

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Environmental testing –
Part 1: General and guidance**

**Essais d'environnement –
Partie 1: Généralités et lignes directrices**



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ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –**Part 1: General and guidance****FOREWORD**

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International Standard IEC 60068-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 104: Environmental conditions, classification and methods of test.

This seventh edition cancels and replaces the sixth edition, published in 1988, and constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- updated normative reference list;
- indication of normative and informative annexes;
- new informative Annex C, *Environmental test tailoring*.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
104/618/FDIS	104/627/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, published under the general title *Environmental testing*, can be found on the IEC website.

This standard should be used in conjunction with the relevant specification which will define the tests to be used, the required degree of severity for each of them, their order (if relevant), and the permissible performance limits.

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- withdrawn,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.

INTRODUCTION

The IEC 60068 series contains fundamental information on environmental testing procedures and severities of tests. In addition, this Part 1 contains information on atmospheric conditions for measurement and testing.

It is intended to be used in those cases where a relevant specification for a certain type of product (electrical, electromechanical or electronic equipment and devices, their subassemblies and constituent parts and components), hereinafter referred to as the “specimen”, is to be prepared, so as to achieve uniformity and reproducibility in the environmental testing of this product.

NOTE 1 Although primarily intended for electrotechnical products, many of the environmental testing procedures in Part 2 of this series are equally applicable to other industrial products.

The expression “environmental conditioning” or “environmental testing” covers the natural and artificial environments to which specimens may be subjected and exposed to in practice so that an assessment can be made of their performance under conditions of storage, transportation, installation and use.

The requirements for the performance of specimens subjected to environmental conditioning are not covered by this standard. The relevant specification for the specimen under test defines the allowed performance limits during and after environmental testing.

When drafting a relevant specification or purchasing contract, only those tests should be specified that are necessary for the relevant specimen, taking into account the technical and economic aspects.

The IEC 60068 series consists of:

- a) this first part, IEC 60068-1 – *General and guidance*, which deals with generalities;
- b) the second part, IEC 60068-2 – *Tests* – which publishes particular tests separately for different applications;
- c) the third part, IEC 60068-3 – *Supporting documentation and guidance*, which deals with background information on a family of tests.

The families of tests comprising Part 2 of the IEC 60068 series are designated by the following upper-case letters:

- A: Cold
- B: Dry heat
- C: Damp heat (steady-state)
- D: Damp heat (cyclic)
- E: Impact (for example shock and rough handling shocks)
- F: Vibration
- G: Acceleration (steady state)
- H: (Awaiting allocation)

NOTE 2 Originally allotted to storage tests.

- J: Mould growth
- K: Corrosive atmospheres (for example salt mist)
- L: Dust and sand
- M: Air pressure (high or low)
- N: Change of temperature

P: (Awaiting allocation)

NOTE 3 Originally allotted to “flammability”.

Q: Sealing (including panel sealing, container sealing and protection against ingress and leakage of fluid)

R: Water (for example rain, dripping water)

S: Radiation (for example solar, but excluding electromagnetic)

T: Soldering (including resistance to heat from soldering)

U: Robustness of terminations (of components)

V: (Awaiting allocation)

NOTE 4 Originally allocated to “acoustic noise” but “vibration, acoustically induced” will now be Test Fg, one of the “vibration” family of tests.

W: (Awaiting allocation)

Y: (Awaiting allocation)

The letter X is used as a prefix together with a second lower-case letter providing for extension of the list of families of tests, e.g. Test Xa: Immersion in cleaning solvents. The letter Z is used to denote combined tests and composite tests as follows: Z is followed by a solidus (slash) and a group of lower-case letters relating to the combined or composite stresses, for example Test Z/am: Combined cold and low air pressure tests.

If appropriate, a test may be designated as “primarily intended for components” or “primarily intended for equipment”.

To provide for future expansion within a family of tests and to maintain consistency of presentation, each family of tests may be subdivided. The subdivisions are identified by the addition of a (lower-case) second letter, for example:

U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices

Test Ua: Subdivided as Test Ua₁: Tensile; and Test Ua₂: Thrust

Test Ub: Bending

Test Uc: Torsion

Test Ud: Torque

This subdivision is made even though only one test is published and no further tests are immediately contemplated in the relevant family.

In order to avoid confusion with numbers, the letters i, l, o and O are not used.

ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –

Part 1: General and guidance

1 Scope

The IEC 60068 series includes a series of methods for environmental testing along with their appropriate severities, and prescribes various atmospheric conditions for measurements and tests designed to assess the ability of specimens to perform under expected conditions of transportation, storage and all aspects of operational use.

Although primarily intended for electrotechnical products, this standard is not restricted to them and may be used in other fields where desired.

Other methods of environmental testing, specific to the individual types of specimen, may be included in the relevant specifications.

The framework of environmental test tailoring process is given in order to assist the production of test specifications with appropriate tests and test severities.

The IEC 60068 series provides a series of uniform and reproducible environmental, climatic, dynamic and combined tests, performed and measured under standard atmospheric conditions, for those preparing specifications and those engaged in the testing of products.

These test methods are based upon available international engineering experience and judgement and are primarily designed to provide information on the following properties of specimens:

- a) the ability to operate within specified limits of temperature, pressure, humidity, mechanical stress or other environmental conditions and combinations of these conditions;
- b) the ability to withstand conditions of transportation, storage and installation.

NOTE 1 The IEC 60721 series provides a system for classification of environmental conditions and gives relevant definitions.

The tests in this standard permit the comparison of the performance of sample products. To assess the quality or useful life of a given production lot, the test methods should be applied in accordance with a suitable sampling plan and may be supplemented by appropriate additional tests, if necessary.

NOTE 2 ISO defines "quality" as the degree to which a set of inherent characteristics fulfils requirements..

NOTE 3 "Useful life": under given conditions, the time interval beginning, at a given instant of time, and ending when the failure intensity becomes unacceptable or when the item is considered unrepairable as a result of a fault.

To provide tests appropriate to the different intensities of an environmental condition, some of the test procedures have a number of degrees of severity. These different degrees of severity are obtained by varying the time, temperature, air pressure or some other determining factor, separately or in combination.

As the tests and their degrees of severity should be based on real environmental conditions that a particular specimen might encounter, the framework and the necessary phases for the environmental test tailoring process are provided. The test tailoring process may be used to produce the required relevant test specification for the particular specimen.

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 60068-2 (all parts), *Environmental testing – Tests*

3 Terms and definitions

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

NOTE Tests covered by this standard may, in themselves, consist of a series of operations in order to determine the effect of such a test, or series of tests, on a specimen.

3.1

test

complete series of operations implied by its title, normally comprising the following operations, if required:

- a) pre-conditioning;
- b) initial examination and measurements;
- c) testing;
- d) recovery;
- e) final examination and measurements.

Note 1 to entry: Intermediate measurements may be required during conditioning and/or recovery.

Note 2 to entry: When the temperature and humidity for conditioning of a specimen for measurement are the same as those prescribed for pre-conditioning, the pre-conditioning and conditioning may be merged, and the pre-conditioning may be said to take the place of conditioning for measurement.

3.2

pre-conditioning

treatment of a specimen with the object of removing, or partly counteracting, the effects of its previous history

Note 1 to entry: Where pre-conditioning is called for, it is the first process in the test procedure.

Note 2 to entry: Pre-conditioning may be affected by subjecting the specimen to climatic, electrical, or any other conditions required by the relevant specification in order that the properties of the specimen may be stabilized before measurement and test.

3.3

testing

exposure of a specimen to environmental conditions in order to determine the effect of such conditions on the specimen

3.4

recovery

treatment of a specimen, after conditioning, in order that the properties of the specimen may be stabilized before measurement

3.5

specimen

product designated to be tested in accordance with the procedures of the IEC 60068 series

Note 1 to entry: The term “specimen” includes any auxiliary parts or systems that are integral functional features of the specimen, for example systems for cooling and heating.