

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Specifications for the re-use of sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and its mixtures  
in electrical equipment**

**Spécifications pour la réutilisation de l'hexafluorure de soufre (SF<sub>6</sub>)  
et des mélanges contenant du SF<sub>6</sub> dans le matériel électrique**



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	8
4 Contaminants and their sources .....	9
4.1 General.....	9
4.2 Contaminants from handling and use .....	9
4.3 SF <sub>6</sub> by-products in equipment that only have an insulating function.....	9
4.4 SF <sub>6</sub> by-products in switching equipment .....	10
4.5 SF <sub>6</sub> by-products from internal arcs .....	10
4.6 SF <sub>6</sub> mixtures specific by-products.....	10
5 Specifications for re-use of SF <sub>6</sub> .....	10
6 Specifications for re-use of SF <sub>6</sub> mixtures.....	11
7 Reclaiming of SF <sub>6</sub> and SF <sub>6</sub> mixtures .....	11
7.1 Feasibility and process .....	11
7.2 Detection techniques for checking the quality of the gases.....	14
7.2.1 General .....	14
7.2.2 On-site analysis.....	14
7.2.3 Laboratory analysis .....	15
8 Handling, storage and transportation (informative).....	16
9 Safety and first aid .....	16
9.1 General safety rules.....	16
9.1.1 General .....	16
9.1.2 Protection of personnel.....	17
9.1.3 Handling of contaminated safety equipment and tools.....	18
9.1.4 Pressurized equipment and tools or measuring devices .....	19
9.1.5 Personal safety and protective equipment.....	19
9.1.6 Facilities and services .....	20
9.2 Additional safety measures in case of abnormal release of SF <sub>6</sub> due to external fire or internal arc fault .....	20
9.3 First aid equipment and treatment.....	21
9.3.1 General .....	21
9.3.2 Irritation of the skin.....	21
9.3.3 Irritation of the eyes.....	22
9.3.4 Breathing difficulty .....	22
10 Environmental aspects .....	22
Annex A (informative) Description of methods of analysis (on-site and laboratory).....	23
A.1 Sampling.....	23
A.1.1 General .....	23
A.1.2 On-site sampling connection.....	23
A.1.3 Sample cylinder for laboratory analysis.....	23
A.1.4 Sampling methods for laboratory analysis.....	24
A.2 On-site analysis .....	25
A.2.1 General .....	25
A.2.2 SF <sub>6</sub> concentration meter.....	25

A.2.3	Hygrometers .....	25
A.3	Laboratory analysis.....	26
A.3.1	Gas chromatography .....	26
A.3.2	Infrared spectroscopy .....	28
Annex B (informative)	By-products of SF <sub>6</sub> and its mixtures.....	31
B.1	Decomposition of SF <sub>6</sub> and its mixtures .....	31
B.1.1	General .....	31
B.1.2	Behaviour of SF <sub>6</sub> in an electric arc .....	31
B.1.3	SF <sub>6</sub> decomposition with low current discharges .....	33
B.1.4	Catalytic decomposition of SF <sub>6</sub> (high-temperature behaviour) .....	33
B.2	Corrosion behaviour of SF <sub>6</sub> and its by-products.....	33
B.3	Measures for the removal of by-products .....	33
B.4	Physiological characteristics of by-products .....	34
Annex C (informative)	Procedures for evaluating the potential effects on health from by-products of SF <sub>6</sub> and its mixtures .....	35
C.1	General.....	35
C.2	Formation and health effects of SF <sub>6</sub> by-products .....	35
C.2.1	Formation of SF <sub>6</sub> by-products.....	35
C.2.2	Effects of SF <sub>6</sub> by-products on health .....	36
C.2.3	Quantitative estimation of gaseous by-products .....	37
C.2.4	Procedures for health risk evaluation .....	38
C.3	Conclusion.....	40
Annex D (informative)	Reclaiming recommendations.....	42
D.1	General.....	42
D.2	Filtering recommendations .....	42
D.3	Transport of used SF <sub>6</sub> in gas cylinders and containers by road.....	42
Annex E (informative)	Cryogenic reclaiming of SF <sub>6</sub> .....	43
E.1	General.....	43
E.2	Applications .....	43
E.3	Physical background.....	43
E.4	Cryogenic processes.....	44
E.5	Description of a cryogenic reclaimer .....	44
Bibliography.....		47
Figure 1	– Decision flow chart for recovered SF <sub>6</sub> .....	13
Figure A.1	– One-sampling cylinder method set-up.....	24
Figure A.2	– Two-sampling cylinder method set-up.....	24
Figure A.3	– Example of a gas chromatogram in one print out showing the different possible by-products after decomposition .....	27
Figure A.4	– Typical GCMS chromatogram of decomposed SF <sub>6</sub> /CF <sub>4</sub> mixture.....	28
Figure A.5	– IR spectrum of contaminated SF <sub>6</sub> .....	30
Figure C.1	– Procedure for the evaluation of the potential effects on health due to arcing .....	39
Figure C.2	– Procedure for the evaluation of the potential effects on health due to low energy discharges .....	40
Figure D.1	– Saturated vapour pressure of various gases as a function of temperature.....	43
Figure D.2	– Typical cryogenic reclaimer for SF <sub>6</sub> recovery on site .....	45
Figure D.3	– Typical cryogenic reclaimer for removing contaminants .....	45

Table 1 – SF <sub>6</sub> contaminants .....	9
Table 2 – Specifications for re-use of SF <sub>6</sub> .....	10
Table 3 – Specifications for re-use of SF <sub>6</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> mixtures .....	11
Table 4 – Specifications for re-use of SF <sub>6</sub> /CF <sub>4</sub> mixtures .....	11
Table 5 – General contaminants and methods for their removal .....	12
Table 6 – Typical adsorbents for various SF <sub>6</sub> contaminants .....	12
Table 7 – On-site methods .....	15
Table 8 – Laboratory methods .....	16
Table 9 – Measures when working with SF <sub>6</sub> electric power equipment.....	17
Table 10 – Safety measures when opening or accessing gas compartments .....	18
Table 11 – Neutralizing solutions .....	19
Table 12 – Additional safety measures.....	21
Table A.1 – Peak absorption of SF <sub>6</sub> and contaminants .....	29
Table C.1 – OELs for SO <sub>2</sub> , HF, and S <sub>2</sub> F <sub>10</sub> .....	37
Table C.2 – SOF <sub>2</sub> production rate.....	37

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RE-USE OF SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE (SF<sub>6</sub>)  
AND ITS MIXTURES IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60480 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 10: Fluids for electrotechnical applications.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition, published in 2004. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- specifications for the re-use of SF<sub>6</sub> have been confirmed;
- specifications for the re-use of SF<sub>6</sub> mixtures, namely SF<sub>6</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> and SF<sub>6</sub>/CF<sub>4</sub> mixtures are included;
- as a result of a new repartition of annexes in IEC 60376, IEC 60480 and IEC 62271-4, this new edition now contains the following five annexes:
  - Annex A: Description of methods of analysis (on-site and laboratory);
  - Annex B: By-products of SF<sub>6</sub> and its mixtures;

- Annex C: Procedure for evaluating the potential effects on health from by-products of SF<sub>6</sub> and its mixtures;
- Annex D: Reclaiming recommendations.
- Annex E: Cryogenic reclaiming of SF<sub>6</sub>;

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
10/1075/FDIS	10/1080/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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## SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RE-USE OF SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE (SF<sub>6</sub>) AND ITS MIXTURES IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

### 1 Scope

This document provides criteria for the re-use of sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and its mixtures after recovery and reclaiming from electrical equipment (e.g. for maintenance, at the end-of-life).

Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) and carbon tetrafluoride (CF<sub>4</sub>), are gases commonly used for electrical equipment. Taking into account environmental concerns, particular attention is paid to re-use criteria for SF<sub>6</sub> and its mixtures with N<sub>2</sub> and CF<sub>4</sub> for its use in electrical equipment. Procedures for recovering and reclaiming used SF<sub>6</sub> and its mixtures are outside the scope of this document and are described in IEC 62271-4.

This document provides several annexes on the description of the different methods of analysis, on by-products, on the procedure for evaluating the potential health effects from by-products, on cryogenic reclaiming of SF<sub>6</sub>, and on reclaiming recommendations.

Storage, transportation and disposal of SF<sub>6</sub> and its mixtures are outside the scope of this document and are covered by IEC 62271-4. Procedures to determine SF<sub>6</sub> leakages are described in IEC 60068-2-17 [4]<sup>1</sup>.

For the purposes of this document, the complementary gases used in SF<sub>6</sub> mixtures will be limited to N<sub>2</sub> or CF<sub>4</sub>.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 60050-192, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 192: Dependability* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60050-212, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 212: Electrical insulating solids, liquids and gases* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60050-441, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 441: Switchgear, controlgear and fuses* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60050-826, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 826: Electrical installations* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 62271-4:2013, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 4: Handling procedures for sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and its mixtures*

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.