IEC 61215-2

Edition 1.0 2016-03

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 2: Test procedures

Modules photovoltaïques (PV) pour applications terrestres – Qualification de la conception et homologation –
Partie 2: Procédures d'essai

IEC 61215-2:2016-03(en-fr)

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TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

Part 2: Test procedures

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61215-2 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This first edition of IEC 61215-2 cancels and replaces the second edition of IEC 61215 (2005) and parts of the second edition of 61646 (2008) and constitutes a technical revision.

The main technical changes with regard to these previous editions are as follows:

This standard includes the testing procedures – formally Clause 10 – of the previous edition. Revisions were made to subclauses NMOT (replaces NOCT – MQT 05), performance measurements (MQT 06), robustness of terminations (MQT 14) and stabilization (MQT 19).

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1048/FDIS	82/1076/RVD

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

A list of all parts in the IEC 61215 series, published under the general title *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval*, can be found on the IEC website.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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- withdrawn,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

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

Whereas Part 1 of this standard series describes requirements (both in general and specific with respect to device technology), the sub-parts of Part 1 define technology variations and Part 2 defines a set of test procedures necessary for design qualification and type approval. The test procedures described in Part 2 are valid for all device technologies.

TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

Part 2: Test procedures

1 Scope and object

This International Standard series lays down IEC requirements for the design qualification and type approval of terrestrial photovoltaic modules suitable for long-term operation in general open-air climates, as defined in IEC 60721-2-1. This part of IEC 61215 is intended to apply to all terrestrial flat plate module materials such as crystalline silicon module types as well as thin-film modules.

This standard does not apply to modules used with concentrated sunlight although it may be utilized for low concentrator modules (1 to 3 suns). For low concentration modules, all tests are performed using the current, voltage and power levels expected at the design concentration.

The objective of this test sequence is to determine the electrical and thermal characteristics of the module and to show, as far as possible within reasonable constraints of cost and time, that the module is capable of withstanding prolonged exposure in general open-air climates. The actual lifetime expectancy of modules so qualified will depend on their design, their environment and the conditions under which they are operated.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary* (available at http://www.electropedia.org)

IEC 60068-1, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-21, *Environmental testing – Part 2-21: Tests – Test U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices*

IEC 60068-2-78, *Environmental testing – Part 2-78: Tests – Test Cab: Damp heat, steady state*

IEC 60721-2-1, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 2-1: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Temperature and humidity*

IEC 60891, *Photovoltaic devices – Procedures for temperature and irradiance corrections to measured I-V characteristics*

IEC 60904-1, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 1: Measurements of photovoltaic current-voltage characteristics*

IEC 60904-2, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 2: Requirements for photovoltaic reference devices*

IEC 60904-3, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data*

IEC 60904-7, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 7: Computation of the spectral mismatch correction for measurements of photovoltaic devices*

IEC 60904-8, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 8: Measurement of spectral responsivity of a photovoltaic (PV) device*

IEC 60904-9, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 9: Solar simulator performance requirements*

IEC 60904-10, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 10: Methods of linearity measurement*

IEC 61215-1, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1: Test requirements*

IEC TS 61836, *Solar photovoltaic energy systems – Terms, definitions and symbols*

IEC 61853-2, *Photovoltaic (PV) module performance testing and energy rating – Part 2: Spectral response, incidence angle, and module operating temperature measurements*[1]

IEC 62790, *Junction boxes for photovoltaic modules – Safety requirements and tests*

ISO 868, *Plastics and ebonite – Determination of indentation hardness by means of a durometer (Shore hardness)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050 and IEC TS 61836 apply, as well as the following.

3.1
accuracy <of a measuring instrument>

quality which characterizes the ability of a measuring instrument to provide an indicated value close to a true value of the measurand [≈ VIM 5.18]

Note 1 to entry: This term is used in the "true value" approach.

Note 2 to entry: Accuracy is all the better when the indicated value is closer to the corresponding true value.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-311:2001, 311-06-08]

3.2
control device

irradiance sensor (such as a reference cell or module) that is used to detect drifts and other problems of the solar sun simulator

3.3
electrically stable power output level

state of the PV module where it will operate under long-term natural sunlight exposure in general open-air climates, as defined in IEC 60721-2-1

1 To be published.