

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



Utility-interconnected photovoltaic inverters – Test procedure for low voltage ride-through measurements



## 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](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://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](http://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](http://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 It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:csc@iec.ch).

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



Utility-interconnected photovoltaic inverters – Test procedure for low voltage ride-through measurements

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

ICS 27.160

ISBN 978-2-8322-2957-6

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	4
1 Scope .....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviations .....	6
3.1 Terms, definitions and symbols .....	6
3.2 Abbreviations .....	8
4 Test circuit and equipment .....	9
4.1 General .....	9
4.2 Test circuit .....	9
4.3 Test equipment .....	9
4.3.1 Measuring instruments .....	9
4.3.2 DC source .....	10
4.3.3 Short-circuit emulator .....	10
4.3.4 Converter based grid simulator .....	13
5 Test .....	13
5.1 Test protocol .....	13
5.2 Test curve .....	15
5.3 Test procedure .....	16
5.3.1 Pre-test .....	16
5.3.2 No-load test .....	16
5.3.3 Tolerance .....	16
5.3.4 Load test .....	17
6 Assessment criteria .....	17
Annex A (informative) Circuit faults and voltage drops .....	18
A.1 Fault types .....	18
A.2 Voltage drops .....	20
A.2.1 General .....	20
A.2.2 Three-phase short-circuit fault .....	20
A.2.3 Two-phase short-circuit fault with ground .....	21
A.2.4 Two-phase short-circuit fault without ground .....	22
A.2.5 Single-phase short-circuit fault with ground .....	23
Annex B (informative) Determination of critical performance values in LVRT testing .....	24
B.1 General .....	24
B.2 Drop depth ratio .....	24
B.3 Ride-through time .....	24
B.4 Reactive current .....	24
B.5 Active power .....	25
Bibliography .....	26
Figure 1 – Testing circuit diagram .....	9
Figure 2 – Short-circuit emulator .....	11
Figure 3 – Converter device example .....	13
Figure 4 – LVRT curve example .....	16
Figure 5 – Tolerance of voltage drop .....	17

Figure A.1 – Grid fault diagram .....	20
Figure A.2 – Diagram of voltage vector for three-phase short-circuit fault .....	20
Figure A.3 – Diagram of voltage vector of two-phase (BC) short-circuit fault with ground .....	21
Figure A.4 – Diagram of voltage vector of two-phase (BC) short-circuit fault .....	22
Figure A.5 – Diagram of voltage vector of single-phase (A) short-circuit fault with ground .....	23
Figure B.1 – Determination of reactive current output .....	25
Figure B.2 – Determination of active power recovery .....	25
Table 1 – Accuracy of measurements .....	10
Table 2 – Fault type and switch status .....	12
Table 3 – Test specification for LVRT (indicative) .....	14
Table A.1 – Short-circuit paths for different fault types .....	18
Table A.2 – Amplitude and phase changes in three-phase short-circuit fault .....	21
Table A.3 – Amplitude and phase changes in two-phase (BC) short-circuit fault with ground .....	22
Table A.4 – Amplitude and phase changes in two-phase (BC) short-circuit fault .....	22
Table A.5 – Amplitude and phase changes in single-phase (A) short-circuit fault with ground .....	23

Document is a preview generated by EVS

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**UTILITY-INTERCONNECTED PHOTOVOLTAIC INVERTERS –  
TEST PROCEDURE FOR LOW VOLTAGE  
RIDE-THROUGH MEASUREMENTS**

## 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. In exceptional circumstances, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical specification when

- the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts, or
- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 62910, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
82/884/DTS	82/1005/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical specification 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

- transformed into an International standard,
- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

**IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.**

# UTILITY-INTERCONNECTED PHOTOVOLTAIC INVERTERS – TEST PROCEDURE FOR LOW VOLTAGE RIDE-THROUGH MEASUREMENTS

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides a test procedure for evaluating the performance of Low Voltage Ride-Through (LVRT) functions in inverters used in utility-interconnected PV systems.

The technical specification is most applicable to large systems where PV inverters are connected to utility HV distribution systems. However, the applicable procedures may also be used for LV installations in locations where evolving LVRT requirements include such installations, e.g. single-phase or 3-phase systems.

The assessed LVRT performance is valid only for the specific configuration and operational mode of the inverter under test. Separate assessment is required for the inverter in other factory or user-settable configurations, as these may cause the inverter LVRT response to behave differently.

The measurement procedures are designed to be as non-site-specific as possible, so that LVRT characteristics measured at one test site, for example, can also be considered valid at other sites.

This technical specification is for testing of PV inverters, though it contains information that may also be useful for testing of a complete PV power plant consisting of multiple inverters connected at a single point to the utility grid. It further provides a basis for utility-interconnected PV inverter numerical simulation and model validation.

## 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 61400-21:2008, *Wind turbines – Part 21: Measurement and assessment of power quality characteristics of grid connected wind turbines*

## 3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviations

### 3.1 Terms, definitions and symbols

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

#### 3.1.1

##### **drop depth**

magnitude of voltage drop during a fault or simulated fault, as a percentage of the nominal supply voltage

#### 3.1.2

##### **double drop**

sudden decline of the nominal voltage to a value below 90 % of the voltage of PCC, followed after a short time by a voltage recovery, which happened twice. Voltage changes which do not