

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection
for household and similar uses (RCBOs) –
Part 1: General rules**

**Interrupteurs automatiques à courant différentiel résiduel avec dispositif de
protection contre les surintensités incorporé pour usages domestiques et
analogues (DD) –
Partie 1: Règles générales**



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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS
WITH INTEGRAL OVERCURRENT PROTECTION
FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USES (RCBOs) –****Part 1: General rules**

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International Standard IEC 61009-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 23E: Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition, published in 1996, amendment 1 (2002) and amendment 2 (2006). It constitutes a technical revision.

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

- complete revision of EMC sequences, including the new test T.2.6, already approved in IEC 61543;
- clarification of RCDs current/time characteristics reported in Tables 2 and 3;
- revision of test procedure for $I_{\Delta n}$ between 5 A and 200 A;

- tests for the use of RCBOs in IT systems;
- testing procedure regarding the 6mA d.c. current superimposed to the fault current;
- improvement highlighting RCDs with multiple sensitivity;
- some alignments with IEC 60898-1.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
23E/682/FDIS	23E/686/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 the parts in the IEC 61009 series, under the general title *Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCBOs)*, 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 web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
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- amended.

INTRODUCTION

This part includes definitions, requirements and tests covering all types of RCBOs. For applicability to a specific type, this part applies in conjunction with the relevant part, as follows:

Part 2-1: Applicability of the general rules to RCBOs functionally independent of line voltage.

Part 2-2: Applicability of the general rules to RCBOs functionally dependent on line voltage.

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RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS WITH INTEGRAL OVERCURRENT PROTECTION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USES (RCBOs) –

Part 1: General rules

1 Scope

This International Standard applies to residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection functionally independent of, or functionally dependent on, line voltage for household and similar uses (hereafter referred to as RCBOs), for rated voltages not exceeding 440 V a.c. with rated frequencies of 50 Hz, 60 Hz or 50/60 Hz and rated currents not exceeding 125 A and rated short-circuit capacities not exceeding 25 000 A for operation at 50 Hz or 60 Hz.

These devices are intended to protect people against indirect contact, the exposed conductive parts of the installation being connected to an appropriate earth electrode and to protect against overcurrents the wiring installations of buildings and similar applications. They may be used to provide protection against fire hazards due to a persistent earth fault current, without the operation of the overcurrent protective device.

RCBOs having a rated residual operating current not exceeding 30 mA are also used as a means for additional protection in the case of failure of the protective means against electric shock.

This standard applies to devices performing simultaneously the function of detection of the residual current, of comparison of the value of this current with the residual operating value and of opening of the protected circuit when the residual current exceeds this value, and also of performing the function of making, carrying and breaking overcurrents under specified conditions.

NOTE 1 The content of the present standard related to operation under residual current conditions is based on IEC 61008-1. The content of the present standard related to protection against overcurrents is based on IEC 60898-1.

NOTE 2 RCBOs are essentially intended to be operated by uninstructed persons and designed not to require maintenance. They may be submitted for certification purposes.

NOTE 3 Installation and application rules of RCBOs are given in the IEC 60364 series.

They are intended for use in an environment with pollution degree 2.

NOTE 4 For more severe overvoltage conditions, circuit-breakers complying with other standards (e.g. IEC 60947-2) should be used.

NOTE 5 For environments with higher pollution degrees, enclosures giving the appropriate degree of protection should be used.

RCBOs of the general type are resistant to unwanted tripping, including the case where surge voltages (as a result of switching transients or induced by lightning) cause loading currents in the installation without occurrence of flashover.

RCBOs of type S are considered to be sufficiently proof against unwanted tripping even if the surge voltage causes a flashover and a follow-on current occurs.

NOTE 6 Surge arresters installed downstream of the general type of RCBOs and connected in common mode may cause unwanted tripping.

RCBOs are suitable for isolation.

RCBOs complying with this standard, with the exception of those with an uninterrupted neutral, are suitable for use in IT systems.

Special precautions (e.g. lightning arresters) may be necessary when excessive overvoltages are likely to occur on the supply side (for example in the case of supply through overhead lines) (see IEC 60364-4-44).

NOTE 7 For RCBOs having a degree of protection higher than IP20 special constructions may be required.

This standard also applies to RCBOs obtained by the assembly of an adaptable residual current device with a circuit-breaker. The mechanical assembly shall be effected in the factory by the manufacturer, or on site, in which case the requirements of Annex G shall apply. It also applies to RCBOs having more than one rated current, provided that the means for changing from one discrete rating to another is not accessible in normal service and that the rating cannot be changed without the use of a tool.

Supplementary requirements may be necessary for RCBOs of the plug-in type.

Particular requirements are necessary for RCBOs incorporated in or intended only for association with plugs and socket-outlets or with appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes and if intended to be used at frequencies other than 50 Hz or 60 Hz.

NOTE 8 For the time being, for RCBOs incorporated in, or intended only for plugs and socket-outlets, the requirements of this standard in conjunction with the requirements of IEC 60884-1 may be used, as far as applicable.

NOTE 9 In DK, plugs and socket-outlets shall be in accordance with the requirements of the heavy current regulations section 107.

NOTE 10 In the UK, the plug part associated with an RCBO shall comply with BS 1363-1 and the socket-outlet(s) associated with an RCBO shall comply with BS 1363-2. In the UK, the plug part and the socket-outlet(s) associated with an RCBO need not comply with any IEC 60884-1 requirements.

This standard does not apply to:

- RCBOs intended to protect motors;
- RCBOs the current setting of which is adjustable by means accessible to the user in normal service.

The requirements of this standard apply for normal environmental conditions (see 7.1). Additional requirements may be necessary for RCBOs used in locations having severe environmental conditions.

RCBOs including batteries are not covered by this standard.

A guide for the coordination of RCBOs with fuses is given in Annex F.

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 60051 (all parts), *Direct acting indicating analogue electrical measuring instruments and their accessories*

IEC 60060-1:1989, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60060-2:1994, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 2: Measuring systems*

IEC 60068-2-30:2005, *Environmental testing – Part 2-30:Tests – Test Db: Damp heat, cyclic (12 + 12 h cycle)*

IEC 60068-3-4: 2001, *Environmental testing – Part 3-4: Supporting documentation and guidance – Damp heat tests*

IEC 60112:2003, *Method for the determination of the proof and the comparative tracking indices of solid insulating materials*

IEC 60364 (all parts), *Low-voltage electrical installations*

IEC 60364-5-52:2001, *Electrical installations of buildings – Part 5-52: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Wiring systems¹*

IEC 60364-5-53:2001, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 5-53: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Isolation, switching and control*

IEC 60417, *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 60898-1:2002, *Electrical accessories – Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations – Part 1: Circuit-breakers for a.c. operation*

IEC 61543:1995, *Residual current-operated protective devices (RCDs) for household and similar use – Electromagnetic compatibility*

CISPR 14-1:2009, *Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements for household appliances, electric tools and similar apparatus – Part 1: Emission*

3 Terms and definitions

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

Where the terms "voltage" or "current" are used, they imply r.m.s. values, unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 1 Reference to IEC definitions is also made when the terms "device" or "mechanical switching device" are replaced by the term "RCBO".

NOTE 2 For a glossary of symbols see Annex IB.

3.1 Definitions relating to currents flowing from live parts to earth

3.1.1

earth fault current

current flowing to earth due to an insulation fault

3.1.2

earth leakage current

current flowing from the live parts of the installation to earth in the absence of an insulation fault

¹ A third edition is currently in preparation.