



IEC 60840

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CONSOLIDATED VERSION

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Corrected version  
2025-06



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**Power cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages above 30 kV ( $U_m = 36$  kV) up to 150 kV ( $U_m = 170$  kV) – Test methods and requirements**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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# REDLINE VERSION

Corrected version  
2025-06

**Power cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages  
above 30 kV ( $U_m = 36 \text{ kV}$ ) up to 150 kV ( $U_m = 170 \text{ kV}$ ) – Test methods and  
requirements**



## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	8
INTRODUCTION .....	10
1 Scope .....	11
2 Normative references .....	11
3 Terms and definitions .....	13
3.1 Definitions of dimensional values (thicknesses, cross-sections, etc.) .....	13
3.2 Definitions concerning tests .....	14
3.3 Other definitions .....	14
4 Voltage designations, materials and rounding of numbers .....	16
4.1 Rated voltages .....	16
4.2 Cable insulating compounds .....	16
4.3 Cable metal screens/sheaths .....	16
4.4 Cable oversheathing compounds .....	16
4.5 Rounding of numbers .....	17
5 Precautions against water penetration in cables .....	17
6 Cable characteristics .....	17
7 Accessories characteristics .....	18
7.1 Gas immersed cable terminations .....	18
7.2 <b>Composite</b> -Insulators for outdoor cable terminations .....	18
7.3 Accessory characteristics to be declared .....	19
8 Test conditions .....	20
8.1 Ambient temperature .....	20
8.2 High voltage tests .....	20
8.3 Waveform of lightning impulse test voltages .....	20
8.4 Relationship of test voltages to rated voltages .....	20
8.5 Determination of the cable conductor temperature .....	20
8.6 Tests on gas immersed terminations .....	20
9 Routine tests on cables and accessories .....	21
9.1 General .....	21
9.2 Partial discharge test .....	21
9.3 Voltage test .....	21
9.4 Electrical test on oversheath of the cable .....	22
10 Sample tests on cables .....	22
10.1 General .....	22
10.2 Frequency of tests .....	22
10.3 Repetition of tests .....	22
10.4 Conductor examination .....	23
10.5 Measurement of electrical resistance of conductor and metal screen .....	23
10.6 Measurement of thickness of cable insulation and oversheath .....	23
10.6.1 General .....	23
10.6.2 Requirements for the insulation .....	23
10.6.3 Requirements for the cable oversheath .....	24
10.7 Measurement of thickness of metal sheath .....	24
10.7.1 General .....	24
10.7.2 Lead or lead alloy sheath .....	24
10.7.3 Copper or aluminium sheath .....	25

10.7.4	Metal tape for CD design .....	25
10.8	Measurement of diameters.....	25
10.9	Hot set test for XLPE, EPR and HEPR insulations.....	26
10.9.1	Procedure.....	26
10.9.2	Requirements .....	26
10.10	Measurement of capacitance .....	26
10.11	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation.....	26
10.11.1	Procedure.....	26
10.11.2	Requirements .....	26
10.12	Lightning impulse voltage test.....	26
10.13	Water penetration test.....	27
10.14	<i>Additional</i> Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil <sub>red</sub> bonded to the oversheath .....	27
11	Sample tests on accessories .....	27
11.1	Tests on components of accessory .....	27
11.2	Tests on complete accessory .....	27
12	Type tests on cable systems.....	27
12.1	General.....	27
12.2	Range of type approval .....	28
12.3	Summary of type tests .....	29
12.4	Electrical type tests on cable systems .....	30
12.4.1	Test voltage values.....	30
12.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests .....	30
12.4.3	Bending test .....	30
12.4.4	Partial discharge tests .....	31
12.4.5	Tan $\delta$ measurement .....	31
12.4.6	Heating cycle voltage test.....	32
12.4.7	Lightning impulse voltage test followed by a power frequency voltage test.....	32
12.4.8	Examination.....	33
12.4.9	Resistivity of semi-conducting screens .....	33
12.5	Non-electrical type tests on cable components and on complete cable.....	34
12.5.1	General .....	34
12.5.2	Check of cable construction .....	34
12.5.3	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation before and after ageing .....	34
12.5.4	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of oversheaths before and after ageing .....	35
12.5.5	Ageing tests on pieces of complete cable to check compatibility of materials .....	35
12.5.6	Loss of mass test on PVC oversheaths of type ST <sub>2</sub> .....	36
12.5.7	Pressure test at high temperature on oversheaths .....	36
12.5.8	<i>Test-on</i> for PVC oversheaths (ST <sub>1</sub> , ST <sub>2</sub> ) and LSHF oversheaths (ST <sub>12</sub> ) at low temperature .....	36
12.5.9	Heat shock test for PVC oversheaths (ST <sub>1</sub> and ST <sub>2</sub> ) .....	37
12.5.10	Ozone resistance test for EPR and HEPR insulations .....	37
12.5.11	Hot set test for EPR, HEPR and XLPE insulations .....	37
12.5.12	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation .....	37

12.5.13	Measurement of carbon black content <del>of</del> for black PE oversheaths (ST <sub>3</sub> and ST <sub>7</sub> ) .....	37
12.5.14	Test under fire conditions .....	38
12.5.15	Water penetration test .....	40
12.5.16	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath .....	40
12.5.17	Shrinkage test for PE, HDPE and XLPE insulations .....	40
12.5.18	Shrinkage test for PE oversheaths (ST <sub>3</sub> , ST <sub>7</sub> ) and LSHF oversheaths (ST <sub>12</sub> ) .....	41
12.5.19	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulation.....	41
12.5.20	Determination of the elastic modulus of HEPR insulation.....	41
13	Prequalification test of the cable system .....	41
13.1	General and range of prequalification test approval .....	41
13.2	Prequalification test on complete system .....	42
13.2.1	Summary of prequalification tests .....	42
13.2.2	Test voltage values.....	43
13.2.3	Test arrangement .....	43
13.2.4	Heating cycle voltage test.....	44
13.2.5	Lightning impulse voltage test.....	44
13.2.6	Examination.....	45
13.3	Tests for the extension of the prequalification of a cable system .....	45
13.3.1	Summary of the extension of prequalification test .....	45
13.3.2	Electrical part of the extension of prequalification tests on complete cable system .....	45
14	Type tests on cables.....	47
14.1	General.....	47
14.2	Range of type approval .....	48
14.3	Summary of type tests .....	48
14.4	Electrical type tests on completed cables .....	49
15	Type tests on accessories .....	49
15.1	General.....	49
15.2	Range of type approval .....	49
15.3	Summary of type tests .....	50
15.4	Electrical type tests on accessories .....	51
15.4.1	Test voltage values.....	51
15.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests .....	51
16	Electrical tests after installation (on-site tests).....	51
16.1	General.....	51
16.2	DC voltage test of the oversheath .....	51
16.3	Tests using AC voltage <del>test of the insulation</del> .....	52
Annex A (informative)	Determination of the cable conductor temperature.....	62
A.1	Purpose .....	62
A.2	Calibration of the temperature of the main test loop .....	62
A.2.1	General .....	62
A.2.2	Installation of cable and temperature sensors .....	62
A.2.3	Calibration method .....	64
A.3	Heating for the test .....	64
A.3.1	Method 1 – Test using a reference cable .....	64

A.3.2	Method 2 – Test using conductor temperature calculations and measurement of the surface temperature.....	65
Annex B (normative)	Rounding of numbers .....	66
Annex C (informative)	List of type, prequalification and extension of prequalification tests for cable systems, cables and accessories .....	67
Annex D (normative)	Method of measuring resistivity of semi-conducting screens .....	70
Annex E (normative)	Water penetration test.....	73
E.1	Test piece .....	73
E.2	Test .....	73
E.3	Requirements .....	74
Annex F (normative)	Test for water penetration in the conductor.....	76
F.1	Test piece .....	76
F.2	Test .....	76
F.3	Requirements .....	76
Annex G (normative)	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath .....	79
G.1	Visual examination.....	79
G.2	Adhesion and peel strength.....	79
G.2.1	General .....	79
G.2.2	Test: Adhesion strength.....	79
G.2.3	Test: Peel strength of overlapped metal foil .....	80
G.2.4	Requirements .....	81
Annex H (normative)	Additional tests for accessories.....	83
H.1	General.....	83
H.2	Range of approval.....	85
H.2.1	Range of approval for joints without screen or metal sheath interruption.....	85
H.2.2	Range of approval for joints with screen or metal sheath interruption.....	86
H.2.3	Range of approval for accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	86
H.2.4	Range of approval for terminations with <del>sectionalizing insulation</del> an <ins>insulated screen</ins> .....	86
H.3	Tests of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	86
H.3.1	Conditioning of sample for test .....	86
H.3.2	Water immersion <ins>test</ins> .....	86
H.3.3	Electrical tests .....	87
H.3.4	Examination.....	88
H.4	Tests of terminations with <del>sheath sectionalizing insulation</del> an <ins>insulated screen</ins> .....	89
H.4.1	Conditioning of sample for test .....	89
H.4.2	DC voltage withstand test between screen and earth .....	89
H.4.3	Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth .....	89
H.4.4	Examination.....	89
H.5	Tests for <del>composite</del> insulators for outdoor terminations.....	90
H.5.1	Tests for ceramic insulators .....	90
H.5.2	Tests for composite insulators .....	90
H.6	Tests for gas-immersed terminations in case of changing insulating gas .....	90
H.6.1	General .....	90
H.6.2	Electrical tests .....	91

H.6.3	Leak rate test .....	91
Annex I (normative)	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulations.....	92
I.1	Test piece .....	92
I.2	Test procedure.....	92
I.2.1	General .....	92
I.2.2	Surfaces of large radius of curvature .....	92
I.2.3	Surfaces of small radius of curvature .....	92
I.2.4	Conditioning and test temperature .....	92
I.2.5	Number of measurements.....	93
Annex J (informative)	Guidance on examination of cable and accessories .....	94
Annex K (xxx informative)	<del>Void</del> Guidance for type test on heating-cycle-voltage-test interruption and cycle validity.....	95
K.1	Interruption of cycles during a heating cycle voltage test.....	95
K.1.1	Scheduled interruption of test .....	95
K.1.2	Non-scheduled interruption of test .....	95
K.2	Valid heating cycles .....	95
Annex L (normative)	Methods for determining the weighted value of halogen content of the non-metallic materials in the cable .....	96
L.1	Calculating the weighted value of the cable when the halogen content of individual materials is tested .....	96
L.2	Preparation of the test sample for measurement of halogen content on a sample representative of the non-metallic materials in the cable .....	96
Bibliography.....		97
Figure 1 – Example of the test arrangement for the prequalification test .....	44	
Figure 2 – Example of extension of prequalification test arrangement for the prequalification of a system with another joint, designed for rigid as well as flexible installation .....	46	
Figure A.1 – Typical test set-up for the reference loop and the main test loop.....	63	
Figure A.2 – Example of an arrangement of the temperature sensors on the conductor of the reference loop .....	64	
Figure D.1 – Preparation of samples for measurement of resistivity of conductor and insulation screens .....	72	
Figure E.1 – Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test.....	75	
Figure F.1 – Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test in the conductor.....	78	
Figure G.1 – Adhesion of metal tape or foil .....	80	
Figure G.2 – Example of overlapped metal foil.....	81	
Figure G.3 – Peel strength of overlapped metal foil.....	81	
Figure G.4 – Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (1).....	82	
Figure G.5 – Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (2).....	82	
Figure I.1 – Test on surfaces of large radius of curvature.....	93	
Figure I.2 – Test on surfaces of small radius of curvature .....	93	
Table 1 – Insulating compounds for cables .....	53	
Table 2 – Oversheathing compounds for cables .....	53	
Table 3 – $\tan \delta$ requirements for insulating compounds for cables.....	54	
Table 4 – Test voltages.....	54	

Table 5 – Non-electrical type tests for insulating and oversheathing compounds for cables .....	55
Table 6 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of insulating compounds for cables (before and after ageing) .....	56
Table 7 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of oversheathing compounds for cables (before and after ageing) .....	57
Table 8 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of insulating compounds for cables .....	58
Table 9 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of PVC and LSHF oversheathing for cables .....	59
Table 11 – Test requirements for fire performance characteristics of cables with PVC and LSHF oversheaths .....	60
Table 10 – <del>Maximum mechanical</del> Cantilever operating load for <del>composite</del> insulators for outdoor terminations .....	61
Table 12 – Test voltages for AC voltage test after installation .....	61
Table C.1 – Type tests on cable systems, on cables and on accessories .....	67
Table C.2 – Prequalification tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm .....	68
Table C.3 – <del>Extension of prequalification</del> EQ tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm .....	69
Table G.1 – Minimum acceptable adhesion or peel strength forces .....	82
Table H.1 – Test sequence .....	84
Table H.2 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	88
Table H.3 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and screen of joints with screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	88
Table H.4 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand tests between screen and earth of terminations with <del>sheath sectionalizing insulation</del> an insulated screen .....	89

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION  
AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES  
ABOVE 30 kV ( $U_m = 36$  kV) UP TO 150 kV ( $U_m = 170$  kV) –  
TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**FOREWORD**

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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**This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.**

**IEC 60840 edition 5.1 contains the fifth edition (2020-05) [documents 20/1909/FDIS and 20/1910/RVD] and its corrigendum 1 (2021-02), as well as its amendment 1 (2023-06) [documents 20/2100/FDIS and 20/2107/RVD] and its corrigendum 1 (2025-06).**

**In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.**

International Standard IEC 60840 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

This fifth edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST<sub>12</sub> is introduced.
- Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which shall be applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.

NOTE For a more detailed history of events leading up to this fifth edition, see the Introduction.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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

**IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document 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.**

## INTRODUCTION

The first edition of IEC 60840, published in 1988, dealt only with cables. Accessories were added to the second edition, published in February 1999, which separately covered test methods and test requirements for

- a) cables alone,
- b) cables together with accessories (a cable system).

Some countries then suggested that a better discrimination be made between systems, cables and accessories, particularly for the lower voltages of the scope, for example 45 kV. This was taken into account in the third edition (2004) and has been retained subsequently, giving the type approval requirements and the range of approvals for:

- a) cable systems,
- b) cables alone,
- c) accessories alone.

Manufacturers and users may choose the most appropriate option for type approval.

The fourth edition (2011) introduced the prequalification test procedure, as a cable system inclusive of accessories, for cables with high electrical stresses at the conductor screen and/or insulation screen.

Other significant changes in the fourth edition were:

- a) The clause numbering of this document and IEC 62067 was coordinated to achieve as much commonality as possible.
- b) In the case of the sample test, the lightning impulse voltage test is no longer followed by a power frequency voltage test.

In this fifth edition the principle changes are as follows:

- a) New definitions have been added for three different cable screen designs following IEC TR 61901:2016.
- b) Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- c) Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- d) The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- e) A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST<sub>12</sub> is introduced.
- f) Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which are applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- g) A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- h) In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.
- i) A list of relevant CIGRE references is given in the bibliography.

**POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION  
AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES  
ABOVE 30 kV ( $U_m = 36$  kV) UP TO 150 kV ( $U_m = 170$  kV) –  
TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS**

## 1 Scope

This document specifies test methods and requirements for power cable systems, cables alone and accessories alone, for fixed installations and for rated voltages above 30 kV ( $U_m = 36$  kV) up to and including 150 kV ( $U_m = 170$  kV).

The requirements apply to single-core cables and to individually screened three-core cables and to their accessories for usual conditions of installation and operation, but not to special cables, such as submarine cables and their accessories, for which modifications to the standard tests or the setup of special test conditions can be necessary.

This document does not cover transition joints between cables with extruded insulation and paper insulated cables.

## 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 60060-1:2010, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60060-3, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 3: Definitions and requirements for on-site testing*

IEC 60137, *Insulated bushings for alternating voltages above 1 000 V*

IEC 60228, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60229:2007, *Electric cables – Tests on extruded oversheaths with a special protective function*

IEC 60230, *Impulse tests on cables and their accessories*

IEC 60287-1-1:2006, *Electric cables – Calculation of the current rating – Part 1-1: Current rating equations (100 % load factor) and calculation of losses – General*

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for 1 kW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60332-1-3, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-3: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for determination of flaming droplets/particles*

IEC 60332-3-24, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C*

IEC 60754-2, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 2: Determination of acidity (by pH measurement) and conductivity*

IEC 60754-3, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 3: Measurement of low level of halogen content by ion chromatography*

IEC 60811-201, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 201: General tests – Measurement of insulation thickness*

IEC 60811-202:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 202: General tests – Measurement of thickness of non-metallic sheath*  
IEC 60811-202:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-203, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 203: General tests – Measurement of overall dimensions*

IEC 60811-401, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 401: Miscellaneous tests – Thermal ageing methods – Ageing in an air oven*

IEC 60811-403, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 403: Miscellaneous tests – Ozone resistance test on cross-linked compounds*

IEC 60811-409, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 409: Miscellaneous tests – Loss of mass test for thermoplastic insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-501:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 501: Mechanical tests – Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation and sheathing compounds*

IEC 60811-501:2012/AMD1:2018

IEC 60811-502:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 502: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for insulations*

IEC 60811-503, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 503: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for sheaths*

IEC 60811-505, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 505: Mechanical tests – Elongation at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-506, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 506: Mechanical tests – Impact test at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-507, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 507: Mechanical tests – Hot set test for cross-linked materials*

IEC 60811-508:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 508: Mechanical tests – Pressure test at high temperature for insulations and sheaths*  
IEC 60811-508:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-509, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 509: Mechanical tests – Test for resistance of insulations and sheaths to cracking (heat shock test)*

IEC 60811-605:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 605: Physical tests – Measurement of carbon black and/or mineral filler in polyethylene compounds*

IEC 60811-606, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 606: Physical tests – Methods for determining the density*

IEC 60885-3, *Electrical test methods for electric cables – Part 3: Test methods for partial discharge measurements on lengths of extruded power cables*

IEC 61034-2:2005, *Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions – Part 2: Test procedure and requirements*  
IEC 61034-2:2005/AMD1:2013

IEC 61462:2007, *Composite hollow insulators – Pressurized and unpressurized insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltage greater than 1 000 V – Definitions, test methods, acceptance criteria and design recommendations*

IEC 62155, *Hollow pressurized and unpressurized ceramic and glass insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltages greater than 1 000 V*

IEC 62271-209, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 209: Cable connections for gas-insulated metal-enclosed switchgear for rated voltages above 52 kV. Fluid-filled and extruded insulation cables – Fluid-filled and dry-type cable-terminations*

ISO 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic – Determination of hardness – Part 2: Hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD*

# FINAL VERSION

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**Power cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages  
above 30 kV ( $U_m = 36 \text{ kV}$ ) up to 150 kV ( $U_m = 170 \text{ kV}$ ) – Test methods and  
requirements**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	8
INTRODUCTION .....	10
1 Scope .....	11
2 Normative references .....	11
3 Terms and definitions .....	13
3.1 Definitions of dimensional values (thicknesses, cross-sections, etc.) .....	13
3.2 Definitions concerning tests .....	14
3.3 Other definitions .....	14
4 Voltage designations, materials and rounding of numbers .....	16
4.1 Rated voltages .....	16
4.2 Cable insulating compounds .....	16
4.3 Cable metal screens/sheaths .....	16
4.4 Cable oversheathing compounds .....	16
4.5 Rounding of numbers .....	17
5 Precautions against water penetration in cables .....	17
6 Cable characteristics .....	17
7 Accessories characteristics .....	18
7.1 Gas immersed cable terminations .....	18
7.2 Insulators for outdoor cable terminations .....	18
7.3 Accessory characteristics to be declared .....	19
8 Test conditions .....	20
8.1 Ambient temperature .....	20
8.2 High voltage tests .....	20
8.3 Waveform of lightning impulse test voltages .....	20
8.4 Relationship of test voltages to rated voltages .....	20
8.5 Determination of the cable conductor temperature .....	20
8.6 Tests on gas immersed terminations .....	20
9 Routine tests on cables and accessories .....	20
9.1 General .....	20
9.2 Partial discharge test .....	21
9.3 Voltage test .....	21
9.4 Electrical test on oversheath of the cable .....	21
10 Sample tests on cables .....	22
10.1 General .....	22
10.2 Frequency of tests .....	22
10.3 Repetition of tests .....	22
10.4 Conductor examination .....	22
10.5 Measurement of electrical resistance of conductor and metal screen .....	22
10.6 Measurement of thickness of cable insulation and oversheath .....	23
10.6.1 General .....	23
10.6.2 Requirements for the insulation .....	23
10.6.3 Requirements for the cable oversheath .....	23
10.7 Measurement of thickness of metal sheath .....	24
10.7.1 General .....	24
10.7.2 Lead or lead alloy sheath .....	24
10.7.3 Copper or aluminium sheath .....	24

10.7.4	Metal tape for CD design .....	25
10.8	Measurement of diameters.....	25
10.9	Hot set test for XLPE, EPR and HEPR insulations.....	25
10.9.1	Procedure.....	25
10.9.2	Requirements .....	25
10.10	Measurement of capacitance .....	25
10.11	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation.....	26
10.11.1	Procedure.....	26
10.11.2	Requirements .....	26
10.12	Lightning impulse voltage test.....	26
10.13	Water penetration test.....	26
10.14	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil bonded to the oversheath .....	26
11	Sample tests on accessories .....	26
11.1	Tests on components of accessory .....	26
11.2	Tests on complete accessory .....	27
12	Type tests on cable systems.....	27
12.1	General.....	27
12.2	Range of type approval.....	27
12.3	Summary of type tests .....	28
12.4	Electrical type tests on cable systems .....	29
12.4.1	Test voltage values.....	29
12.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests .....	29
12.4.3	Bending test .....	30
12.4.4	Partial discharge tests .....	31
12.4.5	Tan $\delta$ measurement .....	31
12.4.6	Heating cycle voltage test.....	31
12.4.7	Lightning impulse voltage test followed by a power frequency voltage test.....	32
12.4.8	Examination.....	32
12.4.9	Resistivity of semi-conducting screens .....	33
12.5	Non-electrical type tests on cable components and on complete cable.....	33
12.5.1	General .....	33
12.5.2	Check of cable construction.....	34
12.5.3	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation before and after ageing .....	34
12.5.4	Tests for determining the mechanical properties of oversheaths before and after ageing .....	34
12.5.5	Ageing tests on pieces of complete cable to check compatibility of materials .....	35
12.5.6	Loss of mass test on PVC oversheaths of type ST <sub>2</sub> .....	35
12.5.7	Pressure test at high temperature on oversheaths .....	35
12.5.8	Test for PVC oversheaths (ST <sub>1</sub> , ST <sub>2</sub> ) and LSHF oversheaths (ST <sub>12</sub> ) at low temperature.....	36
12.5.9	Heat shock test for PVC oversheaths (ST <sub>1</sub> and ST <sub>2</sub> ) .....	36
12.5.10	Ozone resistance test for EPR and HEPR insulations .....	36
12.5.11	Hot set test for EPR, HEPR and XLPE insulations .....	36
12.5.12	Measurement of density of HDPE insulation .....	36

12.5.13	Measurement of carbon black content for black PE oversheaths (ST <sub>3</sub> and ST <sub>7</sub> ) .....	37
12.5.14	Test under fire conditions .....	37
12.5.15	Water penetration test .....	38
12.5.16	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath .....	39
12.5.17	Shrinkage test for PE, HDPE and XLPE insulations .....	39
12.5.18	Shrinkage test for PE oversheaths (ST <sub>3</sub> , ST <sub>7</sub> ) and LSHF oversheaths (ST <sub>12</sub> ) .....	39
12.5.19	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulation.....	39
12.5.20	Determination of the elastic modulus of HEPR insulation .....	39
13	Prequalification test of the cable system .....	40
13.1	General and range of prequalification test approval .....	40
13.2	Prequalification test on complete system .....	41
13.2.1	Summary of prequalification tests .....	41
13.2.2	Test voltage values.....	41
13.2.3	Test arrangement .....	41
13.2.4	Heating cycle voltage test.....	42
13.2.5	Lightning impulse voltage test.....	43
13.2.6	Examination.....	43
13.3	Tests for the extension of the prequalification of a cable system .....	43
13.3.1	Summary of the extension of prequalification test .....	43
13.3.2	Electrical part of the extension of prequalification tests on complete cable system .....	43
14	Type tests on cables.....	45
14.1	General.....	45
14.2	Range of type approval .....	46
14.3	Summary of type tests .....	46
14.4	Electrical type tests on completed cables .....	46
15	Type tests on accessories .....	47
15.1	General.....	47
15.2	Range of type approval .....	47
15.3	Summary of type tests .....	48
15.4	Electrical type tests on accessories .....	48
15.4.1	Test voltage values.....	48
15.4.2	Tests and sequence of tests .....	48
16	Electrical tests after installation (on-site tests).....	49
16.1	General.....	49
16.2	DC voltage test of the oversheath .....	49
16.3	Tests using AC voltage .....	49
Annex A (informative)	Determination of the cable conductor temperature.....	59
A.1	Purpose .....	59
A.2	Calibration of the temperature of the main test loop .....	59
A.2.1	General .....	59
A.2.2	Installation of cable and temperature sensors .....	59
A.2.3	Calibration method .....	61
A.3	Heating for the test .....	61
A.3.1	Method 1 – Test using a reference cable .....	61

A.3.2	Method 2 – Test using conductor temperature calculations and measurement of the surface temperature.....	62
Annex B (normative)	Rounding of numbers .....	63
Annex C (informative)	List of type, prequalification and extension of prequalification tests for cable systems, cables and accessories .....	64
Annex D (normative)	Method of measuring resistivity of semi-conducting screens .....	66
Annex E (normative)	Water penetration test.....	69
E.1	Test piece .....	69
E.2	Test .....	69
E.3	Requirements .....	70
Annex F (normative)	Test for water penetration in the conductor.....	71
F.1	Test piece .....	71
F.2	Test .....	71
F.3	Requirements .....	71
Annex G (normative)	Tests on components of cables with a longitudinally applied metal tape or foil, bonded to the oversheath .....	73
G.1	Visual examination.....	73
G.2	Adhesion and peel strength.....	73
G.2.1	General .....	73
G.2.2	Test: Adhesion strength.....	73
G.2.3	Test: Peel strength of overlapped metal foil .....	74
G.2.4	Requirements .....	75
Annex H (normative)	Additional tests for accessories.....	77
H.1	General.....	77
H.2	Range of approval.....	78
H.2.1	Range of approval for joints without screen or metal sheath interruption.....	78
H.2.2	Range of approval for joints with screen or metal sheath interruption.....	79
H.2.3	Range of approval for accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	79
H.2.4	Range of approval for terminations with an insulated screen.....	79
H.3	Tests of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	79
H.3.1	Conditioning of sample for test .....	79
H.3.2	Water immersion test.....	79
H.3.3	Electrical tests .....	80
H.3.4	Examination.....	81
H.4	Tests of terminations with an insulated screen .....	82
H.4.1	Conditioning of sample for test .....	82
H.4.2	DC voltage withstand test between screen and earth .....	82
H.4.3	Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth .....	82
H.4.4	Examination.....	82
H.5	Tests for insulators for outdoor terminations .....	82
H.5.1	Tests for ceramic insulators .....	82
H.5.2	Tests for composite insulators .....	83
H.6	Tests for gas-immersed terminations in case of changing insulating gas .....	83
H.6.1	General .....	83
H.6.2	Electrical tests .....	83
H.6.3	Leak rate test .....	84
Annex I (normative)	Determination of hardness of HEPR insulations.....	85

I.1	Test piece .....	85
I.2	Test procedure.....	85
I.2.1	General .....	85
I.2.2	Surfaces of large radius of curvature .....	85
I.2.3	Surfaces of small radius of curvature.....	85
I.2.4	Conditioning and test temperature .....	85
I.2.5	Number of measurements.....	86
Annex J (informative)	Guidance on examination of cable and accessories .....	87
Annex K (informative)	Guidance for type test on heating-cycle-voltage-test interruption and cycle validity .....	88
K.1	Interruption of cycles during a heating cycle voltage test.....	88
K.1.1	Scheduled interruption of test .....	88
K.1.2	Non-scheduled interruption of test .....	88
K.2	Valid heating cycles .....	88
Annex L (normative)	Methods for determining the weighted value of halogen content of the non-metallic materials in the cable .....	89
L.1	Calculating the weighted value of the cable when the halogen content of individual materials is tested .....	89
L.2	Preparation of the test sample for measurement of halogen content on a sample representative of the non-metallic materials in the cable .....	89
Bibliography.....		90
Figure 1 – Example of the test arrangement for the prequalification test .....	42	
Figure 2 – Example of extension of prequalification test arrangement for the prequalification of a system with another joint, designed for rigid as well as flexible installation .....	44	
Figure A.1 – Typical test set-up for the reference loop and the main test loop.....	60	
Figure A.2 – Example of an arrangement of the temperature sensors on the conductor of the reference loop .....	61	
Figure D.1 – Preparation of samples for measurement of resistivity of conductor and insulation screens .....	68	
Figure E.1 – Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test .....	70	
Figure F.1 – Schematic diagram of apparatus for water penetration test in the conductor.....	72	
Figure G.1 – Adhesion of metal tape or foil .....	74	
Figure G.2 – Example of overlapped metal foil.....	75	
Figure G.3 – Peel strength of overlapped metal foil.....	75	
Figure G.4 – Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (1).....	76	
Figure G.5 – Typical strength versus grip spacing curve (2).....	76	
Figure I.1 – Test on surfaces of large radius of curvature.....	86	
Figure I.2 – Test on surfaces of small radius of curvature .....	86	
Table 1 – Insulating compounds for cables .....	50	
Table 2 – Oversheathing compounds for cables .....	50	
Table 3 – $\tan \delta$ requirements for insulating compounds for cables.....	51	
Table 4 – Test voltages.....	51	
Table 5 – Non-electrical type tests for insulating and oversheathing compounds for cables .....	52	

Table 6 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of insulating compounds for cables (before and after ageing) .....	53
Table 7 – Test requirements for mechanical characteristics of oversheathing compounds for cables (before and after ageing) .....	54
Table 8 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of insulating compounds for cables .....	55
Table 9 – Test requirements for particular characteristics of PVC and LSHF oversheathing for cables .....	56
Table 11 – Test requirements for fire performance characteristics of cables with PVC and LSHF oversheaths .....	57
Table 10 – Cantilever operating load for insulators for outdoor terminations .....	58
Table 12 – Test voltages for AC voltage test after installation .....	58
Table C.1 – Type tests on cable systems, on cables and on accessories .....	64
Table C.2 – Prequalification tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm .....	65
Table C.3 – EQ tests on cable systems with a calculated nominal conductor electric stress above 8,0 kV/mm or a calculated nominal insulation electric stress above 4,0 kV/mm .....	65
Table G.1 – Minimum acceptable adhesion or peel strength forces .....	76
Table H.1 – Test sequence .....	78
Table H.2 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and earth of joints with or without screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	81
Table H.3 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand test between screen and screen of joints with screen or metal sheath interruption and accessories for cable screen interruption and/or earth connection .....	81
Table H.4 – Lightning impulse voltage withstand tests between screen and earth of terminations with an insulated screen .....	82

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION  
AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES  
ABOVE 30 kV ( $U_m = 36$  kV) UP TO 150 kV ( $U_m = 170$  kV) –  
TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**FOREWORD**

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**This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.**

**IEC 60840 edition 5.1 contains the fifth edition (2020-05) [documents 20/1909/FDIS and 20/1910/RVD] and its corrigendum 1 (2021-02), as well as its amendment 1 (2023-06) [documents 20/2100/FDIS and 20/2107/RVD] and its corrigendum 1 (2025-06).**

**This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.**

International Standard IEC 60840 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

This fifth edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST<sub>12</sub> is introduced.
- Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which shall be applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.

NOTE For a more detailed history of events leading up to this fifth edition, see the Introduction.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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

## INTRODUCTION

The first edition of IEC 60840, published in 1988, dealt only with cables. Accessories were added to the second edition, published in February 1999, which separately covered test methods and test requirements for

- a) cables alone,
- b) cables together with accessories (a cable system).

Some countries then suggested that a better discrimination be made between systems, cables and accessories, particularly for the lower voltages of the scope, for example 45 kV. This was taken into account in the third edition (2004) and has been retained subsequently, giving the type approval requirements and the range of approvals for:

- a) cable systems,
- b) cables alone,
- c) accessories alone.

Manufacturers and users may choose the most appropriate option for type approval.

The fourth edition (2011) introduced the prequalification test procedure, as a cable system inclusive of accessories, for cables with high electrical stresses at the conductor screen and/or insulation screen.

Other significant changes in the fourth edition were:

- a) The clause numbering of this document and IEC 62067 was coordinated to achieve as much commonality as possible.
- b) In the case of the sample test, the lightning impulse voltage test is no longer followed by a power frequency voltage test.

In this fifth edition the principle changes are as follows:

- a) New definitions have been added for three different cable screen designs following IEC TR 61901:2016.
- b) Gas immersed cable terminations for use at rated voltages above 52 kV are required to be designed, type and routine tested in accordance with IEC 62271-209 in addition to the routine and type tests specified in this document.
- c) Requirements are introduced for composite outdoor termination insulators.
- d) The test cylinder diameters specified for the bending test (type and prequalification tests) have been modified in line with IEC TR 61901:2016.
- e) A low smoke halogen free oversheath material, designated ST<sub>12</sub> is introduced.
- f) Additional tests under fire conditions are introduced: vertical flame spread, smoke density, acidity and conductivity, which are applied according to the fire performance declared for the cable.
- g) A test for water penetration in the conductor is added.
- h) In addition to tests on the outer protection of joints, type tests on the screen sectionalizing insulation of all accessories have been introduced.
- i) A list of relevant CIGRE references is given in the bibliography.

**POWER CABLES WITH EXTRUDED INSULATION  
AND THEIR ACCESSORIES FOR RATED VOLTAGES  
ABOVE 30 kV ( $U_m = 36$  kV) UP TO 150 kV ( $U_m = 170$  kV) –  
TEST METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS**

## 1 Scope

This document specifies test methods and requirements for power cable systems, cables alone and accessories alone, for fixed installations and for rated voltages above 30 kV ( $U_m = 36$  kV) up to and including 150 kV ( $U_m = 170$  kV).

The requirements apply to single-core cables and to individually screened three-core cables and to their accessories for usual conditions of installation and operation, but not to special cables, such as submarine cables and their accessories, for which modifications to the standard tests or the setup of special test conditions can be necessary.

This document does not cover transition joints between cables with extruded insulation and paper insulated cables.

## 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 60060-1:2010, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60060-3, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 3: Definitions and requirements for on-site testing*

IEC 60137, *Insulated bushings for alternating voltages above 1 000 V*

IEC 60228, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60229:2007, *Electric cables – Tests on extruded oversheaths with a special protective function*

IEC 60230, *Impulse tests on cables and their accessories*

IEC 60287-1-1:2006, *Electric cables – Calculation of the current rating – Part 1-1: Current rating equations (100 % load factor) and calculation of losses – General*

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for 1 kW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60332-1-3, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-3: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for determination of flaming droplets/particles*

IEC 60332-3-24, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C*

IEC 60754-2, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 2: Determination of acidity (by pH measurement) and conductivity*

IEC 60754-3, *Test on gases evolved during combustion of materials from cables – Part 3: Measurement of low level of halogen content by ion chromatography*

IEC 60811-201, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 201: General tests – Measurement of insulation thickness*

IEC 60811-202:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 202: General tests – Measurement of thickness of non-metallic sheath*  
IEC 60811-202:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-203, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 203: General tests – Measurement of overall dimensions*

IEC 60811-401, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 401: Miscellaneous tests – Thermal ageing methods – Ageing in an air oven*

IEC 60811-403, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 403: Miscellaneous tests – Ozone resistance test on cross-linked compounds*

IEC 60811-409, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 409: Miscellaneous tests – Loss of mass test for thermoplastic insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-501:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 501: Mechanical tests – Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulation and sheathing compounds*

IEC 60811-501:2012/AMD1:2018

IEC 60811-502:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 502: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for insulations*

IEC 60811-503, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 503: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for sheaths*

IEC 60811-505, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 505: Mechanical tests – Elongation at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-506, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 506: Mechanical tests – Impact test at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-507, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 507: Mechanical tests – Hot set test for cross-linked materials*

IEC 60811-508:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 508: Mechanical tests – Pressure test at high temperature for insulations and sheaths*  
IEC 60811-508:2012/AMD1:2017

IEC 60811-509, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 509: Mechanical tests – Test for resistance of insulations and sheaths to cracking (heat shock test)*

IEC 60811-605:2012, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 605: Physical tests – Measurement of carbon black and/or mineral filler in polyethylene compounds*

IEC 60811-606, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 606: Physical tests – Methods for determining the density*

IEC 60885-3, *Electrical test methods for electric cables – Part 3: Test methods for partial discharge measurements on lengths of extruded power cables*

IEC 61034-2:2005, *Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions – Part 2: Test procedure and requirements*  
IEC 61034-2:2005/AMD1:2013

IEC 61462:2007, *Composite hollow insulators – Pressurized and unpressurized insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltage greater than 1 000 V – Definitions, test methods, acceptance criteria and design recommendations*

IEC 62155, *Hollow pressurized and unpressurized ceramic and glass insulators for use in electrical equipment with rated voltages greater than 1 000 V*

IEC 62271-209, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 209: Cable connections for gas-insulated metal-enclosed switchgear for rated voltages above 52 kV. Fluid-filled and extruded insulation cables – Fluid-filled and dry-type cable-terminations*

ISO 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic – Determination of hardness – Part 2: Hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD*