

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Classification of environmental conditions –
Part 2-2: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Precipitation and wind**

**Classification des conditions d'environnement –
Partie 2-2: Conditions d'environnement présentes dans la nature – Précipitations
et vent**



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2012 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 la CEI ou du Comité national de la CEI du pays du demandeur.

Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de la CEI ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de la CEI de votre pays de résidence.

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
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 corrigenda or an amendment might have been published.

Useful links:

IEC publications search - www.iec.ch/searchpub

The advanced search enables you 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It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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 on-line and also once a month by email.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary of electronic and electrical terms containing more than 30 000 terms and definitions in English and French, with equivalent terms in additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) on-line.

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: csc@iec.ch.

A propos de la CEI

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (CEI) 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 CEI

Le contenu technique des publications de la CEI est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

Liens utiles:

Recherche de publications CEI - www.iec.ch/searchpub

La recherche avancée vous permet de trouver des publications CEI 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.

Just Published CEI - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications de la CEI. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et aussi une fois par mois par email.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

Le premier dictionnaire en ligne au monde de termes électroniques et électriques. Il contient plus de 30 000 termes et définitions en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans les langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (VEI) en ligne.

Service Clients - webstore.iec.ch/csc

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

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Classification of environmental conditions –
Part 2-2: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Precipitation and wind**

**Classification des conditions d'environnement –
Partie 2-2: Conditions d'environnement présentes dans la nature – Précipitations
et vent**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE
CODE PRIX

M

ICS 19.040

ISBN 978-2-83220-570-9

**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
1 Scope.....	5
2 Normative references	5
3 Terms and definitions	5
4 General	5
4.1 Introductory remark	5
4.2 Precipitation	5
4.3 Wind.....	6
5 Characteristics	6
5.1 Rain	6
5.2 Hail	7
5.3 Snow.....	8
5.4 Wind.....	8
6 Classification	8
6.1 General	8
6.2 Normal rain	8
6.3 Driving rain.....	9
6.4 Formation of ice	9
6.4.1 General	9
6.4.2 Air hoar	9
6.4.3 Rime.....	9
6.4.4 Clear ice.....	9
6.4.5 Glaze ice	9
6.4.6 Process of ice formation	9
6.5 Hail	10
6.6 Snow load	10
6.7 Drifting snow	10
6.8 Wind force.....	10
Bibliography.....	12
Table 1 – Characteristics of rain (average over long periods).....	6
Table 2 – Characteristics of hailstones	8

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS –**Part 2-2: Environmental conditions appearing in nature –
Precipitation and wind**

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 60721-2-2 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 1988, and constitutes a technical revision.

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

- subclause Precipitation: simplified; data not possible to validate are removed;
- subclause Wind: text rewritten;
- Table 1 simplified and aligned with definition used by [1]¹;
- subclause Hail: data added; formula changed; formula for impact energy added;

¹ References in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

- subclause Snow: text changed and aligned with definitions used by [1];
- Table 3 removed;
- subclause Normal rain: text has been modified and numeric values removed;
- subclause Driving rain: text has been modified and numeric values removed;
- subclause Formation of ice: text has been modified and numeric values removed;
- subclause Drifting snow: text added;
- subclause Wind force: formula changed;
- Figure 1 to 5 removed.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
104/583/FDIS	104/596/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 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.

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS –

Part 2-2: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Precipitation and wind

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60721 presents fundamental properties, quantities for characterization, and a classification of environmental conditions dependent on precipitation and wind relevant for electrotechnical products.

It is intended to be used as background material when selecting appropriate severities of parameters related to precipitation and wind for product applications.

When selecting severities of parameters related to precipitation and wind for product application, the values given in IEC 60721-1 should be applied.

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, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 1: Environmental parameters and their severities*.

3 Terms and definitions

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

4 General

4.1 Introductory remark

The atmosphere of the Earth is in permanent motion. It is locally heated, cooled and moistened. The resulting gradients in density create high and low pressure areas. The equalizing winds do not blow directly from high to low pressure areas, but are deflected by Coriolis force due to the rotation of the Earth.

The continuous horizontal movement may cause slow upward motion over wide areas, or surface heating may give more localized updrafts in thermals. The air cannot maintain its water content in vaporous form if the reduction of pressure and temperature is sufficient, and precipitation may form. As an example, an air mass at +20 °C temperature is able to contain water in a quantity of 17,3 g/m³ in vaporous form. If it cools to 0 °C the maximum water content is only 4,8 g/m³.

4.2 Precipitation

The specific kind of precipitation (rain, hail or snow) is a result of complicated processes in the clouds.