

TECHNICAL REPORT



LVDC systems – Assessment of standard voltages and power quality requirements

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 29.020

ISBN 978-2-8322-9078-1

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references	8
3 Terms and definitions	8
4 Structure of LVDC systems.....	12
4.1 General.....	12
4.2 Architecture	12
4.3 Operation modes	13
4.3.1 Passive DC systems	13
4.3.2 Active DC systems.....	13
5 LVDC voltage division.....	13
5.1 General.....	13
5.2 Voltage bands.....	14
5.3 Operation ranges with respect to DC voltage and time	15
5.4 States	16
6 Power quality phenomena relevant to LVDC networks	17
6.1 General.....	17
6.2 Relationships between voltage band and power quality in LVDC systems	17
6.3 Supply voltage deviation	18
6.4 Ripple and high frequency noise	19
6.5 Voltage swell	20
6.6 Voltage dip	21
6.7 Voltage supply interruption.....	22
6.8 Rapid voltage change (RVC).....	22
6.9 Voltage surges.....	23
6.10 Voltage unbalance	24
7 Recommendations	25
7.1 General.....	25
7.2 Recommended voltages.....	25
7.3 EMC and compatibility levels	26
7.4 Power quality recommendations.....	28
7.5 Measurement methods.....	29
7.5.1 General	29
7.5.2 DC system RMS value integration time	29
7.5.3 DC power quality measurement methods.....	29
Annex A (informative) PQ waveforms collected from a certain LVDC project.....	30
Annex B (informative) Load distance in DC distribution systems	32
Annex C (informative) Electric power and power quality computation in DC systems.....	33
C.1 DC RMS value of voltage or current.....	33
C.2 General electric power system: decomposition of a general electric load	33
C.3 Computation of electric powers and PQ indices.....	34
C.4 Representation of electric powers in AC system.....	37
C.5 Representation of electric powers in DC system	37
C.6 Power quality indices in DC system.....	38
C.7 Illustration example of deformation power in DC system	39

C.8	Main conclusions on electric value computation in DC systems.....	40
C.9	Need of characteristics of DC voltage	41
Annex D (informative)	District LVDC system demonstration project in Tongli, China	42
D.1	Project overview	42
D.2	Voltage level selection principle	42
D.3	System operation	43
Annex E (informative)	An office building with general building utilities and office work places	44
Annex F (informative)	An example of configurations for active DC systems.....	50
F.1	General.....	50
F.2	Structure.....	50
F.3	State of grid (SOG)	50
Annex G (informative)	Preferred voltage in different countries	55
G.1	Preferred voltage in China	55
G.2	Preferred voltage in the Netherlands.....	57
G.3	Preferred voltage in Germany	58
Annex H (informative)	Voltage with respect to earth.....	59
Annex I (informative)	CIGRE approaches for DC systems	62
Bibliography	63
Figure 1	– Unipolar, balanced and bipolar DC systems	12
Figure 2	– Voltage bands in DC systems.....	14
Figure 3	– DC Voltage areas for safe interoperability	15
Figure 4	– Relationships between voltage band and power quality in LVDC systems	18
Figure 5	– Voltage swell example.....	20
Figure 6	– Voltage dip example.....	21
Figure 7	– RVC event: example of a change in average voltage that results in an RVC event	23
Figure 8	– Example of voltage surge	24
Figure 9	– A schematic of a bipolar system (the CIGRE B4 DC test system)	25
Figure 10	– Relation between disturbance levels (schematic significance only).....	26
Figure 11	– LVAC voltage compatibility and immunity levels	27
Figure A.1	– Voltage deviation caused by load switching	30
Figure A.2	– Voltage ripple in steady state.....	30
Figure A.3	– Voltage dip caused by the start-up of motor load	31
Figure C.1	– Equivalent model of a general electric load.....	34
Figure C.2	– Representation of electric powers in AC system	37
Figure C.3	– Representation of electric powers in DC system	37
Figure C.4	– Ripples	38
Figure C.5	– DC powers.....	40
Figure C.6	– Compatibility level measured in differential mode values	41
Figure D.1	– Architecture of the district LVDC system in Tongli.....	42
Figure E.1	– Office building with general building utilities and office work places	44
Figure E.2	– Overview of DC-zones for DC system	46
Figure F.1	– Active DC distribution system.....	50

Figure F.2 – DC distribution system with one load and one source.....	52
Figure F.3 – DC distribution system with more than one load and a source and increasing source power	53
Figure F.4 – Distribution system with more than one load and a source and DUMP LOAD active	53
Figure F.5 – Distribution system with more than one load and source in overloaded mode	54
Figure H.1 – DC voltage definitions.....	59
Figure H.2 – DC voltage bands relative to earth	60
Figure H.3 – DC voltages to earth – examples	61
Figure I.1 – Temporary DC pole to ground voltage profiles in DC systems	62
Table 1 – Difference between unipolar and bipolar systems	13
Table 2 – Voltage between lines (unipolar systems) or line and midpoint (bipolar systems).....	26
Table 3 – Voltage between lines (bipolar systems).....	26
Table 4 – Immunity: DC input and output power ports, residential, commercial and light industrial environment.....	28
Table 5 – Immunity: DC input and output power ports – Industrial environment.....	28
Table B.1 – 1,5 (±0,75) kV typical load distance of overhead DC lines	32
Table B.2 – 750 (±375) V, 220 (±110) V typical section load distance of overhead DC lines.....	32
Table C.1 – Different powers	40
Table E.1 – Aspects regarding the DC zone classification in DC installation	49
Table F.1 – Examples in case of 350/700 V DC systems.....	51
Table F.2 – Allowed voltages cable drop.....	52
Table G.1 – Nominal voltage in LVDC distribution system	55
Table G.2 – Nominal voltage in ELVDC equipment	56
Table G.3 – Comparison between DC and AC system voltages	57
Table G.4 – Overview of the recommended voltage classes (VC) and the corresponding U_2 and U_3 values	58

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**LVDC SYSTEMS – ASSESSMENT OF STANDARD
VOLTAGES AND POWER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS**

FOREWORD

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IEC TR 63282, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 8: System aspects of electrical energy supply.

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

Draft TR	Report on voting
8/1549/DTR	8/1556/RVDTR

Full information on the voting for the approval of this Technical Report 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.

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

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INTRODUCTION

LVDC (Low voltage direct current) distribution systems have recently been recognized by a number of stakeholders as an alternative approach to provide efficient power supply to the consumers. LVDC covers a wide range of power applications from USB-C up to megawatts for aluminium melting. LVDC is now seen not only as a solution for electricity access in developing economies but also as a solution for greener and more sustainable energy in developed economies.

In industrial applications, LVDC is utilized where processing of resources results in the production, distribution and storage of physical goods, especially in a factory or special area of a factory.

The standardization of DC voltages is a key issue, and urgent work is needed. Existing LVAC systems have different standard voltages, depending on the geography and application. LVDC distribution voltages should be optimized to provide a good context for industries that import and export equipment but also for general travellers. Appropriate international LVDC voltage ranges will provide a basis for design and testing of electrical equipment and systems and ease of transition for equipment from AC to DC supply.

LVDC voltages should meet the range of use cases where LVDC systems can make a difference. The list of standard voltages should be as short as possible and allow for cost-effective and safe operation.

The power quality phenomena for the distribution of DC power are not identical to AC phenomena while there are some common issues. Power quality considerations are well studied and standardized on AC power systems, but many power quality phenomena and EMC have not yet been fully evaluated for DC distribution systems.

Power electronic converters/inverters add further demands. Power quality phenomena in LVDC distributed systems can be related to the topology of the entire system, and the operating condition of sources and loads. At the same time, the DC output performance of a single converter and the coordination among several converters can also result in different power quality issues and grid stability.

Requirements for power quality and EMC in LVDC distribution should be established in order to provide a solid basis for the planning and operation of LVDC distribution systems. In addition, the design and configuration of the protection system is to be addressed with the objective to enhance the availability of the source, the reliability, and the lifetime of the system.

Generally, the standardization of voltage level and PQ phenomena of LVDC distribution should greatly stimulate the wide adoption of LVDC.

Besides the main contents concerning voltage level and power quality, the following topics are also presented:

Clause 4 discusses architectures and topologies for LVDC networks.

Clause 7 recommends permissible limits for voltage bands and PQ phenomena.

LVDC SYSTEMS – ASSESSMENT OF STANDARD VOLTAGES AND POWER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

1 Scope

The purpose of this document is to collect information and report experience in order to make recommendations for the standardization of voltage levels and related aspects (power quality, EMC, measurement ...) for LVDC systems (systems with voltage level lower than 1 500 V d.c.).

Rationale for the proposed voltage values are given. Variation of parameters for the voltage (power quality) and recommendation for their boundaries are defined. Nevertheless, some of the technical items are not exhaustively explained in this document and some gaps are identified for future work.

Attention is paid to the definition of DC voltage.

Systems in which a unipolar voltage is interrupted periodically for certain purposes, e.g. pulse voltage, are not considered.

Traction systems are excluded from this document.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.