IEC 61215-1-3

Edition 2.1 2022-03
CONSOLIDATED VERSION

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1-3: Special requirements for testing of thin-film amorphous silicon based photovoltaic (PV) modules

Modules photovoltaïques (PV) pour applications terrestres – qualification de la conception et homologation –
Partie 1-3: Exigences particulières d'essai des modules photovoltaïques (PV) au silicium amorphe à couches minces



IEC 61215-1-3:2021-02+AMD1:2022-03 CSV(en-fr)

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IEC 61215-1-3:2021-02+AMD1:2022-03 CSV(en-fr)

CONTENTS

FOREWORD 4
1 Scope 6
2 Normative references 7
3 Terms and definitions 7
4 Test samples 7
5 Marking and documentation 7
5.1 Name plate 7
5.2 Documentation 8
6 Testing 8
7 Pass criteria 8
8 Major visual defects 8
9 Report 8
10 Modifications 9
11 Test flow and procedures 9
11.1 Visual inspection (MQT 01) 9
11.2 Maximum power determination (MQT 02) 9
11.3 Insulation test (MQT 03) 9
11.4 Measurement of temperature coefficients (MQT 04) 9
11.5 Placeholder section, formerly NMOT 9
11.6 Performance at STC (MQT 06.1) 10
11.7 Performance at low irradiance (MQT 07) 10
11.8 Outdoor exposure test (MQT 08) 10
11.9 Hot-spot endurance test (MQT 09) 10
11.9.1 Purpose 10
11.9.2 Hot-spot effect 10
11.9.3 Classification of cell interconnection 10
11.9.4 Apparatus 10
11.9.5 Procedure 10
11.9.6 Final measurements 10
11.9.7 Requirements 10
11.10 UV preconditioning test (MQT 10) 10
11.11 Thermal cycling test (MQT 11) 11
11.12 Humidity-freeze test (MQT 12) 11
11.13 Damp heat test (MQT 13) 11
11.14 Robustness of terminations (MQT 14) 11
11.15 Wet leakage current test (MQT 15) 11
11.16 Static mechanical load test (MQT 16) 11
11.17 Hail test (MQT 17) 11
11.18 Bypass diode testing (MQT 18) 12
11.19 Stabilization (MQT 19) 12
11.19.1 Criterion definition for stabilization 12
11.19.2 Light induced stabilization procedures 12
11.19.3 Other stabilization procedures 12
11.19.4 Initial stabilization (MQT 19.1) 12
11.19.5 Final stabilization (MQT 19.2) 13

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11.20 Cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load test (MQT 20) 13
11.21 Potential induced degradation test (MQT 21) 13
11.22 Bending test (MQT 22) 13

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TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

Part 1-3: Special requirements for testing of thin-film amorphous silicon based photovoltaic (PV) modules

FOREWORD

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This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.

IEC 61215-1-3 edition 2.1 contains the second edition (2021-02) [documents 82/1826/FDIS and 82/1851/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2022-03) [documents 82/1997/FDIS and 82/2021/RVD].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

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International Standard IEC 61215-1-3 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This second edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) A cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load test (MQT 20) added.
b) A test for detection of potential-induced degradation (MQT 21) added.
c) A bending test (MQT 22) for flexible modules.

Informative Annex A of 61215-1:2021 explains the background and reasoning behind some of the more substantial changes that were made in the IEC 61215 series in progressing from edition 1 to edition 2.

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

This standard is to be read in conjunction with IEC 61215-1:2021 and IEC 61215-2:2021.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61215 series, published under the general title *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval,* can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
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TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

Part 1-3: Special requirements for testing of thin-film amorphous silicon based photovoltaic (PV) modules

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1 Scope

This document lays down requirements for the design qualification of terrestrial photovoltaic modules suitable for long-term operation in open-air climates. The useful service life of modules so qualified will depend on their design, their environment and the conditions under which they are operated. Test results are not construed as a quantitative prediction of module lifetime.

In climates where 98th percentile operating temperatures exceed 70 °C, users are recommended to consider testing to higher temperature test conditions as described in IEC TS 63126. Users desiring qualification of PV products with lesser lifetime expectations are recommended to consider testing designed for PV in consumer electronics, as described in IEC 63163 (under development). Users wishing to gain confidence that the characteristics tested in IEC 61215 appear consistently in a manufactured product may wish to utilize IEC 62941 regarding quality systems in PV manufacturing.

This document is intended to apply to all thin-film amorphous silicon (a-Si; a-Si/µc-Si) based terrestrial flat plate modules. As such, it addresses special requirements for testing of this technology supplementing IEC 61215-1:2021 and IEC 61215-2:2021 requirements for testing.

This document does not apply to modules used with concentrated sunlight although it may be utilized for low concentrator modules (1 to 3 suns). For low concentration modules, all tests are performed using the irradiance, current, voltage and power levels expected at the design concentration.

The object of this test sequence is to determine the electrical characteristics of the module and to show, as far as possible within reasonable constraints of cost and time, that the module is capable of withstanding prolonged exposure outdoors. Accelerated test conditions are empirically based on those necessary to reproduce selected observed field failures and are applied equally across module types. Acceleration factors may vary with product design and thus not all degradation mechanisms may manifest. Further general information on accelerated test methods including definitions of terms may be found in IEC 62506.

Some long-term degradation mechanisms can only reasonably be detected via component testing, due to long times required to produce the failure and necessity of stress conditions that are expensive to produce over large areas. Component tests that have reached a sufficient level of maturity to set pass/fail criteria with high confidence are incorporated into the IEC 61215 series via addition to Table 1 in IEC 61215-1. In contrast, the tests procedures described in this series, in IEC 61215-2, are performed on modules.

This document defines PV technology dependent modifications to the testing procedures and requirements per IEC 61215-1:2021 and IEC 61215-2:2021.

2 Normative references

The normative references of IEC 61215-1:2021 and IEC 61215-2:2021 are applicable without modifications.

3 Terms and definitions

This clause of IEC 61215-1:2021 is applicable ~~without~~ with the following modifications.

Add the following new terms:

3.13
reduced mechanical load module
module where the test load in MQT 16 is less than 2 400 Pa

Note 1 to entry: 2 400 Pa was required in earlier versions of the IEC 61215 series for all technologies (e.g. IEC 61215-2:2021).

3.14
restricted access area
area accessible only to electrically skilled persons and electrically instructed persons with the proper authorization

EXAMPLE Utility-scale PV installations which are protected against public access by fences, location, etc., and where only persons skilled, trained or instructed in electrical safety have access.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:1998, 195-04-04, modified – The example has been added]

4 Test samples

This clause of IEC 61215-1:2021 is applicable without modifications.

5 Marking and documentation

This clause of IEC 61215-1:2021 is applicable ~~without~~ with the following modifications.

5.1 Name plate

Each module shall include the following clear and indelible markings:

Add the following new items:

l) For modules with reduced mechanical load: the range of positive and negative design loads [Pa] the module manufacturer's recommended mounting configurations will allow, preceded by the phrase, "reduced mechanical design load" and followed by the phrases "Not for roof mount. For ground mounted installations with restricted access only. May only be used in systems designed by a licensed professional engineer."

EXAMPLE:
Reduced mechanical design load: ± 800 Pa.
Not for roof mount. For ground mounted installations with restricted access only. May only be used in systems designed by a licensed professional engineer.

m) For modules with reduced mechanical load: Type or model number designation shall contain a unique identification that it is used for reduced mechanical load.

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