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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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**Communication networks and systems for power utility automation –  
Part 6: Configuration description language for communication in electrical  
substations related to IEDs**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references.....	8
3 Terms and definitions .....	9
4 Abbreviations.....	10
5 Intended engineering process with SCL.....	11
5.1 General .....	11
5.2 Scope of SCL .....	11
5.3 Use of SCL in the Engineering process .....	12
5.4 IED modifications .....	15
5.5 Data exchange between projects .....	16
6 The SCL object model .....	18
6.1 General .....	18
6.2 The substation model .....	22
6.3 The product (IED) model.....	23
6.4 The communication system model .....	24
6.5 Modelling of redundancy .....	25
6.6 Data flow modelling .....	25
7 SCL description file types.....	26
8 SCL language .....	28
8.1 Specification method .....	28
8.2 Language versions and compatibility.....	30
8.3 SCL language extensions .....	33
8.4 General structure.....	36
8.5 Object and signal designation .....	37
9 The SCL syntax elements .....	41
9.1 Header .....	41
9.2 Substation description .....	43
9.3 IED description .....	56
9.4 Communication system description .....	87
9.5 Data type templates.....	94
10 Tool and project engineering rights .....	106
10.1 IED configurator .....	106
10.2 System configurator.....	107
10.3 Right transfer between projects.....	107
Annex A (normative) SCL syntax: XML schema definition .....	109
Annex B (informative) SCL enumerations according to IEC 61850-7-3 and IEC 61850-7-4 ..	147
Annex C (informative) Syntax extension examples.....	153
Annex D (informative) Example .....	166
Annex E (informative) SCL syntax: General XML schema definition .....	180
Annex F (informative) XML schema definition of SCL variants .....	204
Annex G (normative) SCL Implementation Conformance Statement (SICS).....	210
Bibliography .....	215

Figure 1 – Reference model for information flow in the configuration process.....	13
Figure 2 – IED type description to System Configurator .....	14
Figure 3 – IED instance description to System Configurator .....	15
Figure 4 – Modification process .....	16
Figure 5 – Engineering right handling in projects.....	18
Figure 6 – SCL object model .....	20
Figure 7 – SA System Configuration example .....	22
Figure 8 – ICD files describing implementable IED types of a general IED class.....	28
Figure 9 – UML diagram overview of SCL schema .....	30
Figure 10 – Elements of the signal identification as defined in IEC 61850-7-2 .....	38
Figure 11 – Elements of the signal name using product naming .....	38
Figure 12 – Possible elements of the signal name using functional naming .....	39
Figure 13 – Names within different structures of the object model .....	40
Figure 14 – UML diagram of Header section .....	41
Figure 15 – UML diagram of Substation section .....	44
Figure 16 – UML diagram for equipment type inheritance and relations .....	48
Figure 17 – Substation section example .....	55
Figure 18 – IED structure and access points.....	57
Figure 19 – UML description of IED-related schema part – Base .....	58
Figure 20 – UML description of IED-related schema part for Control blocks .....	59
Figure 21 – UML description of IED-related schema part – LN definition .....	60
Figure 22 – UML diagram overview of the Communication section .....	88
Figure 23 – UML overview of DataTypeTemplate section .....	95
Figure C.1 – Coordinate example .....	153
Figure C.2 – Schema overview.....	156
Figure D.1 – T1-1 Substation configuration.....	166
Figure D.2 – T1-1 Communication configuration .....	167
Figure D.3 – T1-1 Transformer bay.....	168
Table 1 – The files composing the XML schema definition for SCL.....	29
Table 2 – Attributes of the Private element .....	35
Table 3 – Attributes of the Header element.....	42
Table 4 – Attributes of the History item (Hitem) element .....	43
Table 5 – Primary apparatus device type codes .....	50
Table 6 – Attributes of the Terminal element.....	51
Table 7 – Attributes of the SubEquipment element.....	52
Table 8 – Attributes of the LNode element .....	53
Table 9 – General Equipment codes from IEC 61850-7-4.....	54
Table 10 – Attributes of the IED element .....	61
Table 11 – List of service capabilities and setting elements and attributes .....	63
Table 12 – Attributes of the Access point element.....	66
Table 13 – Attributes of the IED server element.....	68
Table 14 – Attributes of the Authentication element .....	69

Table 15 – Attributes of the LDevice element.....	69
Table 16 – Attributes of the LN0 element.....	70
Table 17 – Attributes of the LN element.....	71
Table 18 – Attributes of the DOI element.....	72
Table 19 – Attributes of the DAI element.....	73
Table 20 – Attributes of the SDI element.....	73
Table 21 – Attributes of the DataSet element.....	74
Table 22 – Attributes of the FCDA element.....	75
Table 23 – Attributes of the report control block element.....	76
Table 24 – Attributes of the RptEnabled element.....	77
Table 25 – Attributes of the ClientLN element.....	78
Table 26 – Attributes of the log control block element.....	80
Table 27 – Attributes of the GSE control block element.....	81
Table 28 – Attributes of the IEDName element.....	81
Table 29 – Attributes of the sampled value control block element.....	83
Table 30 – Attributes of the Smv Options element.....	83
Table 31 – Deprecated Smv options.....	84
Table 32 – Attributes of the setting control block element.....	84
Table 33 – Attributes of the Input/ExtRef element.....	86
Table 34 – Attributes of the association element.....	87
Table 35 – Attributes of the Subnetwork element.....	89
Table 36 – Attributes of the ConnectedAP element.....	90
Table 37 – Attributes of the GSE element.....	91
Table 38 – Attributes of the SMV element.....	92
Table 39 – PhysConn P-Type definitions.....	93
Table 40 – Template definition elements.....	97
Table 41 – Attributes of the LNodeType element.....	97
Table 42 – Attributes of the DO element.....	98
Table 43 – Attributes of the DOType element.....	98
Table 44 – Attributes of the SDO element.....	99
Table 45 – Data type mapping.....	99
Table 46 – Attribute value kind (Valkind) meaning.....	100
Table 47 – Attributes of the DA element.....	101
Table 48 – Attributes of the BDA element.....	104
Table 49 – Attributes of the EnumType element.....	105
Table G.1 – IED configurator conformance statement.....	210
Table G.2 – System configurator conformance statement.....	212

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS  
FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –****Part 6: Configuration description language for communication  
in electrical substations related to IEDs**

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61850-6 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 57: Power systems management and associated information exchange.

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

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows:

- functional extensions added based on changes in other Parts, especially Parts 7-2 and 7-3;
- functional extensions concerning the engineering process, especially for configuration data exchange between system configuration tools, added;
- provision of clarifications and corrections. Issues that require clarification are published in a database available at [www.tissue.iec61850.com](http://www.tissue.iec61850.com). Arising incompatibilities are listed in 8.2.3.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
57/1025/FDIS	57/1041/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 61850 series, under the general title *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*, can be found on the IEC website. <sup>1)</sup>

This publication contains attached .xml and .xsd files. These files are intended to be used as a complement and do not form an integral part of this standard.

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.

A bilingual version of this standard may be issued at a later date.

**IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.**

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<sup>1)</sup> It has been decided to amend the general title of the IEC 61850 series from *Communication networks and systems in substations* to *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*. Henceforth, new editions within the IEC 61850 series will adopt this new general title.

## INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 61850 specifies a description language for the configuration of electrical substation IEDs. This language is called System Configuration description Language (SCL). It is used to describe IED configurations and communication systems according to IEC 61850-5 and IEC 61850-7-x. It allows the formal description of the relations between the utility automation system and the process (substation, switch yard). At the application level, the switch yard topology itself and the relation of the switch yard structure to the SAS functions (logical nodes) configured on the IEDs can be described.

NOTE The process description, which is in this standard restricted to switch yards and general process functions, will be enhanced by appropriate add-ons for wind mills, hydro plants and distributed energy resources (DER).

SCL allows the description of an IED configuration to be passed to a communication and application system engineering tool, and to pass back the whole system configuration description to the IED configuration tool in a compatible way. Its main purpose is to allow the interoperable exchange of communication system configuration data between an IED configuration tool and a system configuration tool from different manufacturers.

IEC 61850-8-1 and IEC 61850-9-2, which concern the mapping of IEC 61850-7-x to specific communication stacks, may extend these definitions according to their need with additional parts, or simply by restrictions on the way the values of objects have to be used.

## COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –

### Part 6: Configuration description language for communication in electrical substations related to IEDs

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61850 specifies a file format for describing communication-related IED (Intelligent Electronic Device) configurations and IED parameters, communication system configurations, switch yard (function) structures, and the relations between them. The main purpose of this format is to exchange IED capability descriptions, and SA system descriptions between IED engineering tools and the system engineering tool(s) of different manufacturers in a compatible way.

The defined language is called System Configuration description Language (SCL). The IED and communication system model in SCL is according to IEC 61850-5 and IEC 61850-7-x. SCSM specific extensions or usage rules may be required in the appropriate parts.

The configuration language is based on the Extensible Markup Language (XML) version 1.0 (see XML references in Clause 2).

This standard does not specify individual implementations or products using the language, nor does it constrain the implementation of entities and interfaces within a computer system. This part of the standard does not specify the download format of configuration data to an IED, although it could be used for part of the configuration data.

#### 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 61850-2, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 2: Glossary*

IEC 61850-5, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 5: Communication requirements for functions and device models*

IEC 61850-7-1, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-1: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Principles and models*

IEC 61850-7-2, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-2: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Abstract communication service interface (ACSI)*

IEC 61850-7-3, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-3: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Common data classes*

IEC 61850-7-4, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 7-4: Basic communication structure for substation and feeder equipment – Compatible logical node classes and data classes*

IEC 61850-8-1, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 8-1: Specific Communication Service Mapping (SCSM) – Mappings to MMS (ISO 9506-1 and ISO 9506-2) and to ISO/IEC 8802-3*



IEC 61850-9-2, *Communication networks and systems in substations – Part 9-2: Specific Communication Service Mapping (SCSM) – Sampled values over ISO/IEC 8802-3*

IEC 81346-1, *Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products – Structuring principles and reference designations – Part 1: Basic rules*

ISO/IEC 8859-1, *Information technology – 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets – Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1*

RFC 1952, *GZIP file format specification version 4.3*, RFC, available at <<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt>>

RFC 2045, *Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part One: Format of Internet Message Bodies*, RFC, available at <<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2045.txt>>

*Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0*, W3C, available at <<http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/REC-xml-20001006>>

*XML Schema Part 1: Structures*, W3C, available at <<http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-1-20010502>>

*XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes*, W3C, available at <<http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xmlschema-2-20010502>>