

## Home Page

International Electrotechnical Commission  
International Standards and Conformity Assessment for all electrical, electronic and related technologies

You & the IEC | About the IEC | News & views | Standards development | Conformity assessment | Members & experts | Developing countries | Webstore

Search... Advanced search

Enabling global trade  
International Standards  
Conformity Assessment  
Technology sectors

IEC Making electrotechnology work for you.

Home | Work | Learn | News | Buy

Annual Report: "The IEC Annual Report 2015 is now available"

Public commenting on Draft Standards

## Logo



## URL

<http://www.iec.ch/>

## Subject

Electrical Engineering--Standards

## Accessibility

On subscription base

## Language

English

## Publisher

International Electrotechnical Commission

## Brief History

The **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)** is a non-profit, non-governmental international standards organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as "electrotechnology". The IEC held its inaugural meeting on 26 June 1906, following discussions between the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and others, which began at the 1900 Paris International Electrical Congress, and continued with Colonel R. E. B. Crompton playing a key role. The IEC was instrumental in developing and distributing standards for units of measurement, particularly Gauss, Hertz, and Weber. It also first proposed a

system of standards, the Giorgi System, which ultimately became the SI, or *Système International d'unités* (in English, the International System of Units). In 1938, it published a multilingual international vocabulary to unify terminology relating to electrical, electronic and related technologies. This effort continues, and the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (the on-line version of which is known as the *Electropedia*) remains an important work in the electrical and electronic industries.

### ***Scope & Coverage***

IEC standards have numbers in the range 60000–79999 and their titles take a form such as *IEC 60417: Graphical symbols for use on equipment*. The numbers of older IEC standards were converted in 1997 by adding 60000, for example IEC 27 became IEC 60027. The IEC cooperates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In addition, it works with several major standards development organizations, including the IEEE with which it signed a cooperation agreement in 2002, which was amended in 2008 to include joint development work. IEC provides a platform to companies, industries and governments for meeting, discussing and developing the International Standards they require. All IEC International Standards are fully consensus-based and represent the needs of key stakeholders of every nation participating in IEC work. Every member country, no matter how large or small, has one vote and a say in what goes into an IEC International Standard.

### ***Kind of Information***

Millions of devices that contain electronics, and use or produce electricity, rely on IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems to perform, fit and work safely together. The **International Electrotechnical Commission** (IEC) is the world's leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. The organization provides many standards. Some of them are IEC 60027 Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology, IEC 60028 International standard of resistance for copper, IEC 60034 Rotating electrical machinery, IEC 60038 IEC Standard Voltages, IEC 60041 Field acceptance tests to determine the hydraulic performance of hydraulic turbines, storage pumps and pump-turbines, IEC 60044 Instrument transformers, IEC 60045 Steam turbines, IEC 60050 International Electrotechnical Vocabulary, IEC 60051 Recommendation for direct acting indicating analogue electric measuring instruments and their accessories, IEC 60055 Paper-insulated metal-sheathed cables for rated voltages up to 18/30 kV, IEC 60059 IEC standard current ratings, IEC 60060 High-voltage test techniques, IEC 60062 Marking codes for resistors and capacitors, IEC 60063 Preferred number series for resistors and capacitors, IEC 60061 Lamp caps and holders together with gauges for the control of interchangeability and safety, IEC 60064 Tungsten filament type GLS (General Lighting Solutions) bulbs etc.

### ***Special Features***

- IEC Blog provides platform for better communication in the concerned subject.
- TC News provides information to the IEC technical community on SMB (Standardization Management Board) decisions, as well as other news which may be of interest. It is prepared after SMB meetings, by the SMB Secretariat at the IEC Central Office.

**Remarks**

The IEC is one of three global sister organizations (IEC, ISO, ITU) that develop International Standards for the world.

**Comparable Tools**

- American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standards & Guidelines (<https://www.ashrae.org/>)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Standards & Certification (<https://www.asme.org/topics/standardscertification>)

**Date of Access**

February 10, 2017