

**Optical fibres -- Part 1-48: Measurement  
methods and test procedures - Polarization  
mode dispersion**

Optical fibres -- Part 1-48: Measurement  
methods and test procedures - Polarization  
mode dispersion

**EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA****NATIONAL FOREWORD**

<p>Käesolev Eesti standard EVS-EN 60793-1-48:2008 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN 60793-1-48:2007 ingliskeelset teksti.</p>	<p>This Estonian standard EVS-EN 60793-1-48:2008 consists of the English text of the European standard EN 60793-1-48:2007.</p>
<p>Standard on kinnitatud Eesti Standardikeskuse 31.01.2008 käskkirjaga ja jõustub sellekohase teate avaldamisel EVS Teatajas.</p>	<p>This standard is ratified with the order of Estonian Centre for Standardisation dated 31.01.2008 and is endorsed with the notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian national standardisation organisation.</p>
<p>Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonide poolt rahvuslikele liikmetele Euroopa standardi teksti kättesaadavaks tegemise kuupäev on 30.11.2007.</p>	<p>Date of Availability of the European standard text 30.11.2007.</p>
<p>Standard on kättesaadav Eesti standardiorganisatsioonist.</p>	<p>The standard is available from Estonian standardisation organisation.</p>

**ICS** 33.180.10

**Võtmesõnad:**

**Standardite reprodutseerimis- ja levitamiseõigus kuulub Eesti Standardikeskusele**

Andmete paljundamine, taastekitamine, kopeerimine, salvestamine elektroonilisse süsteemi või edastamine ükskõik millises vormis või millisel teel on keelatud ilma Eesti Standardikeskuse poolt antud kirjaliku loata.

Kui Teil on küsimusi standardite autorikaitse kohta, palun võtke ühendust Eesti Standardikeskusega:  
Aru 10 Tallinn 10317 Eesti; [www.evs.ee](http://www.evs.ee); Telefon: 605 5050; E-post: [info@evs.ee](mailto:info@evs.ee)

English version

**Optical fibres -  
Part 1-48: Measurement methods and test procedures -  
Polarization mode dispersion  
(IEC 60793-1-48:2007)**

Fibres optiques -  
Partie 1-48: Méthodes de mesure  
et procédures d'essai -  
Dispersion du mode de polarisation  
(CEI 60793-1-48:2007)

Lichtwellenleiter -  
Teil 1-48: Messmethoden  
und Prüfverfahren -  
Polarisationsmodendispersion  
(IEC 60793-1-48:2007)

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on 2007-09-01. CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CENELEC member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

CENELEC members are the national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

**CENELEC**

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique  
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

**Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 35, B - 1050 Brussels**

## Foreword

The text of document 86A/1038/CDV, future edition 2 of IEC 60793-1-48, prepared by SC 86A, Fibres and cables, of IEC TC 86, Fibre optics, was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel Unique Acceptance Procedure and was approved by CENELEC as EN 60793-1-48 on 2007-09-01.

This European Standard supersedes EN 60793-1-48:2003.

In EN 60793-1-48:2007, reference to IEC/TR 61282-9 has resulted in the removal of Annexes E, F, G and H as well as the creation of a new Annex E.

This standard is to be used in conjunction with EN 60793-1-1.

The following dates were fixed:

- |  |       |            |
|--|-------|------------|
| – latest date by which the EN has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement | (dop) | 2008-06-01 |
| – latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the EN have to be withdrawn   | (dow) | 2010-09-01 |

Annex ZA has been added by CENELEC.

---

## Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 60793-1-48:2007 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

---

## Annex ZA (normative)

### Normative references to international publications with their corresponding European publications

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

NOTE When an international publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>EN/HD</u>	<u>Year</u>
IEC 60793-1-1	– <sup>1)</sup>	Optical fibres - Part 1-1: Measurement methods and test procedures - General and guidance	EN 60793-1-1	2003 <sup>2)</sup>
IEC 60793-1-44	– <sup>1)</sup>	Optical fibres - Part 1-44: Measurement methods and test procedures - Cut-off wavelength	EN 60793-1-44	2002 <sup>2)</sup>
IEC 60793-2-50	– <sup>1)</sup>	Optical fibres - Part 2-50: Product specifications - Sectional specification for class B single-mode fibres	EN 60793-2-50 + corr. July	2004 <sup>2)</sup> 2004
IEC 60794-3	– <sup>1)</sup>	Optical fibres cables - Part 3: Sectional specification - Outdoor cables	EN 60794-3	2002 <sup>2)</sup>
IEC 61280-4-4	– <sup>1)</sup>	Fibre optic communication subsystem test procedures - Part 4-4: Cable plants and links - Polarization mode dispersion measurement for installed links	EN 61280-4-4	2006 <sup>2)</sup>
IEC/TR 61282-3	– <sup>1)</sup>	Fibre optic communication system design guides - Part 3: Calculation of link polarization mode dispersion	–	–
IEC/TR 61282-9	– <sup>1)</sup>	Fibre optic communication system design guides - Part 9: Guidance on polarization mode dispersion measurements and theory	–	–
IEC 61290-11-1	– <sup>1)</sup>	Optical amplifier test methods - Part 11-1: Polarization mode dispersion - Jones matrix eigenanalysis method (JME)	EN 61290-11-1	2003 <sup>2)</sup>
IEC 61290-11-2	– <sup>1)</sup>	Optical amplifiers - Test methods - Part 11-2: Polarization mode dispersion parameter - Poincaré sphere analysis method	EN 61290-11-2	2005 <sup>2)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> Undated reference.

<sup>2)</sup> Valid edition at date of issue.

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>EN/HD</u>	<u>Year</u>
IEC/TR 61292-5	– <sup>1)</sup>	Optical amplifiers - Part 5: Polarization mode dispersion parameter - General information	–	–
IEC 61300-3-32	– <sup>1)</sup>	Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components - Basic test and measurement procedures - Part 3-32: Examinations and measurements - Polarisation mode dispersion measurement for passive optical components	EN 61300-3-32	2006 <sup>2)</sup>
ITU-T Recommendation G.650.2	– <sup>1)</sup>	Definitions and test methods for statistical and non-linear related attributes of single-mode fibre and cable	–	–

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	8
4 General .....	8
4.1 Methods for measuring PMD .....	8
4.2 Reference test method .....	10
4.3 Applicability .....	10
5 Apparatus.....	11
5.1 Light source and polarizers .....	11
5.2 Input optics .....	11
5.3 Input positioner .....	12
5.4 Cladding mode stripper .....	12
5.5 High-order mode filter.....	12
5.6 Output positioner.....	12
5.7 Output optics.....	12
5.8 Detector .....	12
5.9 Computer .....	12
6 Sampling and specimens.....	12
6.1 General.....	12
6.2 Specimen length.....	13
6.3 Deployment .....	13
7 Procedure .....	14
8 Calculation or interpretation of results .....	14
9 Documentation .....	14
9.1 Information required for each measurement .....	14
9.2 Information to be available .....	14
10 Specification information .....	15
Annex A (normative) Fixed analyser measurement method .....	16
Annex B (normative) Stokes evaluation method .....	27
Annex C (normative) Interferometry method.....	32
Annex D (informative) Determination of RMS width from a fringe envelope .....	42
Annex E (informative) Glossary of symbols .....	46
Bibliography.....	48
Figure A.1 – Block diagrams for Method A .....	16
Figure A.2 – Typical results from Method A.....	19
Figure A.3 – PMD by Fourier analysis .....	22
Figure A.4 – Cross-correlation and autocorrelation functions .....	26

Figure B.1 – Block diagram for Method B .....	27
Figure B.2 – Typical random-mode-coupling results from Method B .....	29
Figure B.3 – Typical histogram of DGD values .....	29
Figure C.1 – Schematic diagram for Method C (generic implementation).....	32
Figure C.2 – Other schematic diagrams for Method C .....	34
Figure C.3a – Random mode-coupling using a TINTY-based measurement system with one I/O SOP .....	37
Figure C.3b – Negligible mode-coupling using a TINTY-based measurement system with one I/O SOP .....	37
Figure C.3 – Fringe envelopes for negligible and random polarization mode-coupling .....	37
Figure C.4a – Random mode-coupling using a GINTY-based measurement system with I/O-SOP scrambling .....	38
Figure C.4b – Negligible mode-coupling using a GINTY-based measurement system with I/O-SOP scrambling .....	38
Figure C.4c – Mixed mode-coupling using a GINTY-based measurement system with I/O-SOP scrambling .....	39
Figure C.4 – Fringe envelopes for negligible and random polarization mode-coupling (Ginty procedure).....	39
Figure D.1 – Parameters for interferogram analysis .....	42
Table A.1 – Cosine transform calculations .....	25



# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## OPTICAL FIBRES –

### Part 1-48: Measurement methods and test procedures – Polarization mode dispersion

#### 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 provides no marking procedure to indicate its approval and cannot be rendered responsible for any equipment declared to be in conformity with an IEC Publication.
- 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 60793-1-48 has been prepared by subcommittee 86A: Fibres and cables, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2003. It constitutes a technical revision. In this edition, reference to IEC 61282-9 has resulted in the removal of Annexes E, F, G and H as well as the creation of a new Annex E.

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

CDV	Report on voting
86A/1038/CDV	86A/1078/RVC

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.

This standard is to be read in conjunction with IEC 60793-1-1.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60793 series, published under the general title *Optical fibres*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result 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

Polarization mode dispersion (PMD) causes an optical pulse to spread in the time domain. This dispersion could impair the performance of a telecommunications system. The effect can be related to differential phase and group velocities and corresponding arrival times  $\delta\tau$  of different polarization components of the signal. For a sufficiently narrow band source, the effect can be related to a differential group delay (DGD),  $\Delta\tau$ , between pairs of orthogonally polarized principal states of polarization (PSP) at a given wavelength. For broadband transmission, the delays bifurcate and result in an output pulse that is spread out in the time domain. In this case, the spreading can be related to the average of DGD values.

In long fibre spans, DGD is random in both time and wavelength since it depends on the details of the birefringence along the entire fibre length. It is also sensitive to time-dependent temperature and mechanical perturbations on the fibre. For this reason, a useful way to characterize PMD in long fibres is in terms of the expected value,  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle$ , or the mean DGD over wavelength. In principle, the expected value  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle$  does not undergo large changes for a given fibre from day to day or from source to source, unlike the parameters  $\delta\tau$  or  $\Delta\tau$ . In addition,  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle$  is a useful predictor of lightwave system performance.

The term "PMD" is used both in the general sense of two polarization modes having different group velocities, and in the specific sense of the expected value  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle$ . The DGD  $\Delta\tau$  or pulse broadening  $\delta\tau$  can be averaged over wavelength, yielding  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle_\lambda$ , or time, yielding  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle_t$ , or temperature, yielding  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle_T$ . For most purposes, it is not necessary to distinguish between these various options for obtaining  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle$ .

The coupling length  $l_c$  is the length of fibre or cable at which appreciable coupling between the two polarization states begins to occur. If the fibre length  $L$  satisfies the condition  $L \ll l_c$ , mode coupling is negligible and  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle$  scales with fibre length. The corresponding PMD coefficient is

$$\text{"short-length" PMD coefficient} = \langle\Delta\tau\rangle/L.$$

Fibres in practical systems are nearly always in the  $L \gg l_c$  regime and mode coupling is random. If mode coupling is also found to be random,  $\langle\Delta\tau\rangle$  scales with the square root of fibre length, and

$$\text{"long-length" PMD coefficient} = \langle\Delta\tau\rangle/\sqrt{L}$$

## OPTICAL FIBRES –

### Part 1-48: Measurement methods and test procedures – Polarization mode dispersion

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60793 applies to three methods of measuring polarization mode dispersion (PMD), which are described in Clause 4. It establishes uniform requirements for measuring the PMD of single-mode optical fibre, thereby assisting in the inspection of fibres and cables for commercial purposes.

#### 2 Normative references

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

IEC 60793-1-1, *Optical fibres – Part 1-1: Measurement methods and test procedures – General and guidance*

IEC 60793-1-44, *Optical fibres – Part 1-44: Measurement methods and test procedures – Cut-off wavelength*

IEC 60793-2-50, *Optical fibres – Part 2-50: Product specifications – Sectional specification for class B single-mode fibres*

IEC 60794-3, *Optical fibre cables – Part 3: Sectional specification – Outdoor cables*

IEC 61280-4-4, *Fibre optic communication subsystem test procedures – Part 4-4: Cable plants and links – Polarization mode dispersion measurement for installed links*

IEC/TR 61282-3, *Fibre optic communication system design guides – Part 3: Calculation of link polarization mode dispersion*

IEC/TR 61282-9, *Fibre optic communication system design guides – Part 9: Guidance on polarization mode dispersion measurements and theory*

IEC 61290-11-1, *Optical amplifier test methods – Part 11-1: Polarization mode dispersion – Jones matrix eigenanalysis method (JME)*

IEC 61290-11-2, *Optical amplifiers – Test methods – Part 11-2: Polarisation mode dispersion parameter – Poincaré sphere analysis method*

IEC/TR 61292-5, *Optical amplifiers – Part 5: Polarization mode dispersion parameter – General information*

IEC 61300-3-32, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic test and measurement procedures – Part 3-32: Examinations and measurements – Polarization mode dispersion measurement for passive optical components*

ITU-T Recommendation G.650.2, *Definitions and test methods for statistical and non-linear related attributes of single-mode fibre and cable*