

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



---

**Electrical installation guide –  
Part 101: Application guidelines on extra-low-voltage direct current electrical  
installations not intended to be connected to a public distribution network**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

---

ICS 91.140.50

ISBN 978-2-8322-6254-2

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	7
4 Concept of an electrical installation .....	8
5 DC supplies.....	9
6 Loads .....	9
6.1 Preferred nominal voltages .....	9
6.2 Minimum and maximum voltage values .....	10
7 Wiring systems .....	10
7.1 Type of wiring system .....	10
7.2 Identification of conductors and terminals .....	11
7.3 Cross-sectional areas of conductors .....	11
7.4 Selection of conductors.....	11
7.4.1 12 V nominal voltage .....	11
7.4.2 24 V nominal voltage .....	11
7.4.3 36 V nominal voltage .....	12
7.4.4 48 V nominal voltage .....	12
8 Protection against electric shock .....	13
8.1 General.....	13
8.2 Provision for basic protection .....	13
8.3 Provision for fault protection .....	13
8.4 Protection by safety extra-low voltage system (SELV system).....	13
9 Protection against overcurrent.....	13
10 Arcing.....	14
11 Example of a typical architecture .....	14
Annex A (informative) Voltage drop limits for extra-low-voltage installations .....	15
A.1 Voltage drop limits in consumers' installations .....	15
A.2 Estimation of voltage drop .....	15
Annex B (informative) Example of an installation for energy access using the SELV system as protective measure against electric shock.....	16
Bibliography.....	17
Figure 1 – Concept of a low voltage electrical installation .....	9
Figure 2 – Colour identification of conductors in DC circuits.....	11
Figure B.1 – Example of an installation for energy access using SELV system as protective measure against electric shock.....	16
Table 1 – Preferred voltages for equipment .....	10
Table 2 – Maximum length with respect to maximum voltage drop (12 V nominal voltage) .....	11
Table 3 – Maximum length with respect to maximum voltage drop (24 V nominal voltage) .....	12

Table 4 – Maximum length with respect to maximum voltage drop (36 V nominal voltage) .....	12
Table 5 – Maximum length with respect to maximum voltage drop (48 V nominal voltage) .....	12
Table A.1 – Maximum voltage drops .....	15

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION GUIDE –

**Part 101: Application guidelines on extra-low-voltage  
direct current electrical installations not intended to be  
connected to a public distribution network**

## 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) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. In exceptional circumstances, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical specification when

- the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts, or
- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

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

IEC TS 61200-101, which is a Technical Specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 64: Electrical installations and protection against electric shock.

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

Draft TS	Report on voting
64/2284/DTS	64/2338/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.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61200 series, published under the general title *Electrical installation guide*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<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.

A bilingual version of this publication 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.**

## INTRODUCTION

Many people in the world who still have no access to electricity would benefit from access to electrical power. This can now be achieved with distributed electrical sources using renewable energy.

Many of these electrical sources using renewable energy generate direct current (e.g. photovoltaic system, wind turbines) and supply from these renewable energies is not constant: photovoltaic panels do not operate at night and wind turbines require wind for generating electrical energy. Therefore, the use of storage units becomes a necessity. Manufacturers of stationary secondary batteries have been investing a lot in these technologies and prices will soon become affordable to those people in need of access to electricity.

In addition, new technologies, such as light emitting diodes (LEDs) and/or other electronic equipment use direct current and connecting these types of current-using equipment to electricity sources using renewable energy through DC electrical installations is more and more realistic. For changing DC voltage, DC/DC converters are available.

All requirements and recommendations in this document comply with IEC 60364 (all parts) [1]<sup>1</sup>.

The voltage is limited to 60 V DC taking into account environmental conditions and use cases.

---

<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

## **ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION GUIDE –**

### **Part 101: Application guidelines on extra-low-voltage direct current electrical installations not intended to be connected to a public distribution network**

#### **1 Scope**

This part of IEC 61200 applies to individual DC low-voltage electrical installations entirely supplied by local power sources, and not intended to be connected to a public distribution network and having a nominal voltage lower or equal to 60 V DC within the extra-low-voltage limit.

This document also applies to DC installations according to use cases TIER 2 and TIER 3 of the World Bank defined in ESMAP 008/15 Report [2].

This document does not apply to shared or collective electrical installations which are covered in IEC 61200-102 [3].

#### **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 60269-3, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 3: Supplementary requirements for fuses for use by unskilled persons (fuses mainly for household or similar applications) – Examples of standardized systems of fuses A to F*

IEC 60445, *Basic and safety principles for man-machine interface, marking and identification – Identification of equipment terminals, conductor terminations and conductors*

IEC 60898-2, *Electrical accessories – Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations – Part 2: Circuit-breakers for AC and DC operation*

IEC 60898-3<sup>2</sup>, *Electrical accessories – Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations – Part 3: Circuit-breakers for DC operation*

IEC 61558-2-6, *Safety of transformers, reactors, power supply units and similar products for supply voltages up to 1 100 V – Part 2-6: Particular requirements and tests for safety isolating transformers and power supply units incorporating safety isolating transformers*

---

<sup>2</sup> Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: IEC/PRVC 60898-3:2018.