

TECHNICAL REPORT

Fire prevention measures on converters for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems, static var compensators (SVC) and flexible ac transmission systems (FACTS) and their valve halls



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2015 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.

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.

IEC Catalogue - webstore.iec.ch/catalogue

The stand-alone application for consulting the entire bibliographical information on IEC International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports and other documents. Available for PC, Mac OS, Android Tablets and iPad.

IEC publications search - www.iec.ch/searchpub

The advanced search enables 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 It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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 online 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 15 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

IEC Glossary - std.iec.ch/glossary

More than 60 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

IEC 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.

TECHNICAL REPORT

Fire prevention measures on converters for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems, static var compensators (SVC) and flexible ac transmission systems (FACTS) and their valve halls

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 13.220.20

ISBN 978-2-8322-2788-6

<p>Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.</p>

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Fire hazards in valves and valve halls	13
4.1 General.....	13
4.2 Possible causes.....	13
4.2.1 Valve insulation failure	13
4.2.2 Loose connections or high resistance joints in the power circuit.....	13
4.2.3 Valve component failures.....	14
4.2.4 Semiconductor device level connections.....	15
4.2.5 Coolant system problems.....	16
4.2.6 Failure of valve hall bushings	17
4.2.7 Failure of surge arresters	17
4.2.8 False operation of deluge system	17
4.2.9 Other valve hall equipment	17
4.2.10 Work in and around valve hall.....	17
4.3 Assessment of possible consequences	18
5 Valve hall layout and access.....	18
5.1 Physical arrangements.....	18
5.1.1 General	18
5.1.2 Present practices.....	19
5.1.3 Specific provisions.....	19
5.2 HVDC valve hall construction.....	19
5.2.1 General	19
5.2.2 Valve hall construction.....	20
5.3 Means of egress	20
6 Supervision of valve components and other valve hall equipment.....	20
6.1 General.....	20
6.2 Supervision of valve components	21
6.2.1 General	21
6.2.2 On-line monitoring	21
6.2.3 Off-line checks and inspection	22
6.3 Supervision of other valve hall equipment	22
7 Fire detection systems.....	23
7.1 General.....	23
7.2 Detection and operating principles	23
7.2.1 General	23
7.2.2 Air sampling systems.....	23
7.2.3 Infra-red beam smoke detectors	23
7.2.4 Arc detector systems	24
7.2.5 Infra-red flame detectors.....	24
7.2.6 Ultraviolet (UV) flame detectors	24
7.2.7 Imaging video camera systems	24
7.3 Guidelines for valve hall fire detection.....	24
8 Fire suppression systems	24

8.1	General.....	24
8.2	Design considerations for an installed fire suppression system	25
8.3	Types of fire extinguishing agents.....	26
8.3.1	List of agents.....	26
8.3.2	Carbon dioxide	26
8.3.3	Inert gases	26
8.3.4	Hydro fluorocarbons	26
8.3.5	Other gases.....	27
8.4	Installation requirements.....	27
8.5	Guidelines for fire extinguishing agents.....	27
9	Vent management	28
9.1	General.....	28
9.2	Design considerations.....	29
9.2.1	General	29
9.2.2	Natural ventilation.....	29
9.2.3	Forced ventilation	30
9.2.4	Design	30
10	Control and integration of fire detection, fire protection and converter control systems.....	30
10.1	General.....	30
10.2	Fire alarm classification	31
10.2.1	General	31
10.2.2	Classification by detection principle	32
10.2.3	Classification by detection objective	32
10.2.4	Detection system reliability	33
10.3	Fire control system	33
10.3.1	General	33
10.3.2	Basic system functions	33
10.3.3	Other system components	34
10.3.4	Outline of system design	34
10.4	Guidelines for integrated fire control systems.....	35
11	Fire fighting and maintenance.....	35
11.1	General.....	35
11.2	Role of station and fire fighting personnel	35
11.2.1	General	35
11.2.2	Actions in case of a fire	35
11.2.3	Fire fighting	36
12	Guidance for purchaser specifications	36
12.1	General.....	36
12.2	Purchaser specification	36
12.2.1	General	36
12.2.2	Semiconductor valves.....	37
12.2.3	Other valve hall equipment	38
12.2.4	Valve hall construction.....	38
12.2.5	Fire detection systems.....	38
12.2.6	Fire suppression systems	39
12.2.7	Vent management system.....	39
12.2.8	Fire alarm and control systems	39
Annexe A (informative)	Valve hall fire hazards and survey of fire incidents	40

A.1	General.....	40
A.2	Hazard categories.....	40
A.3	Reports from HVDC users.....	41
A.4	Reported incidents.....	42
A.4.1	Overheating of valve components due to reduced cooling.....	42
A.4.2	Valve component failures.....	44
A.4.3	Loose or high resistance connections in the load current carrying circuit	57
A.4.4	Failure of auxiliary circuit electrical connections	58
A.4.5	Insulation failures	58
A.4.6	Failures of equipment associated with the valve hall.....	61
A.4.7	False alarms.....	62
A.4.8	Unknown causes	63
A.5	Conclusion and recommendations.....	63
	Bibliography.....	65
	Figure 1 – Types of ventilation.....	29
	Figure 2 – Possible arrangements and interconnections of an integrated fire detection and control system.....	32
	Table 1 – Fire extinguishing agents	26
	Table A.1 – HVDC converters owners/suppliers reference list (May 2012)	41

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES ON CONVERTERS FOR
HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS, STATIC
VAR COMPENSATORS (SVC) AND FLEXIBLE AC TRANSMISSION
SYSTEMS (FACTS) AND THEIR VALVE HALLS**

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.

The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC/TR 62757, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 22F: Power electronics for electrical transmission and distribution systems, of IEC technical committee 22: Power electronic systems and equipment.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
22F/347/DTR	22F/353A/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report 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.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website 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.

FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES ON CONVERTERS FOR HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS, STATIC VAR COMPENSATORS (SVC) AND FLEXIBLE AC TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS (FACTS) AND THEIR VALVE HALLS

1 Scope

IEC TR 62757, which is a technical report, deals with fire prevention measures on converters and their valve halls for high voltage direct current (HVDC) systems, static VAR compensators (SVC) and flexible AC transmission systems (FACTS). It is intended to be primarily for the use of the utilities and consultants who are responsible for issuing technical specifications for new converter valves and valve halls. It concerns fire incidents in HVDC projects using line commutated converters (LCC) or voltage sourced converter (VSC) technology and it is from these projects that most examples of fires and fire incidents are taken. This technical report also addresses converter valves and valve halls for SVC and FACTS.

This technical report provides general recommendations to be considered while preparing specifications for these systems. Specific requirements for a particular project need to be clearly specified and mutually agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser.

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.

Void.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

alarm system

installation for initiating a fire alarm

3.2

automatic fire detector

device that detects abnormally high temperature, rate of temperature rise, visible or invisible particles, infra-red or visible radiation, or gases produced by a fire

3.3

automatic fire extinguishing system

any system designed and installed to detect a fire and subsequently discharge an extinguishing agent without the necessity of human intervention

3.4

burn, intransitive verb

undergo combustion

[SOURCE: ISO 13943:2008, 4.28]