

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Optical fibre cables –

Part 1-2: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – General guidance

Câbles à fibres optiques –

Partie 1-2: Spécification générique – Procédures fondamentales d'essais des câbles optiques – Recommandations générales



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2021 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
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

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 It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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

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

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: sales@iec.ch.

IEC online collection - oc.iec.ch

Discover our powerful search engine and read freely all the publications previews. With a subscription you will always have access to up to date content tailored to your needs.

Electropedia - 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 18 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

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

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

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

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

IEC online collection - oc.iec.ch

Découvrez notre puissant moteur de recherche et consultez gratuitement tous les aperçus des publications. Avec un abonnement, vous aurez toujours accès à un contenu à jour adapté à vos besoins.

Electropedia - 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.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Optical fibre cables –

Part 1-2: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – General guidance

Câbles à fibres optiques –

Partie 1-2: Spécification générique – Procédures fondamentales d'essais des câbles optiques – Recommandations générales

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 33.180.10

ISBN 978-2-8322-9248-8

Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.

Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	5
1 Scope	6
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 General guidance	7
4.1 Test procedure format	7
4.2 Standard atmospheric conditions	7
4.3 Symbols and abbreviated terms	8
4.4 Safety and environmental aspects	8
4.5 Calibration	8
4.5.1 Calibration process	8
4.5.2 Assessment of uncertainties	8
4.6 Preconditioning	9
4.7 Guide to qualification sampling	9
4.8 Optical launch conditions	9
4.9 Standard optical test wavelengths	9
Annex A (informative) Cross-references between new and old test method numbers	10
Bibliography	16
Table 1 – Document overview	6
Table 2 – Standard optical test wavelengths	9
Table 3 – Alternative optical test wavelengths	9
Table A.1 – IEC 60794-1-1xx series	10
Table A.2 – IEC 60794-1-2xx series	11
Table A.3 – IEC 60794-1-3xx series	12
Table A.4 – IEC 60794-1-4xx series	12
Table A.5 – IEC 60794-1-21 method numbers	12
Table A.6 – IEC 60794-1-22 method numbers	14
Table A.7 – IEC 60794-1-23 method numbers	14
Table A.8 – IEC 60794-1-24 method numbers	15

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES –**Part 1-2: Generic specification –
Basic optical cable test procedures –
General guidance**

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 60794-1-2 has been prepared by subcommittee 86A: Fibres and cables, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition published in 2017. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) addition of cross-reference tables listing the new test method numbers and the previous test method numbers.

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

CDV	Report on voting
86A/2009/CDV	86A/2057/RVC

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 International Standard is to be used in conjunction with IEC 60794-1-1.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60794 series, published under the general title *Optical fibre cables*, 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 web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

INTRODUCTION

A decision has been reached to reorganize the IEC 60794-1-2 set of test methods into single-subject documents. This will be a migration as the existing test methods are revised and as new test methods are promulgated, rather than a wholesale rewrite. Part of this migration is a decision to maintain the traditional letter-number classification and to use a numbering system which maintains connection to the existing numbering system.

The new test method numbering format has been agreed, in line with IEC Secretariat guidelines, to help the cross-referencing from old to new and that will make the updating of the relevant sectional and product specifications easier. Cross-reference tables listing the new test method numbers and the previous test method numbers have been included (see Annex A, Table A.1 to Table A.8).

The format agreed is as follows:

IEC 60794-1-Xnn

where

X = 2nd digit of the old 2-digit reference;

nn = incremental number (starting with old test method number).

For example:

IEC 60794-1-21 method E1 (tensile) becomes IEC 60794-1-101;

IEC 60794-1-22 method F5 (water penetration) becomes IEC 60794-1-205;

IEC 60794-1-23 method G7 (tube kinking) becomes IEC 60794-1-307;

IEC 60794-1-24 method H2 (lightning) becomes IEC 60794-1-402.

Annex A has been added to this document containing a cross-reference between the old and new number scheme.

OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES –

Part 1-2: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – General guidance

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60794-1 applies to optical fibre cables for use with telecommunications equipment and devices employing similar techniques, and to cables having a combination of both optical fibres and electrical conductors.

An objective of this document is to define general requirements and methodology guidance applicable to all of the cable test methods of IEC 60794-1 (all parts).

A second objective of this document is to provide the end user with an overview of the different test methods contained in the different parts of the IEC 60794-1 series, numbered -Xnn. Table 1 shows the different parts.

Table 1 – Document overview

Test methods	IEC reference	Previous compendium reference	Test method category reference letter
General guidance	IEC 60794-1-2	IEC 60794-1-2	-
Mechanical	IEC 60794-1-1nn	IEC 60794-1-21:2015	Methods E
Environmental	IEC 60794-1-2nn	IEC 60794-1-22:2017	Methods F
Cable elements	IEC 60794-1-3nn	IEC 60794-1-23:2019	Methods G
Electrical	IEC 60794-1-4nn	IEC 60794-1-24:2014	Methods H
NOTE 1 The compendium reference specifications detailed in column 3 will continue in force until all of the test methods therein are revised into the single-subject documents using the new numbering scheme. NOTE 2 For existing test methods, "nn" is the test method number. For new test methods, "nn" is an incremental number following the last test method number for that test category. NOTE 3 Several numbers in the test method numbering sequence are missing. The reasons for these omissions are historical. To avoid confusion, the existing numbering sequence has been retained.			

These documents define test procedures to be used in establishing uniform requirements for the geometrical, transmission, material, mechanical, ageing (environmental exposure) and climatic properties of optical fibre cables, and electrical requirements where appropriate.

Throughout the documents, the wording "optical cable" can also include optical fibre units, microduct fibre units, etc.

The secondary objective of this document is to provide the end user with useful guidance when testing optical fibre cables.

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 60793-1-40, *Optical fibres – Part 1-40: Attenuation measurement methods*

IEC 60793-1-46, *Optical fibres – Part 1-46: Measurement methods and test procedures – Monitoring of changes in optical transmittance*

IEC 60793-2-40, *Optical fibres – Part 2-40: Product specifications – Sectional specification for category A4 multimode fibres*

IEC 60794-1-1, *Optical fibre cables – Generic specification – General*

IEC 60794-1-21:2015, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-21: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Mechanical tests methods*

IEC 60794-1-22:2017, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-22: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Environmental test methods*

IEC 60794-1-23:2019, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-23: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Cable element test methods*

IEC 60794-1-24:2014, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-24: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Electrical test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60794-1-1 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 General guidance

4.1 Test procedure format

The standard descriptive order of each test method is in general as follows: object, sample, apparatus, procedure, requirement, details to be specified, details to be reported. Additional clauses may be inserted, whilst maintaining this general order.

4.2 Standard atmospheric conditions

Two sets of allowable ambient conditions for cable testing are defined for use in testing in this document:

- a) Standard test conditions
 - temperature: $+23\text{ °C} \pm 5\text{ °C}$
 - pressure: site ambient