

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Photovoltaic (PV) systems – Requirements for testing, documentation and maintenance –
Part 1: Grid connected systems – Documentation, commissioning tests and inspection**

**Systèmes photovoltaïques (PV) – Exigences pour les essais, la documentation et la maintenance –
Partie 1: Systèmes connectés au réseau électrique – Documentation, essais de mise en service et examen**



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2016 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
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
info@iec.ch
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 corrigenda or an amendment might have been published.

IEC Catalogue - webstore.iec.ch/catalogue

The stand-alone application for consulting the entire bibliographical information on IEC International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports and other documents. Available for PC, Mac OS, Android Tablets and iPad.

IEC publications search - www.iec.ch/searchpub

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

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

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary of electronic and electrical terms containing 20 000 terms and definitions in English and French, with equivalent terms in 15 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

IEC Glossary - std.iec.ch/glossary

65 000 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.

IEC Customer Service Centre - 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: csc@iec.ch.

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.

Catalogue IEC - webstore.iec.ch/catalogue

Application autonome pour consulter tous les renseignements bibliographiques sur les Normes internationales, Spécifications techniques, Rapports techniques et autres documents de l'IEC. Disponible pour PC, Mac OS, tablettes Android et iPad.

Recherche de publications IEC - www.iec.ch/searchpub

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

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

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

Le premier dictionnaire en ligne de termes électroniques et électriques. Il contient 20 000 termes et définitions en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 15 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

Glossaire IEC - std.iec.ch/glossary

65 000 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.

Service Clients - webstore.iec.ch/csc

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: csc@iec.ch.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Photovoltaic (PV) systems – Requirements for testing, documentation
and maintenance –
Part 1: Grid connected systems – Documentation, commissioning tests
and inspection**

**Systèmes photovoltaïques (PV) – Exigences pour les essais, la documentation
et la maintenance –
Partie 1: Systèmes connectés au réseau électrique – Documentation,
essais de mise en service et examen**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 27.160

ISBN 978-2-8322-3100-5

**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.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references	8
3 Terms and definitions	8
4 System documentation requirements	10
4.1 General.....	10
4.2 System data.....	10
4.2.1 Basic system information	10
4.2.2 System designer information.....	11
4.2.3 System installer information.....	11
4.3 Wiring diagram.....	11
4.3.1 General	11
4.3.2 Array – General specifications	11
4.3.3 PV string information	11
4.3.4 Array electrical details	12
4.3.5 AC system	12
4.3.6 Earthing and overvoltage protection.....	12
4.4 String layout	12
4.5 Datasheets	12
4.6 Mechanical design information	12
4.7 Emergency systems.....	12
4.8 Operation and maintenance information	13
4.9 Test results and commissioning data	13
5 Verification	13
5.1 General.....	13
5.2 Inspection	14
5.2.1 General	14
5.2.2 DC system – General.....	14
5.2.3 DC system – Protection against electric shock.....	14
5.2.4 DC system – Protection against the effects of insulation faults	14
5.2.5 DC system – Protection against overcurrent	15
5.2.6 DC system – Earthing and bonding arrangements	15
5.2.7 DC system – Protection against the effects of lightning and overvoltage	15
5.2.8 DC system – Selection and erection of electrical equipment	15
5.2.9 AC system	16
5.2.10 Labelling and identification	16
5.3 Testing	16
5.3.1 General	16
5.3.2 Test regimes and additional tests	17
5.3.3 Test regimes for systems with module level electronics	17
5.3.4 Category 1 test regime – All systems.....	18
5.3.5 Category 2 test regime	18
5.3.6 Additional tests.....	19
6 Test procedures – Category 1.....	19
6.1 Continuity of protective earthing and equipotential bonding conductors.....	19

6.2	Polarity test	19
6.3	PV string combiner box test	20
6.4	PV string – Open circuit voltage measurement	20
6.5	PV string – Current measurement	21
6.5.1	General	21
6.5.2	PV string – Short circuit test	21
6.5.3	PV string – Operational test	22
6.6	Functional tests	22
6.7	PV array insulation resistance test	22
6.7.1	General	22
6.7.2	PV array insulation resistance test – Test method	23
6.7.3	PV array insulation resistance – Test procedure	23
7	Test procedures – Category 2	25
7.1	General	25
7.2	String I-V curve measurement	25
7.2.1	General	25
7.2.2	I-V curve measurement of V_{OC} and I_{SC}	25
7.2.3	I-V curve measurement – Array performance	25
7.2.4	I-V curve measurement – Identification of module / array defects or shading issues	26
7.3	PV array infrared camera inspection procedure	27
7.3.1	General	27
7.3.2	IR test procedure	27
7.3.3	Interpreting IR test results	27
8	Test procedures – Additional tests	28
8.1	Voltage to ground – Resistive ground systems	28
8.2	Blocking diode test	28
8.3	PV array – Wet insulation resistance test	29
8.3.1	General	29
8.3.2	Wet insulation test procedure	29
8.4	Shade evaluation	29
9	Verification reports	30
9.1	General	30
9.2	Initial verification	31
9.3	Periodic verification	31
Annex A (informative)	Model verification certificate	32
Annex B (informative)	Model inspection report	33
Annex C (informative)	Model PV array test report	36
Annex D (informative)	Interpreting I-V curve shapes	37
D.1	General	37
D.2	Variation 1 – Steps or notches in curve	38
D.3	Variation 2 – Low current	38
D.4	Variation 3 – Low voltage	38
D.5	Variation 4 – Rounder knee	39
D.6	Variation 5 – Shallower slope in vertical leg	39
D.7	Variation 6 – Steeper slope in horizontal leg	40
Figure 1	Example sun-path diagram	30

Figure D.1 – I-V curve shapes.....	37
------------------------------------	----

Table 1 – Modifications to the test regime for systems with module level electronics	17
--	----

Table 2 – Minimum values of insulation resistance – PV arrays up to 10 kWp	24
--	----

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS – REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING,
DOCUMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE –****Part 1: Grid connected systems – Documentation,
commissioning tests and inspection****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 62446-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This first edition cancels and replaces IEC 62446 published in 2009. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical change with respect to IEC 62446:2009:

- the scope has been expanded to include a wider range of system test and inspection regimes to encompass larger and more complex PV systems.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1036/FDIS	82/1056A/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.

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

A list of all parts in the IEC 62446 series, published under the general title *Photovoltaic (PV) systems – Requirements for testing, documentation and maintenance*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website 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

Grid connected PV systems are expected to have a lifetime of decades, with maintenance or modifications likely at some point over this period. Building or electrical works in the vicinity of the PV array are very likely, for example roof works adjacent to the array or modifications (structural or electrical) to a home that has a PV system. The ownership of a system may also change over time, particularly for systems mounted on buildings. Only by the provision of adequate documentation at the outset can the long term performance and safety of the PV system and works, on or adjacent to the PV system, be ensured.

This part of IEC 62446 is split into two sections:

- **System documentation requirements** – This section details the information that shall be provided within the documentation provided to the customer following installation of a grid connected PV system.
- **Verification** – This section provides the information expected to be provided following initial (or periodic) verification of an installed system. It includes requirements for inspection and testing.

This part of IEC 62446 references IEC TS 62548:2013, which is in the process of being converted into an International Standard. It is envisaged that work on the second edition of IEC 62446-1 will start when IEC 62548 is completed.

PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS – REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING, DOCUMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE –

Part 1: Grid connected systems – Documentation, commissioning tests and inspection

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62446 defines the information and documentation required to be handed over to a customer following the installation of a grid connected PV system. It also describes the commissioning tests, inspection criteria and documentation expected to verify the safe installation and correct operation of the system. It can also be used for periodic retesting.

This part of IEC 62446 is written for grid connected PV systems that do not utilize energy storage (e.g. batteries) or hybrid systems.

This part of IEC 62446 is for use by system designers and installers of grid connected solar PV systems as a template to provide effective documentation to a customer. By detailing the expected commissioning tests and inspection criteria, it is also intended to assist in the verification/inspection of a grid connected PV system after installation and for subsequent re-inspection, maintenance or modifications.

This part of IEC 62446 defines the different test regimes expected for different solar PV system types to ensure that the test regime applied is appropriate to the scale, type and complexity of the system in question.

NOTE This part of IEC 62446 does not address CPV (concentrating PV) systems, however many of the parts may apply.

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 60364-6, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 6: Verification*

IEC TS 62548:2013, *Photovoltaic (PV) arrays – Design requirements*

IEC 61730 (all parts), *Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification*

IEC 61557 (all parts), *Electrical safety in low voltage distribution systems up to 1 000 V a.c. and 1 500 V d.c. – Equipment for testing, measuring or monitoring of protective measures*

IEC 61010 (all parts), *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.