

# TECHNICAL REPORT



**Electromagnetic performance of high voltage direct current (HVDC) overhead transmission lines**



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# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## ELECTROMAGNETIC PERFORMANCE OF HIGH VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES

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IEC TR 62681 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 115: High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission for DC voltages above 100 kV. It is a Technical Report.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published in 2014. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) the limits of total electric field in some countries have been supplemented and improved;
- b) the definition of 80 %/80 % criteria of radio interference has been clarified;
- c) a table has been added for bipolar excitation which shows the parameters of the IREQ radio interference excitation function;
- d) the clause of CEPRI research results of audible noise has been deleted;
- e) the clause of main conclusion of audible noise has been deleted.



The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
115/289/DTR	115/292/RVDTR

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Report is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

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## INTRODUCTION

Electric fields and magnetic fields are produced in the vicinity of a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) overhead transmission line. When the electric field at the conductor surface exceeds a critical value, known as the corona onset gradient, positive or negative free charges leave the conductor and interact with the surrounding air and ionization takes place in the layer of surrounding air, leading to the formation of corona discharges. The corona discharge will result in corona loss but also change the electro-magnetic properties around the HVDC overhead transmission lines.

The parameters used to describe the electromagnetic performance of an HVDC overhead transmission line mainly include the:

- 1) electric field,
- 2) ion current,
- 3) magnetic field,
- 4) radio interference,
- 5) audible noise.

To control these parameters in a reasonable and acceptable range, for years, a great deal of theoretical and experimental research was conducted in many countries, and relevant national standards or enterprise standards were developed. This document collects and records the status of study and progress of electric fields, ion current, magnetic fields, radio interference, and audible noise of HVDC overhead transmission lines. It is recognised that general technical discussion given in this document would be applicable for HVDC sub-stations as well; However, since layout of a station differs very differently, expressions given for HVDC overhead transmission line cannot be directly used as many assumptions would not hold good. Furthermore, an HVDC sub-station is not accessible to the general public, thus the numbers and limits given in this document are not applicable for HVDC sub-stations.

# ELECTROMAGNETIC PERFORMANCE OF HIGH VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES

## 1 Scope

This document provides general guidance on the electromagnetic environment issues of HVDC overhead transmission lines. It concerns the major parameters adopted to describe the electromagnetic properties of an HVDC overhead transmission line, including electric fields, ion current, magnetic fields, radio interference, and audible noise generated as a consequence of such effects. If the evaluation method and/or criteria of electromagnetic properties are not yet regulated, engineers in different countries can refer to this document to:

- support/guide the electromagnetic design of HVDC overhead transmission lines,
- limit the influence on the environment within acceptable ranges, and
- optimize engineering costs.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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

#### **corona**

set of partial discharges in a gas, immediately adjacent to an uninsulated or lightly insulated conductor which creates a highly divergent field remote from other conductors

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-212:2010, 212-11-44, modified – Note 1 has been deleted.]

### 3.2

#### **electric field**

constituent of an electromagnetic field which is characterized by the electric field strength  $E$  together with the electric flux density  $D$

Note 1 to entry: In the context of HVDC transmission lines, the electric field is affected not only by the geometry of the line and the potential of the conductor, but also by the space charge generated as a result of corona; consequently, electric field distribution may vary non-linearly with the line potential.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-121:1998, 121-11-67, modified – The original note has been deleted and Note 1 to entry has been added.]

### 3.3

#### **space-charge-free electric field**

electric field due to a system of energized electrodes, excluding the effect of space charge present in the inter-electrode space