

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Photovoltaic (PV) modules – Salt mist corrosion testing

Modules photovoltaïques (PV) – Essai de corrosion au brouillard salin



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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 27.160

ISBN 978-2-8322-8232-8

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
1 Scope	5
2 Normative references	5
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Samples	6
5 Test summary	6
6 Test sequence	7
6.1 General	7
6.2 Stabilization	7
6.3 Initial and final measurements of non-concentrator modules	7
6.4 Initial and final measurements of concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) modules	7
6.5 Salt mist test procedure	7
6.6 Cleaning and recovery	7
6.7 Measurements after salt mist	8
6.8 Bypass diode test	8
6.8.1 Purpose	8
6.8.2 Procedure	8
6.8.3 Requirements	8
7 Requirements	8
7.1 General	8
7.2 Non-concentrator PV modules	8
7.3 Concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) modules	9
8 Test report	9
Annex A (normative) Guidance for the selection of appropriate test method according to IEC 60068-2-52	12
A.1 Overview	12
A.2 Recommendations for applying this document and selecting test methods 1 through 8	12
A.2.1 General	12
A.2.2 Test method 1	13
A.2.3 Test method 2	13
A.2.4 Test methods 3 to 6	13
A.2.5 Test methods 7 and 8	13
Figure 1 – Salt mist corrosion testing sequence for non-concentrator PV modules	10
Figure 2 – Salt mist corrosion testing sequence for concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) modules	11
Table A.1 – Simplified guidance for determining corrosivity classifications according to ISO 9223 and test methods correlating to one-year corrosivity based on mass loss of steel coupons	14

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**PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES –
SALT MIST CORROSION TESTING****FOREWORD**

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International Standard IEC 61701 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition issued in 2011. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

The main technical changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows:

- The scope has been updated to better reflect the applicability of the Standard.
- Test methods and requirements have been condensed and aligned with the new editions of IEC 61215-1, IEC 61215-2, and IEC 61730-2. References to crystalline silicon versus thin film technologies have been eliminated. The old Figure 2 on the thin film test sequence has been eliminated.
- The salt mist test references have been updated to harmonize with changes to IEC 60068-2-52.

- A normative annex A has been added to provide guidance on which of the test methods in IEC 60068-2-52 are applicable to different applications. This includes references to new test methods in the latest edition of IEC 60068-2-52.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1693/FDIS	82/1725/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.

PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – SALT MIST CORROSION TESTING

1 Scope

Photovoltaic (PV) modules are electrical devices normally intended for continuous outdoor exposure during their lifetime. Highly corrosive wet atmospheres, such as marine environments or locations near the ocean or other large bodies of salt water, could eventually degrade some of the PV module components (corrosion of metallic parts, deterioration of the properties of some non-metallic materials – such as protective coatings and plastics – by assimilation of salts, etc.) causing permanent degradation that could impair their functioning. Temporary corrosive atmospheres are also present in places where salt is used in winter periods to melt ice formations on streets and roads.

This document describes test sequences useful to determine the resistance of different PV modules to corrosion from salt mist containing Cl (NaCl, MgCl₂, etc.). All tests included in the sequences are fully described in IEC 61215-2, IEC 62108, IEC 61730-2 and IEC 60068-2-52. The bypass diode functionality test in this document is modified from its description in IEC 61215-2. They are combined in this document to provide means to evaluate possible faults caused in PV modules when operating under wet atmospheres having high concentration of dissolved salt (NaCl). Depending on the specific nature of the surrounding atmosphere to which the module is exposed in real operation several testing methods can be applied, as defined in IEC 60068-2-52. Guidance for determining the applicability of this document and selecting an appropriate method is provided in Annex A.

This document can be applied to both flat plate PV modules and concentrator PV modules and assemblies.

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 60068-2-52, *Environmental testing – Part 2-52: Tests – Test Kb: Salt mist, cyclic (sodium chloride solution)*

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

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

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 62108, *Concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) modules and assemblies – Design qualification and type approval*

ISO 9223, *Corrosion of metals and alloys – Corrosivity of atmospheres – Classification, determination and estimation*

*ISO 9227, Corrosion tests in artificial atmospheres — Salt spray tests***3 Terms and definitions**

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC TS 61836 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>

4 Samples

Three identical samples of the model of PV module or assembly of interest shall be subjected to any of the testing sequences included in Figure 1 or Figure 2 for non-concentrator PV or concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) respectively. As the figures indicate one of these samples should be used as a control. The control sample should be used as a check every time the test samples are measured to evaluate the effect of the salt mist test.

In the case of CPV different situations for choosing the sample may occur. For non-field-adjustable focus-point CPV systems or modules, 3 modules are required to complete the testing sequence included in Figure 2. For field-adjustable focus-point CPV systems or assemblies, 3 receivers (including secondary optics sections, if applicable) and 3 primary optics sections are required to complete the testing sequence included in Figure 2. A complete description of the different types and components of CPV modules and assemblies can be found in IEC 62108.

If a full-size sample is too large to fit into the environmental chambers required for the salt mist test then a smaller representative sample may be specially designed and manufactured for this test. The representative sample should be carefully designed so that it can reveal similar failure mechanisms as the full-size one, and the fabrication process of the representative sample should be as identical as possible to the process of the full-size ones. The fact that the test has been made on representative samples and not on the full-size samples shall be reported in the test report under item g), Clause 8.

If the PV module is provided with means for earthing then the earthing connection shall be tested as part of the module.

5 Test summary

After stabilization, tests are performed to characterize the PV module and confirm it is operational prior to the salt mist exposure. After the exposure, specimens are cleaned and allowed to recover. Then this sequence is repeated and the bypass diode functional test is performed.

All tests included in this document and in Figure 1 and Figure 2 are fully described (including purpose, apparatus, procedure and requirements) in the referenced clauses of the IEC Standards listed. Tests included in Figure 1 or Figure 2 shall be performed in the specified order. In the case of CPV if some test procedures included in this document are not applicable to a specific design configuration, the manufacturer and the testing agency shall tailor a comparable test program, based on the principles described in this document. Any changes and deviations shall be recorded and reported in detail, as required in Clause 8, item l).