



BSI Standards Publication

## Photovoltaic devices

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Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data (IEC 60904-3:2019)

## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN IEC 60904-3:2019. It is identical to IEC 60904-3:2019. It supersedes BS EN 60904-3:2016, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee GEL/82, Photovoltaic Energy Systems.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

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**EN IEC 60904-3**

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English Version

Photovoltaic devices - Part 3: Measurement principles for  
terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral  
irradiance data  
(IEC 60904-3:2019)

Dispositifs photovoltaïques - Partie 3: Principes de mesure  
des dispositifs solaires photovoltaïques (PV) à usage  
terrestre incluant les données de l'éclairage spectral de  
référence  
(IEC 60904-3:2019)

Photovoltaische Einrichtungen - Teil 3: Messgrundsätze für  
terrestrische photovoltaische (PV)-Einrichtungen mit  
Angaben über die spektrale Strahlungsverteilung  
(IEC 60904-3:2019)

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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique  
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

## **European foreword**

The text of document 82/1342/CDV, future edition 4 of IEC 60904-3, prepared by IEC/TC 82 "Solar photovoltaic energy systems" was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN IEC 60904-3:2019.

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which the document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2020-01-05
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2022-07-05

This document supersedes EN 60904-3:2016.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CENELEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

## **Endorsement notice**

The text of the International Standard IEC 60904-3:2019 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES –****Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV)  
solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data****FOREWORD**

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International Standard IEC 60904-3 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2016. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) all spectral data were recalculated due to some minor calculation and rounding errors in the third edition; the global spectral irradiance returned to exactly the data of the second edition;
- b) the angular distribution of the irradiance was clarified.

This publication contains an attached file in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. This file is intended to be used as a complement and does not form an integral part of the publication.

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

CDV	Report on voting
82/1342/CDV	82/1425/RVC

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.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60904 series, published under the general title *Photovoltaic devices*, can be found on the IEC website.

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.

## PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES –

### Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60904 applies to the following photovoltaic devices for terrestrial applications:

- solar cells with or without a protective cover;
- sub-assemblies of solar cells;
- modules; and
- systems.

NOTE The term “test specimen” is used to denote any of these devices.

The principles contained in this document cover testing in both natural and simulated sunlight.

Photovoltaic conversion is spectrally selective due to the nature of the semiconductor materials used in PV solar cells and modules. To compare the relative performance of different PV devices and materials a reference standard solar spectral distribution is necessary. This document includes such a reference solar spectral irradiance distribution.

This document also describes basic measurement principles for determining the electrical output of PV devices. The principles given in this document are designed to relate the performance rating of PV devices to a common reference terrestrial solar spectral irradiance distribution.

The reference terrestrial solar spectral irradiance distribution is given in this document in order to classify solar simulators according to the spectral performance requirements contained in IEC 60904-9.

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

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

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

IEC 60904-5, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 5: Determination of the equivalent cell temperature (ECT) of photovoltaic (PV) devices by the open-circuit voltage method*

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