

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

---

**Railway applications – Rolling stock –  
Protective provisions against electrical hazards**

**Applications ferroviaires – Matériel roulant –  
Dispositions de protection contre les dangers électriques**



## THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2019 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

Droits de reproduction réservés. Sauf indication contraire, aucune partie de cette publication ne peut être reproduite ni utilisée sous quelque forme que ce soit et par aucun procédé, électronique ou mécanique, y compris la photocopie et les microfilms, sans l'accord écrit de l'IEC ou du Comité national de l'IEC du pays du demandeur. Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de l'IEC ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de l'IEC de votre pays de résidence.

IEC Central Office  
3, rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

### About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

### About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

#### IEC publications search - [webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee,...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

#### IEC Just Published - [webstore.iec.ch/justpublished](http://webstore.iec.ch/justpublished)

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

#### IEC Customer Service Centre - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

#### Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 000 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 16 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

#### IEC Glossary - [std.iec.ch/glossary](http://std.iec.ch/glossary)

67 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

---

### A propos de l'IEC

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

### A propos des publications IEC

Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

#### Recherche de publications IEC -

[webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)

La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études,...). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

#### IEC Just Published - [webstore.iec.ch/justpublished](http://webstore.iec.ch/justpublished)

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et une fois par mois par email.

#### Service Clients - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

#### Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)

Le premier dictionnaire d'électrotechnologie en ligne au monde, avec plus de 22 000 articles terminologiques en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 16 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

#### Glossaire IEC - [std.iec.ch/glossary](http://std.iec.ch/glossary)

67 000 entrées terminologiques électrotechniques, en anglais et en français, extraites des articles Termes et Définitions des publications IEC parues depuis 2002. Plus certaines entrées antérieures extraites des publications des CE 37, 77, 86 et CISPR de l'IEC.



IEC 61991

Edition 2.0 2019-05

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

---

**Railway applications – Rolling stock –  
Protective provisions against electrical hazards**

**Applications ferroviaires – Matériel roulant –  
Dispositions de protection contre les dangers électriques**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
ELECTROTECHNIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

---

ICS 45.060.01

ISBN 978-2-8322-6596-3

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.  
Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms .....	8
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	8
3.1.1 Definitions concerning persons .....	8
3.1.2 Other definitions .....	8
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	12
4 Classification of voltage bands .....	12
4.1 General principles.....	12
4.2 Connections between circuits.....	13
4.3 Exceptions .....	13
5 Protective provisions against direct contact .....	14
5.1 General.....	14
5.2 Protection by insulation.....	14
5.3 Protection by prevention of access.....	14
5.3.1 Voltages in bands I to III.....	14
5.3.2 Voltages in band IV .....	15
5.4 Protection by the use of band I (ELV).....	16
5.4.1 Requirements for systems of band I (SELV and PELV).....	16
5.4.2 Additional requirements for SELV .....	16
5.4.3 Additional requirements for PELV .....	16
5.5 Warning labels.....	16
6 Protective provisions against indirect contact .....	17
6.1 General.....	17
6.2 Protective bonding .....	17
6.2.1 General .....	17
6.2.2 Equipotential bond.....	17
6.2.3 Protective bonding rating .....	17
6.2.4 Sliding contacts .....	18
6.3 Disconnection of the supply .....	18
6.3.1 Application.....	18
6.3.2 Disconnection characteristic .....	18
6.4 Main protective bonding .....	18
6.4.1 General .....	18
6.4.2 Bonding paths .....	18
6.4.3 Impedance.....	19
6.4.4 Contact line fault .....	20
6.5 Clarifications and exceptions with reference to indirect contact.....	20
6.5.1 Parts requiring protective provisions .....	20
6.5.2 Parts not requiring protective provisions .....	20
6.5.3 Multi-stage insulation.....	20
6.5.4 Floating supplies .....	21
6.5.5 Insulated wheel or levitation systems without a protective conductor .....	21
6.6 Additional requirements – Bearings.....	21

7	Power circuit.....	21
7.1	General principles.....	21
7.2	Power circuit insulated from the vehicle body or bogie .....	22
7.3	Power circuit using the vehicle body or bogie.....	22
8	Additional requirements.....	22
8.1	General.....	22
8.2	Current collectors .....	22
8.3	Capacitors .....	22
8.4	Plug and socket devices .....	23
8.4.1	Portable apparatus .....	23
8.4.2	Vehicle and intervehicle connectors.....	23
8.5	Special sources .....	24
8.5.1	General .....	24
8.5.2	Live parts not requiring protective provisions .....	24
8.5.3	Live parts requiring protective provisions.....	24
	Annex A (normative) List of items where contracting parties shall co-operate .....	25
	Annex B (informative) Special national conditions .....	26
B.1	General.....	26
B.2	France .....	26
B.3	Great Britain .....	26
B.3.1	Operate over 750 V DC third rail electrified lines .....	26
B.3.2	Bonding between rail vehicle main body to bogie .....	26
B.3.3	Intervehicle bonding .....	27
B.4	Japan.....	27
B.4.1	General .....	27
B.4.2	[6.4.4] Contact line fault.....	27
B.4.3	[8.4.1] Portable apparatus .....	27
	Annex C (informative) Example solutions for impedance management in electric multiple units (EMUs).....	28
C.1	Preventing absorption of return current in EMUs .....	28
C.2	Examples of solutions .....	29
	Bibliography.....	30
	Figure C.1 – Concentration of return current.....	28
	Figure C.2 – Attach earth resistors for long-length EMUs preventing current absorption .....	28
	Table 1 – Voltage bands .....	13
	Table 2 – Maximum impedance between each vehicle body of a unit and protective conductor of the fixed installation.....	19
	Table B.1 – Voltage bands.....	26

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

---

## **RAILWAY APPLICATIONS – ROLLING STOCK – Protective provisions against electrical hazards**

### 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.

International Standard IEC 61991 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 9: Electrical equipment and systems for railways.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published in 2000. This edition constitutes a technical revision. It is based on EN 50153:2014.

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

- a) Replacement of several reference standards.
- b) Several terms and abbreviated terms are introduced;
- c) Table 2 – Voltage bands for France is moved to Annex B as Table B.1, Table 3 – Voltage bands for Italy is deleted;
- d) Annex B and Annex C are introduced.
- e) Annex B includes special national conditions.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
9/2467/FDIS	9/2487/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard 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,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

## INTRODUCTION

It is generally accepted that safety depends on human factors, based on the normal behaviour of the operators involved, as well as upon technical factors.

For these reasons, this document leaves a choice to the contracting parties between two alternatives in several instances. These alternatives consist of either the provision of operating rules, regulations and procedures, or the application of technical measures such as mechanical or electrical interlocking devices.

A list of the cases for which the contracting parties (e.g. user and manufacturer) shall reach agreement before signing the contract is included in Annex A.

# **RAILWAY APPLICATIONS – ROLLING STOCK –**

## **Protective provisions against electrical hazards**

### **1 Scope**

This document defines requirements applied in the design and manufacture of electrical installations and equipment to be used on rolling stock to protect persons from electric shocks.

This document is applicable to rolling stock of rail transport systems, road transport systems if they are powered by an external supply (e.g. trolley buses), magnetically levitated transport systems, and to the electrical equipment installed in these systems.

This document does not apply to:

- mine railways in mines,
- crane installations, moving platforms and similar transport systems on rails,
- funicular railways,
- temporary constructions.

The requirements for the fixed installations about the protection against the vehicles' potential are not covered in this document.

### **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 60364-4-41:2005, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock*

IEC TS 60479-1, *Effects of current on human beings and livestock – Part 1: General aspects*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 61140:2016, *Protection against electric shock – Common aspects for installation and equipment*

IEC 61310-1, *Safety of machinery – Indication, marking and actuation – Part 1: Requirements for visual, acoustic and tactile signals*

IEC 62128-1:2013, *Railway applications – Fixed installations – Electrical safety, earthing and the return circuit – Part 1: Protective provisions against electric shock*

IEC 62313, *Railway applications – Power supply and rolling stock – Technical criteria for the coordination between power supply (substation) and rolling stock*

IEC 62497-1, *Railway applications – Insulation coordination – Part 1: Basic requirements – Clearances and creepage distances for all electrical and electronic equipment*