



Edition 1.0 2015-07

# TECHNICAL REPORT

Fire prevention measures on converters for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems, static var compensators (SVC) and flexible ac transmission systems (FACTS) and their valve halls





### THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED Copyright © 2015 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.

IEC Central Office Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11 3, rue de Varembé Fax: +41 22 919 03 00

CH-1211 Geneva 20 info@iec.ch Switzerland 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 It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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 more than 30 000 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

More than 60 000 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.





Edition 1.0 2015-07

## TECHNICAL REPORT

Fire prevention measures on converters for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems, static var compensators (SVC) and flexible ac transmission systems (FACTS) and their valve halls

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ICS 13.220.20 ISBN 978-2-8322-2788-6

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

#### CONTENTS

FC	DREWOR	D	5	
1	Scope.		7	
2	Norma	tive references	7	
3	Terms	and definitions	7	
4	Fire ha	zards in valves and valve halls	13	
	4.1 G	eneral	13	
		ossible causes		
	4.2.1	Valve insulation failure		
	4.2.2	Loose connections or high resistance joints in the power circuit		
	4.2.3	Valve component failures		
	4.2.4	Semiconductor device level connections		
	4.2.5	Coolant system problems		
	4.2.6	Failure of valve hall bushings		
	4.2.7	Failure of surge arresters		
	4.2.8	False operation of deluge system		
	4.2.9	Other valve hall equipment		
	4.2.10	Work in and around valve hall		
	4.3 A	ssessment of possible consequences	18	
5		nall layout and access		
		hysical arrangements		
	5.1.1	General		
	5.1.2	Present practices		
	5.1.3	Specific provisions		
	5.2 HVDC valve hall construction			
	5.2.1	General		
	5.2.2	Valve hall construction		
	_	leans of egress		
6		ision of valve components and other valve hall equipment		
Ŭ	•			
		upervision of valve components		
	6.2.1	General		
	6.2.2	On-line monitoring		
	6.2.3	Off-line checks and inspection		
	6.3 Supervision of other valve hall equipment			
7		tection systems		
•		eneral		
		etection and operating principles		
	7.2.1	General		
	7.2.1	Air sampling systems		
	7.2.3	Infra-red beam smoke detectors		
	7.2.3 7.2.4	Arc detector systems		
	7.2.4 7.2.5	Infra-red flame detectors		
	7.2.5	Ultraviolet (UV) flame detectors		
	7.2.6	Imaging video camera systems		
		uidelines for valve hall fire detection		
8		ppression systems		
J	ingsu	pp/000/01/ 0/0/0///0	4	

	8.1	General	24
	8.2	Design considerations for an installed fire suppression system	25
	8.3	Types of fire extinguishing agents	26
	8.3.1	List of agents	26
	8.3.2	Carbon dioxide	26
	8.3.3	Inert gases	26
	8.3.4	Hydro fluorocarbons	26
	8.3.5	Other gases	27
	8.4	Installation requirements	27
	8.5	Guidelines for fire extinguishing agents	27
9	Vent	management	28
	9.1	General	28
	9.2	Design considerations	29
	9.2.1	General	29
	9.2.2	Natural ventilation	29
	9.2.3	Forced ventilation	30
	9.2.4	Design	30
10		ol and integration of fire detection, fire protection and converter control	
	•	ms	
	10.1	General	
	10.2	Fire alarm classification	
	10.2.		
	10.2.		
	10.2.	,	
	10.2.	,	
		Fire control system	
	10.3.		
	10.3.	•	
	10.3.	•	
	10.3.	, 3	
4 4		Guidelines for integrated fire control systems	
1.1		ighting and maintenance	
	11.1	General	
	11.2	Role of station and fire fighting personnel	
	11.2.		
	11.2.		
40	11.2.		
12		ance for purchaser specifications	
	12.1	General	
	12.2	Purchaser specification	
	12.2.		
	12.2.		
	12.2.	• •	
	12.2.		
	12.2.	,	
	12.2.	11 /	
	12.2.	5 ,	
Λ	12.2.	8 Fire alarm and control systems	
Δn	NOVO 1	THE PROPERTY OF A PART OF THE MAZALUS AND SHEVEN OF THE INCIDENCE	/117

A.1	General	40
A.2	Hazard categories	40
A.3	Reports from HVDC users	41
A.4	Reported incidents	42
A.4.1	Overheating of valve components due to reduced cooling	42
A.4.2	2 Valve component failures	44
A.4.3	Loose or high resistance connections in the load current carrying circuit	57
A.4.4	Failure of auxiliary circuit electrical connections	58
A.4.5	Insulation failures	58
A.4.6	Failures of equipment associated with the valve hall	61
A.4.7	7 False alarms	62
A.4.8	3 Unknown causes	63
A.5	Conclusion and recommendations	63
Bibliograp	phy	65
Figure 1 -	- Types of ventilation	29
	- Possible arrangements and interconnections of an integrated fire detection ol system	32
<b>T.</b> 1. 1. 1		
	Fire extinguishing agents	
Table A.1	- HVDC converters owners/suppliers reference list (May 2012)	41

#### INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES ON CONVERTERS FOR HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS, STATIC VAR COMPENSATORS (SVC) AND FLEXIBLE AC TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS (FACTS) AND THEIR VALVE HALLS

#### **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. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC/TR 62757, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 22F: Power electronics for electrical transmission and distribution systems, of IEC technical committee 22: Power electronic systems and equipment.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
22F/347/DTR	22F/353A/RVC

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 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 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.

## FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES ON CONVERTERS FOR HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS, STATIC VAR COMPENSATORS (SVC) AND FLEXIBLE AC TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS (FACTS) AND THEIR VALVE HALLS

#### 1 Scope

IEC TR 62757, which is a technical report, deals with fire prevention measures on converters and their valve halls for high voltage direct current (HVDC) systems, static VAR compensators (SVC) and flexible AC transmission systems (FACTS). It is intended to be primarily for the use of the utilities and consultants who are responsible for issuing technical specifications for new converter valves and valve halls. It concerns fire incidents in HVDC projects using line commutated converters (LCC) or voltage sourced converter (VSC) technology and it is from these projects that most examples of fires and fire incidents are taken. This technical report also addresses converter valves and valve halls for SVC and FACTS.

This technical report provides general recommendations to be considered while preparing specifications for these systems. Specific requirements for a particular project need to be clearly specified and mutually agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser.

#### 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.

Void.

#### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

#### alarm system

installation for initiating a fire alarm

#### 3.2

#### automatic fire detector

device that detects abnormally high temperature, rate of temperature rise, visible or invisible particles, infra-red or visible radiation, or gases produced by a fire

#### 3.3

#### automatic fire extinguishing system

any system designed and installed to detect a fire and subsequently discharge an extinguishing agent without the necessity of human intervention

#### 3 4

**burn**, intransitive verb undergo combustion

[SOURCE: ISO 13943:2008, 4.28]