



BSI Standards Publication

General requirements for residual current operated protective devices for DC systems

National foreword

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

**General requirements for residual current operated protective devices
for DC systems**





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**General requirements for residual current operated protective devices
for DC systems**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references	9
3 Terms and definitions	10
4 Classification.....	11
4.1 According to the type of installation	11
4.2 According to the possibility of adjusting the residual operating current.....	11
4.3 According to time-delay (in presence of a residual current)	11
4.4 According to the protection against external influences	12
4.5 According to the method of mounting	12
4.6 According to the method of connection	12
4.7 According to the type of terminals	12
4.8 According to the number of poles and current paths.....	12
4.9 According to the instantaneous tripping current.....	13
4.10 According to the I^2t characteristics	13
4.11 According to overcurrent protection.....	13
4.12 According to the method of construction	13
4.13 According to the range of ambient air temperature	13
4.14 According to the time constant	13
4.15 According to the current direction through the poles.....	13
5 Characteristics of residual current devices.....	14
5.1 Summary of characteristics	14
5.2 Rated quantities and other characteristics.....	14
5.2.1 Rated voltages	14
5.2.2 Rated direct current (I_n)	14
5.2.3 Rated making and breaking capacity (I_m).....	14
5.2.4 Rated residual operating direct current ($I_{\Delta n}$)	15
5.2.5 Rated residual non-operating direct current ($I_{\Delta no}$).....	15
5.2.6 Rated residual direct making and breaking capacity ($I_{\Delta m}$)	15
5.2.7 Rated conditional direct short-circuit current (I_{nc}).....	15
5.2.8 Rated conditional residual direct short-circuit current ($I_{\Delta c}$)	15
5.2.9 Time-delay DC-RCD	15
5.2.10 Operating characteristics	15
5.3 Standard and preferred values	15
5.3.1 Preferred values of rated operational voltage (U_e).....	15
5.3.2 Preferred values of rated current (I_n).....	16
5.3.3 Standard values of rated residual operating direct current ($I_{\Delta n}$)	16
5.3.4 Standard value of residual non-operating direct current ($I_{\Delta no}$)	16
5.3.5 Standard values of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})	16
5.3.6 Standard values of operating time	17
5.3.7 Minimum value of the rated making and breaking capacity (I_m)	18
5.3.8 Minimum value of the rated residual direct making and breaking capacity ($I_{\Delta m}$)	18
5.4 Coordination with short-circuit protective devices (SCPDs)	18
5.4.1 General	18
5.4.2 Preferred values of the rated conditional direct short-circuit current (I_{nc}).....	18

5.4.3	Preferred values of the rated conditional residual direct short-circuit current ($I_{\Delta C}$)	18
6	Marking and other product information	19
7	Conditions for operation in service and for installation	20
7.1	Preferred ranges of application, reference values of influencing quantities/factors and associated test tolerances	20
7.2	Conditions of installation	21
7.3	Pollution degree	21
8	Requirements for construction and operation	21
8.1	Mechanical design	21
8.1.1	General	21
8.1.2	Mechanism	22
8.1.3	Clearance and creepage distances	23
8.1.4	Screws, current-carrying parts and connections	23
8.1.5	Terminals for external conductors	24
8.2	Protection against electric shock	24
8.3	Dielectric properties and isolating capability	24
8.4	Temperature-rise	24
8.5	Operating characteristics	25
8.5.1	General	25
8.5.2	Operation in response to a residual current equal to and greater than $I_{\Delta n}$	25
8.5.3	Operation in response time in presence of a residual current equal to and greater than $I_{\Delta n}$	25
8.6	Mechanical and electrical endurance	25
8.7	Performance at short-circuit currents	25
8.8	Resistance to mechanical shock and impact	26
8.9	Resistance to heat	26
8.10	Resistance to abnormal heat and to fire	26
8.11	Test device	26
8.12	Requirements for DC-RCDs in case of loss of supply	26
8.13	Behaviour of DC-RCDs in case of overcurrent in the main circuit	27
8.14	Behaviour of DC-RCDs in the case of current surges caused by impulse voltages	27
8.15	Void	27
8.16	Reliability	27
8.17	Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC)	27
8.18	Resistance to temporary overvoltages (TOVs)	27
8.19	Performance of DC-RCDs at inrush currents	28
9	Preparation of test clauses for DC-RCDs product standard	28
9.1	General	28
9.1.1	General test conditions	28
9.1.2	Test clauses not specified in this document	28
9.2	Operating characteristics	29
9.2.1	General requirements for operating characteristics tests	29
9.2.2	Steady increase of residual current	29
9.2.3	Closing on a residual current	29
9.2.4	Sudden appearance of residual current	29
9.2.5	Residual current higher than $3 I_{\Delta n}$	29

9.2.6	Tests with load	29
9.2.7	Tests at the temperature limits.....	29
9.2.8	Additional test for delay type RCDs	30
9.3	Tests of electrical endurance	30
9.4	Tests of behaviour of the DC-RCD under short-circuit conditions	30
9.4.1	General	30
9.4.2	Short-circuit tests	30
9.4.3	Behaviour of the DC-RCD during and after the tests	32
9.5	Test of the trip-free mechanism.....	33
9.6	Verification of the operation of the test device.....	33
9.7	Test of behaviour of DC-RCDs in case of current surges caused by impulse voltages	33
9.7.1	Current surge test for all DC-RCDs (0,5 µs/100 kHz ring wave test).....	33
9.7.2	Verification of behaviour with surge currents (8/20 µs surge current test)	33
9.8	Tests of reliability.....	34
9.8.1	Climatic test.....	34
9.8.2	Test with temperature of 40 °C	34
9.9	Verification of ageing of electronic components	35
9.10	Tests of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).....	35
9.10.1	General	35
9.10.2	General requirements	36
9.10.3	Specific requirements on ripple immunity.....	38
9.10.4	Verification of behaviour during inrush currents	38
Annex A (informative) Recommended diagram for short-circuit tests.....		42
Bibliography.....		45
Figure 1 – Damped oscillator current wave 0,5 µs/100 kHz		39
Figure 2 – Examples of installation		40
Figure 3 – Downstream circuit for simulating inrush currents.....		41
Figure 4 – Example of test circuit for verification of ageing of electronic components.....		41
Figure A.1 – Diagram for all the short-circuit tests.....		43
Figure A.2 – Detail of impedance Z or Z_1		44
Table 1 – Preferred values of rated operational voltage (U_e).....		16
Table 2 – Standard values of maximum break time for non-time-delay DC-RCDs		17
Table 3 – Standard values of break time and non-actuating time for time-delay DC-RCDs.....		17
Table 4 – Marking for DC-RCDs.....		19
Table 5 – Values of influencing quantities		21
Table 6 – Tripping current limits.....		25
Table 7 – Withstand values and duration of temporary overvoltages		27
Table 8 – List of electromagnetic phenomena covered by IEC 61543.....		37

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED
PROTECTIVE DEVICES FOR DC SYSTEMS**

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Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 63053, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by subcommittee 23E: Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
23E/1006/DTS	23E/1021/RVDTS

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical specification can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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

In this standard, the following print types are used:

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- transformed into an International standard,
- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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

INTRODUCTION

In AC systems, residual current devices are used to provide protection against the risk of electric shocks. In IEC 60364 (all parts), residual current devices are used for automatic disconnection of supply in case of fault (see Clause 411 of IEC 60364-4-41:2005) and residual current devices with rated residual operating current not exceeding 30 mA are used as additional protection (see 415 of IEC 60364-4-41:2005). IEC SC 23E has developed a set of standards for residual current operated protective devices intended to be used in AC systems.

DC systems are used for applications such as photovoltaic installations, data centres and telecom centres, and electric vehicle charging systems. In addition, standards for plugs and socket-outlets for ICT equipment installed in data centres and telecom centre have been published. Therefore, a reference document for residual current devices intended to be used in DC supply systems is necessary.

Residual current devices for DC systems may be used to provide fault protection (automatic disconnection of supply according to Clause 411 of IEC 60364-4-41:2005); they may also be used to provide protection against direct contact. They provide protection against electric shock downstream of the device in DC networks.

This document defines the operating characteristics for residual current operated protective devices for DC systems. Details of how they should be installed to provide the desired level of protection are specified in the various parts of the IEC 60364 series.

The operating characteristics given in this document are based on the information contained in IEC 60479 (all parts) and the requirements in IEC 60364-4-41.

This document is intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards for residual current devices. It is not intended to be used as a stand-alone document, for example, for certification.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED PROTECTIVE DEVICES FOR DC SYSTEMS

1 Scope

This document provides general minimum requirements, recommendations and information for the drafting and testing procedures of standards for residual current operated protective devices, intended to be used in DC systems having a rated voltage not exceeding 400 V DC and a rated current not exceeding 125 A, hereafter referred to as DC-RCDs.

NOTE 1 This document can also be used as a guide for DC-RCDs with voltages up to 1 500 V DC.

This document is primarily intended to be used as a reference for drafting product safety standard for DC-RCDs.

This document cannot be used alone but is intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards for products similar to those mentioned in the scope of this standard.

This document applies to a device

- which detects a residual current,
- compares it to a reference value, and
- opens the contacts or poles when the residual current exceeds this reference value.

Any association of devices, each one of them performing separately one or two of the above-mentioned functions, but acting together in order to accomplish all three functions, is also covered by this document.

NOTE 2 RCMs (residual current monitor according to IEC 62020) whose purpose is to monitor an electrical installation and not to provide protection are not covered by this document and cannot be considered similar or equivalent to DC-RCDs.

DC-RCDs are intended to provide fault protection, the exposed conductive parts of the installation being connected to an appropriate earth electrode, in accordance with IEC 60364-4-41.

DC-RCDs having a rated residual operating direct current not exceeding 80 mA are also used as a provision for additional protection in case of failure of the protective means against electric shock.

In accordance with IEC 60364-4-42, residual current devices with a rated residual operating current not exceeding 300 mA can also be used to provide protection against fire hazards due to a persistent earth fault current.

DC-RCDs are suitable for isolation. They are suitable for all supply systems, with the exception of single-pole DC-RCDs with two current paths which are not suitable for use in IT systems.

DC-RCDs 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.

NOTE 3 Installation and application rules of RCDs are given in IEC 60364 (all parts).

NOTE 4 Surge protective devices installed downstream of DC-RCDs and connected in common mode can cause unwanted tripping.