

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification –  
Part 1: Requirements for construction**

**Qualification pour la sûreté de fonctionnement des modules photovoltaïques  
(PV) –  
Partie 1: Exigences pour la construction**



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	9
3.1 General terms and definitions .....	10
3.2 Components.....	11
3.3 Installation and application .....	12
3.4 Insulation system .....	12
3.5 Ratings .....	14
4 Classification, applications and intended use.....	16
4.1 General.....	16
4.2 PV modules of class 0 .....	16
4.2.1 General .....	16
4.2.2 Insulation.....	16
4.2.3 Application.....	16
4.3 PV modules of class II.....	17
4.3.1 General .....	17
4.3.2 Insulation.....	17
4.3.3 Application.....	17
4.4 PV modules of class III.....	17
4.4.1 General .....	17
4.4.2 Insulation.....	17
4.4.3 Application.....	18
4.5 Intended use .....	18
5 Requirements for design and construction .....	18
5.1 General.....	18
5.2 Marking and documentation.....	19
5.2.1 General .....	19
5.2.2 Marking .....	19
5.2.3 Documentation.....	21
5.3 Electrical components and insulation .....	23
5.3.1 General .....	23
5.3.2 Internal wiring .....	23
5.3.3 External wiring and cables.....	23
5.3.4 Connectors .....	23
5.3.5 Junction boxes for PV modules .....	23
5.3.6 Frontsheets and backsheets.....	24
5.3.7 Insulation barriers .....	24
5.3.8 Electrical connections .....	24
5.3.9 Encapsulants .....	25
5.3.10 Bypass diodes .....	25
5.4 Mechanical and electromechanical connections .....	25
5.4.1 General .....	25
5.4.2 Screw connections .....	26
5.4.3 Rivets .....	27
5.4.4 Thread-cutting screws.....	27
5.4.5 Form/press/tight fit.....	27

5.4.6	Connections by adhesives.....	27
5.4.7	Other connections.....	28
5.5	Materials.....	28
5.5.1	General.....	28
5.5.2	Polymeric materials.....	28
5.5.3	Metallic materials.....	31
5.5.4	Adhesives.....	31
5.6	Protection against electric shock.....	31
5.6.1	General.....	31
5.6.2	Protection against accessibility to hazardous live parts.....	32
5.6.3	Insulation coordination.....	33
5.6.4	Distance through insulation (dti).....	34
Annex A (informative) Symbol "Do not disconnect under load".....		40
Annex B (normative) Insulation coordination.....		41
B.1	General.....	41
B.2	Influencing factors.....	41
B.2.1	General.....	41
B.2.2	Overvoltage category (4.3.3.2 of IEC 60664-1:2007) and rated impulse voltage.....	41
B.3	Clearances.....	43
B.4	Creepage distances.....	45
B.4.1	General.....	45
B.4.2	Voltage.....	45
B.4.3	Orientation and location of a creepage distance.....	45
B.4.4	Shape of insulating surface.....	45
B.4.5	Time under voltage stress.....	45
B.5	Cemented joints.....	46
B.6	Enclosed parts.....	46
B.7	Distance through insulation.....	46
B.7.1	Cemented joints.....	46
B.7.2	Insulation through thin layers.....	46
B.8	Methods of measuring clearances (cl) and creepage distances (cr).....	47
B.9	Figures examples.....	47
Figure 1 – IEC 60417-5017.....		21
Figure 2 – IEC 60417-5021.....		21
Figure 3 – IEC 60417-5018.....		21
Figure 4 – Examples for individual layer assessment for relied upon insulation.....		37
Figure A.1 – Symbol "DO NOT DISCONNECT UNDER LOAD".....		40
Figure A.2 – Symbol "DO NOT DISCONNECT UNDER LOAD" (IEC 60417-6070).....		40
Figure B.1 – Examples (1 to 11) of methods of measuring clearances and creepage distances.....		50
Figure B.2 – Example for insulation coordination at glass/foil PV modules – No cemented joint configuration.....		50
Figure B.3 – Example for creepage distance at glass/glass modules with edge insulation – No cemented joint configuration.....		51
Figure B.4 – Example for a glass/glass module with cemented joints.....		51

Table 1 – Correlation between classes for protection against electric shock and former terms for application classes .....	16
Table 2 – Required type of insulation as defined in IEC 61140 .....	33
Table 3 – Distances through insulation, creepage distances (cr) and clearances (cl) for Class II PV modules .....	38
Table 4 – Distances through insulation, creepage distances (cr) and clearances (cl) for Class 0 and class III PV modules .....	39
Table B.1 – Rated impulse voltage .....	42
Table B.2 – Minimum clearances.....	44
Table B.3 – Multiplication factors for clearances of equipment rated for operation at altitudes up to 7 000 m.....	44
Table B.4 – Dimensions of X.....	47

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULE SAFETY QUALIFICATION –****Part 1: Requirements for construction****FOREWORD**

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International Standard IEC 61730-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC 61730-1, issued in 2004, and its amendments 1 (2011) and 2 (2013); it constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) Adaption of horizontal standards and inclusion of IEC 60664 and IEC 61140.
- b) Implementation of insulation coordination, overvoltage category, classes, pollution degree (PD), and material groups (MG).
- c) Implementation of component qualification.
- d) IEC Guide 108 *Guidelines for ensuring the coherency of IEC publications – Application of horizontal standards*.

e) Definition of creepage (cr), clearance (cl) and distance through insulation.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1128/FDIS	82/1146/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 parts in the IEC 61730 series, published under the general title *Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification*, can be found on the IEC website.

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

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- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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# PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULE SAFETY QUALIFICATION –

## Part 1: Requirements for construction

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61730 specifies and describes the fundamental construction requirements for photovoltaic (PV) modules in order to provide safe electrical and mechanical operation. Specific topics are provided to assess the prevention of electrical shock, fire hazards, and personal injury due to mechanical and environmental stresses. This part of IEC 61730 pertains to the particular requirements of construction. IEC 61730-2 defines the requirements for testing.

This International Standard series lays down IEC requirements of terrestrial photovoltaic modules suitable for long-term operation in open-air climates. This standard is intended to apply to all terrestrial flat plate module materials such as crystalline silicon module types as well as thin-film modules.

PV modules covered by this standard are limited to a maximum DC system voltage of 1 500 V.

This International Standard defines the basic requirements for various applications of PV modules, but it cannot be considered to encompass all national or regional codes. Specific requirements, e.g. for building, marine and vehicle applications, are not covered.

This International Standard does not address specific requirements for products that combine a PV module with power conversion equipment, monitoring or control electronics, such as integrated inverters, converters or output disabling functions.

While parts of this standard may be applicable to flat plate PV modules with internally generated low level concentration below 3 times, it was not written specifically to address these concerns.

This International Standard is designed to coordinate with the test sequences in the IEC 61215 series, so that a single set of samples may be used to perform both the safety and qualification of a photovoltaic module design.

The object of this International Standard is to define the requirements for the construction of photovoltaic modules with respect to safety. These requirements are intended to minimize the misapplication and misuse of PV modules or the failure of their components which could result in fire, electric shock and personal injury.

Additional construction requirements outlined in relevant ISO standards, or the national or local codes which govern the installation and use of these PV modules in their intended locations, should be considered in addition to the requirements contained within this standard.

### 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 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary*

IEC 60112, *Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials*

IEC 60216-1, *Electrical insulating materials – Thermal endurance properties – Part 1: Ageing procedures and evaluation of test results*

IEC 60216-2, *Electrical insulating materials – Thermal endurance properties – Part 2: Determination of thermal endurance properties of electrical insulating materials – Choice of test criteria*

IEC 60216-5, *Electrical insulating materials – Thermal endurance properties – Part 5: Determination of relative thermal endurance index (RTE) of an insulating material*

IEC 60243-1:2013, *Electric strength of insulating materials – Test methods – Part 1: Tests at power frequencies*

IEC 60243-2:2013, *Electric strength of insulating materials – Test methods – Part 2: Additional requirements for tests using direct voltage*

IEC 60269-6, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 6: Supplementary requirements for fuse-links for the protection of solar photovoltaic energy systems*

IEC 60364-7-712, *Electrical installations of buildings – Part 7-712: Requirements for special installations or locations – Solar photovoltaic (PV) power supply systems*

IEC 60417-DB, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP code)*

IEC 60664-1:2007, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC TR 60664-2-1, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 2-1: Application guide – Explanation of the application of the IEC 60664 series, dimensioning examples and dielectric testing*

IEC 60664-3:2003, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 3: Use of coating, potting or moulding for protection against pollution*

IEC 60695-10-2, *Fire hazard testing – Part 10-2: Abnormal heat – Ball pressure test method*

IEC 60695-11-10, *Fire hazard testing – Part 11-10: Test flames – 50 W horizontal and vertical flame test methods*

IEC 60904-3, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data*

IEC 60950-1:2005, *Information technology equipment – Safety – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61032:1997, *Protection of persons and equipment by enclosures – Probes for verification*

IEC 61140, *Protection against electric shock – Common aspects for installation and equipment*

IEC 61215 (all parts), *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval*

IEC 61558-1:2005, *Safety of power transformers, power supplies, reactors and similar products – Part 1: General requirements and tests*

IEC 61701, *Salt mist corrosion testing of photovoltaic (PV) modules*

IEC 61730-2, *Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification – Part 2: Requirements for testing*

IEC TS 61836, *Solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems – Terms, definitions and symbols*

IEC 62548, *Photovoltaic (PV) arrays – Design requirements*

IEC 62716, *Photovoltaic (PV) modules – Ammonia corrosion testing*

IEC 62788-1-2, *Measurement procedures for materials used in photovoltaic modules – Part 1-2: Encapsulants – Measurement of volume resistivity of photovoltaic encapsulants and other polymeric materials*

IEC 62790, *Junction boxes for photovoltaic modules – Safety requirements and tests*

IEC 62852, *Connectors for DC-application in photovoltaic systems – Safety requirements and tests*

IEC TS 62915, *Photovoltaic (PV) Modules – Retesting for type approval, design and safety qualification<sup>1</sup>*

ISO 1456, *Metallic and other inorganic coatings – Electrodeposited coatings of nickel, nickel plus chromium, copper plus nickel and of copper plus nickel plus chromium*

ISO 1461, *Hot dip galvanized coatings on fabricated iron and steel articles – Specifications and test methods*

ISO 2081, *Metallic and other inorganic coatings – Electroplated coatings of zinc with supplementary treatments on iron or steel*

ISO 2093, *Electroplated coatings of tin – Specification and test methods*

EN 50618, *Electric cables for Photovoltaic systems*

UL 746B, *Polymeric Material – Long Term Property Evaluations*

### **3 Terms and definitions**

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050, IEC 60664-1, IEC 61140, and IEC TS 61836 together with the following, apply.

NOTE Some terms from IEC 60050 were modified to make them more specific and applicable to PV modules.