IEC TS 63444

Edition 2.0 2026-06

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Industrial networks - Ethernet-APL port profile / Ethernet-SPE profile specification

ICS 29.240

ISBN 978-2-8327-1226-9

IEC TS 63444:2026-06(en)

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

_____

Industrial networks - Ethernet-APL port profile / Ethernet-SPE profile specification

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.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
9) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s), which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at https://patents.iec.ch. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

IEC TS 63444 has been prepared by subcommittee 65C: Industrial networks, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement, control and automation. It is a Technical Specification.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2023. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) new power class for Ethernet-APL;
b) addition of Ethernet-SPE;
c) clarification of usability of Ethernet-APL in non-hazardous locations.

The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
65C/1386/DTS	65C/1411/RVDTS

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Specification is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

– reconfirmed,
– withdrawn, or
– revised.

INTRODUCTION

IEEE Std 802.3™-2022, Clause 146, specifies the Ethernet Physical Layer 10BASE-T1L, suitable to be used for full-duplex communication over a single balanced pair of conductors.

This physical layer is specifically designed for industrial applications, supporting the main requirements for advanced, robust process control and monitoring in safe or hazardous areas.

The primary physical layer solution focuses on four requirements:

– support of single pair cables providing both communication and optional power;
– increased data bandwidth, 10 Mbit/s;
– support of extended Ethernet cable length of up to 1 km;
– support of intrinsically safe protection for use in hazardous areas.

IEEE Std 802.3-2022, Clause 146, only specifies the digital communication method and its electrical characteristics. To achieve interoperability between the various interconnected components at different parts of the network, a further set of specifications and classifications are supportive when applying this new physical layer for industrial applications.

In addition, IEEE Std 802.3™-2022, Clause 104, as corrected and amended by IEEE Std 802.3dd-2022 specifies the Power over Data Lines (PoDL) of Single-Pair Ethernet. This clause specifies two optional power entities. These entities allow devices to supply or draw power using the cabling that may be used for data transmission. PoDL does not support intrinsic safety and is optimized for applications that do not require intrinsic safety.

The "Ethernet Advanced Physical Layer" (Ethernet-APL or APL) standardizes 2-wire (single-pair) industrial Ethernet supporting the "2-WISE" (IEC TS 60079-47) intrinsically safe concept. Clause 146 is referenced and extended, and Clause 104 is replaced with an alternate power method. Ethernet-SPE standardizes non-intrinsically safe single-pair industrial Ethernet for process automation, factory automation and building automation. Clause 146 and Clause 104 (PoDL) are referenced and extended. Ethernet-SPE can be used in combination with Ethernet-APL.

The first part of this document specifies 2-WISE compliant Ethernet-APL port profiles for use in hazardous and non-hazardous with and without power. Ethernet-APL intrinsically safe profiles facilitate the examination of the interconnection of different Ethernet-APL ports. Most common industrial rated connectors for use in process industries are part of this document. A multi-length cable category system maintains communication integrity, while permitting cable constructions optimized for specific applications or environmental ratings. The second part of this document specifies Ethernet-SPE profiles without intrinsic safety for use in non-hazardous locations, with and without power. This also includes hazardous locations not requiring intrinsic safety.

Ethernet-APL and Ethernet-SPE impact the various physical layers in IEC 61158-2 and its associated Types. This document provides a neutral approach for the new Advanced Physical Layer which can be then transferred to the next editions of different IEC intrinsically safe fieldbus documents. The following documents are representative of potentially affected next editions: IEC 61158-2, the IEC 61784-1 series, the IEC 61784-2 series, IEC 61918 and the IEC 61784-5 series.

This document is not intended to assure interoperability at the product level but only at the port level. No reference is made to any Ethernet-based communication protocol above the physical layer.

NOTE 1 As a simplification, this document describes some applications as 'requiring 2-WISE'. Ethernet-APL supports intrinsic safety with 2-WISE can suit these applications. This document describes other applications as 'not requiring 2-WISE'. Ethernet-SPE does not support intrinsic safety (and therefore not 2-WISE) and suits these applications (Ethernet-APL can also be used).

NOTE 2 Heating of cable due to remote powering is not considered in this document. Information is supplied by ISO/IEC TS 29125.

1 Scope

This document is applicable to process automation equipment using a 10BASE-T1L compliant Physical Layer (PHY). Ethernet-APL intrinsically safe profiles with different predefined entity or limitation parameters (for example voltage, current, power, capacitance, inductance, cable length) simplify the examination of the interconnection of different Ethernet-APL ports. Furthermore, this document is also applicable to factory and building automation and control equipment using a 10BASE-T1L compliant, and Power over Data Lines (PoDL) compliant Physical Layer (PHY) for non-intrinsically safe Ethernet installations.

NOTE In this document the term Ethernet-SPE is used for PoDL compliant PHY.

The following technical features are part of this document:

– topology with trunk and spur installation capability;
– 2-wire technology (full-duplex communication data rate of 10 Mbit/s);
– long distance (refers to cable lengths of several hundred meters, with spans up to 1 000 m);
– intrinsic safety (installation of Ethernet-capable field devices in hazardous areas);
– power supply to field devices over the same 2-wire cable used for data communication;
– non-intrinsically safe Ethernet installation in factory and building automation.

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 60079-11, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety "i"*

IEC 60079-14, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 14: Electrical installations design, selection and installation of equipment, including initial inspection*

IEC 60079-25, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 25: Intrinsically safe electrical systems*

IEC TS 60079-47:2021, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 47: Equipment protection by 2-wire intrinsically safe ethernet concept (2-WISE)*

IEC 61010-1, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use - Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61076-2-101, *Connectors for electronic equipment - Product requirements - Part 2-101: Circular connectors - Detail specification for circular connectors for M12 connectors with screw-locking*

IEC 61076-2-104, *Connectors for electronic equipment - Product requirements - Part 2-104: Circular connectors - Detail specification for circular connectors with M8 screw-locking or snap-locking*

IEC 61156-13, *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications - Part 13: Symmetrical single pair cables with transmission characteristics up to 20 MHz - Horizontal floor wiring - Sectional specification*

Bibliography

IEC 60079-0, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 0: Equipment - General requirements*

IEC 60512-25-7, *Connectors for electronic equipment - Tests and measurements - Part 25-7: Test 25g - Impedance, reflection coefficient, and voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR)*

IEC 60603-7-3, *Connectors for electronic equipment - Part 7-3: Detail specification for 8-way, shielded, free and fixed connectors, for data transmission with frequencies up to 100 MHz*

IEC 61326-2-7, *Electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use - EMC requirements - Part 2-7: Particular requirements - Test configurations, operational conditions, test levels and performance criteria for field devices with Ethernet-APL interfaces*

IEC 61784-1 (all parts), *Industrial networks - Profiles - Part 1: Fieldbus profiles*

IEC 61784-2 (all parts), *Industrial networks - Profiles - Part 2: Additional real-time fieldbus profiles based on ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-3*

IEC 61784-5 (all parts), *Industrial communication networks - Profiles - Part 5: Installation of fieldbuses*

IEC 61918, *Industrial communication networks - Installation of communication networks in industrial premises*

IEC 62103[1], *Electronic equipment for use in power installations*

IEC 63171-7:2023, *Connectors for electrical and electronic equipment - Part 7: Detail specification for up to 7 ways including PE or FE (data/power) and shield pin, free and fixed circular connectors for balanced single-pair data transmission with current-carrying capacity - Mechanical mating information, pin assignment and additional requirements for type 7*

ISO/IEC TR 11801-9906, *Information technology - Generic cabling for customer premises - Part 9906: Balanced 1-pair cabling channels up to 600 MHz for single pair Ethernet (SPE)*

ISO/IEC TS 29125:2017+A2:2024, *Information technology - Telecommunications cabling requirements for remote powering of terminal equipment*

ANSI/TIA 568.5-A, *Balanced Single Twisted-Pair Telecommunications Cabling and Components Standard*

ASTM D4566-05, *Standard Test Methods for Electrical Performance Properties of Insulations and Jackets for Telecommunications Wire and Cable*; available at < ASTM D4566-05 - Standard Test Methods for Electrical Performance Properties of Insulations and Jackets for Telecommunications Wire and Cable (ansi.org)> [viewed 2023-10-13]

CEC, Canadian Electrical Code, *Standard for installation and maintenance of electrical equipment in Canada;* available at CSA Standards - Standards Development | CSA Group (i.e. https://www.csagroup.org/standards/) [viewed 2023-10-14]

NEC, National Electrical Code*, standard for the safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment in the United States*

[1] Withdrawn.

NE21, *Electromagnetic Compatibility of Equipment for Industrial Processes and Laboratory*; available in < NAMUR - User Association of Automation Technology in Process Industries> [viewed 2023-10-14]

UL444:2023, *Communication Cables*

_____