

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Classification of environmental conditions –
Part 2-1: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Temperature and
humidity**

**Classification des conditions d'environnement –
Partie 2-1: Conditions d'environnement présentes dans la nature – Température
et humidité**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS –**Part 2-1: Environmental conditions appearing in nature –
Temperature and humidity**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60721-2-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 104: Environmental conditions, classification and methods of test.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1982 and its amendment 1 (1987), and constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are in the definitions of climate types.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
104/610/FDIS	104/617/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 the parts in the IEC 60068 series, under the general title *Classification of environmental conditions*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication 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 publication will be

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- withdrawn,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

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INTRODUCTION

Electrotechnical products are used in almost all areas of the world under varying climatic conditions and have to meet the stresses imposed by these climatic conditions with the necessary reliability. A detailed knowledge of the climatic conditions to which the product will be subjected is necessary in the design stage to ensure that reliability is met.

Data on open-air temperature and humidity have been collected and statistically processed for many years throughout the world. Such data is represented in this part of IEC 60721.

In addition to open-air temperature, temperature stresses on a product depend on a number of other environmental parameters, for example solar radiation, air velocity or heating from adjacent equipment.

The effects of humidity depend on temperature, temperature changes and impurities in the humid air.

In many cases the extremes of temperature and humidity are of great importance even if they occur for a short time. In other cases, where large time constants for heat or water penetration are involved, the mean values of temperature and humidity over a certain period may be more important.

It has therefore been considered useful to present here both the mean value over many years of the annual extreme values of temperature and humidity, which will occur only for short periods (a few hours), and the mean value over many years of the extreme daily mean values of temperature and humidity, which will occur for longer periods.

In order to cover cases where rare events need to be taken into account, the absolute extreme temperatures and humidity levels, observed over a period of many years, have also been presented.

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS –

Part 2-1: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Temperature and humidity

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60721 presents classifications of open-air climates in terms of temperature and humidity. It is intended to be used as part of the background material when selecting appropriate temperature and humidity severities for product testing and application.

The climates cover all areas of the world, excluding the central Antarctic and high altitudes (above 5 000 m).

This presentation may be used as background material when issuing climatic environmental classes for product applications.

This standard defines a limited number of open-air climate classifications, in terms of temperature and humidity, which represent the conditions most frequently met by products while being transported, stored, installed and used.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60721-1:1990, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 1: Environmental parameters and their severities*

IEC/TR 62130, *Climatic field data including validation*

MIL210 *Extreme and Percentile Environmental Reference Tables (ExPERT) database* (Version 1.0 July 1997)

PEARCE, E.A., and SMITH, C.G., *The Hutchinson World Weather Guide* by Helicon Publishing Ltd (ISBN 1-85986-342-6, 2000)

KOTTEK, M., GRIESER, J., BECK, C., RUDOLF, B. and RUBEL, F., *World Map of the Köppen-Geiger climate classification updated: 2006*, Meteorol. Z., 15, 259-263

3 Terms and definitions, abbreviations, quantities and units

Terms and definitions are defined, in context, throughout the present standard.

4 General information regarding data collection and analysis

Climatic data was collected and validated in IEC/TR 62130. The two principle data sources were the MIL210 ExPERT and The Hutchinson World Weather Guide.