety instrumented systems for the process industry sector*

IEC 61513:2001, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation and control for systems important to safety – General requirements for systems*

IEC 61649:2008, *Weibull analysis*

IEC 61810-1:2008, *Electromechanical elementary relays – Part 1: General requirements*
(available in English only)

IEC 62061:2005, *Safety of machinery – Functional safety of safety-related electrical, electronic and programmable electronic control systems*

CISPR 11:2003, *Industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) radio-frequency equipment – Electromagnetic disturbance characteristics – Limits and methods of measurement*

Amendment 1 (2004)

Amendment 2 (2006)

ISO 13849-1:2006, *Safety of machinery – Safety-related parts of control systems – Part 1: General principles for design*

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 General

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions of Clause 2 of IEC 60947-1, as well as the following terms, definitions, symbol and abbreviations apply.

3.2 Alphabetical index of terms

	Reference
A	
auto-transformer starter	3.4.5.2
C	
closed transition (with an auto-transformer starter or star-delta starter)	3.4.23
combination starter	3.4.8
combination switching device	3.4.27
CO operation	3.5.2
contactor (mechanical)	3.3.1
D	
direct-on-line starter	3.4.2
E	
electromagnetic contactor	3.3.2
electromagnetic starter	3.4.10
electronic overload relay with current imbalance detection	H.2.2
electronic overload relay with ground/earth fault function	H.2.1
electronic overload relay with phase reversal function	H.2.4
electronic overload relay with under power detection	H.2.6
electronically energized coil of electromagnet	3.3.8
electro-pneumatic contactor	3.3.4
electro-pneumatic starter	3.4.13
I	
inching (jogging)	3.4.24
inhibit current (I_{IC})	H.2.7
inhibit time	3.4.30
J	
jam sensitive (electronic overload) relay	3.4.29
L	
latched contactor	3.3.5