

IEEE Guide for the Measurement of Partial Discharges in AC Electric Machinery

IEEE Power and Energy Society

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Electric Machinery Committee

and the

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IEEE Guide for the Measurement of Partial Discharges in AC Electric Machinery

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Abstract: A review of the nature of partial discharge in machine windings, how it can be measured under both off-line and on-line conditions, how it can be measured for individual form wound coils or bars, and the significance and limitations of the measured values are covered in this standard.

Keywords: ac electric machine windings, electrical insulation, form-wound bars, form-wound coils, IEEE 1434™, partial discharge

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 1434™-2014, IEEE Guide for the Measurement of Partial Discharges in AC Electric Machinery.

Partial discharge (PD) measurements have been made on the windings of ac electric machinery for over 40 years. The electrical insulation of these windings may be prone to PD activity as a result of internal delaminations and of surface or slot discharge. These kinds of PD activity, when the machine is in normal operation, can result in significant deterioration over a period of time. Experience has indicated that PD measurements can be useful for assessing the condition of complete windings as well as of individual formwound coils and bars.

This guide provides a review of the nature of PD in machine windings, how it can be measured under both off-line and on-line conditions, how it can be measured for individual form-wound coils or bars, and the significance and limitations of the measured values.

IEC 60505 (2004-10)^a defines the various factors that influence the performance of electrical insulation systems. These are the thermal, electrical, environmental, and mechanical stress factors. Stator winding insulation systems of ac electric machinery experience thermal, electrical, mechanical, and environmental stresses during operation. These stresses, individually or in combination, will age the insulation system and may lead to delamination of the groundwall insulation, abrasion of the outer semiconducting (Faraday) shield, loosening of the wedging system, and other potential deterioration mechanisms. Sometimes, as a result of the initial manufacturing process, or because of the subsequent aging, PDs may occur adjacent to the high voltage conductor, in the internal voids of the groundwall, on the outer surface of the coil/bar in the slot, or in the endwinding region. These various PD sites have the potential to cause deterioration to a greater or lesser extent and, in some cases, may ultimately result in an in-service failure. The number, magnitude, and polarity of these PDs can be a direct indication of the condition of the insulation system. However, the trend of these parameters over time is frequently most valuable. Care must be taken that the effects of operating and environmental conditions and test procedures are considered.

^a IEC publications are available from the International Electrotechnical Commission (<http://www.iec.ch/>). IEC publications are also available in the United States from the American National Standards Institute (<http://www.ansi.org/>).

Contents

1. Overview	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Purpose	1
1.3 Limitations	1
2. Normative references	2
3. Definitions	3
4. The nature of PD in machine windings	8
4.1 Sources of PD	8
4.2 Forms of PD pulses	9
4.3 Glow and pseudoglow discharges	9
4.4 Peak amplitude variation of discharge pulses	10
4.5 PD under short rise time and repetitive voltage impulses	10
4.6 Magnetically induced vibration sparking	10
4.7 Contact sparking	11
5. Overview of PD detection methods	11
5.1 Electrical pulse sensing	11
5.2 RF radiation sensing	11
5.3 Power-factor tip-up	12
5.4 Energy/integrated charge transfer	12
5.5 Ozone detection	12
5.6 Acoustic and ultrasonic detection	13
5.7 Black-out test	13
5.8 Corona imaging instruments	13
6. Electrical pulse and RF radiation sensing systems	13
6.1 Coupling capacitors	27
6.2 RF current transformers	28
6.3 Near-field antennae	28
6.4 UHF antennae	29
7. Electrical pulse and RIV measuring instruments	29
7.1 Oscilloscopes	30
7.2 Spectrum analyzers	30
7.3 Integrating current detectors	30
7.4 Quasi-peak pulse meters and RIV meters	30
7.5 Pulse height analyzers	31
7.6 Pulse phase analyzers	31
7.7 Time-frequency classification map analyzers	31
7.8 Synchronous three channel/multi-spectral system	31
8. Pulse propagation in windings and calibration issues	32
8.1 Pulse propagation	32
8.2 Calibration into apparent charge	33
9. On-line versus off-line testing	33
9.1 On-line testing	34
9.2 Off-line testing	35

9.3 Quality control testing of individual stator coils/bars or windings	36
10. Test procedures.....	37
10.1 On-line test procedures.....	37
10.2 Off-line test procedures for complete windings.....	39
10.3 Procedures for pulse-type PD tests on individual coils and bars	43
11. Interpretation of PD test results	45
11.1 Magnitude and polarity of maximum PD pulses	45
11.2 Electromagnetic probe readings.....	46
11.3 Frequency spectrum analysis	46
11.4 Integrated quantities	47
11.5 Changes in PD magnitude	47
11.6 Pulse height and pulse phase analysis.....	48
11.7 Time-frequency classification map.....	48
11.8 Synchronous three channel/multi-spectral system	48
11.9 Difficulties in objective interpretation of PD data	48
Annex A (informative) Bibliography	50
A.1 Nature of PD in machine windings.....	50
A.2 Pulse propagation in windings and calibration issues	50
A.3 Sensors.....	52
A.4 Electrical pulse and RIV measuring instruments	55
A.5 On-line test methods and data analysis	56
A.6 Off-line test methods and data analysis	60
A.7 Quality control tests on individual stator coils and bars	62
A.8 PWM converters	63
Annex B (normative) Coupling capacitor type tests and routine tests.....	64
B.1 Introduction.....	64
B.2 Type tests	64
B.3 Routine tests.....	65
Annex C (informative) Typical PD pulse-phase patterns (examples)	66
C.1 Introduction.....	66
Annex D (informative) Typical time-frequency classification map	70
D.1 Typical time-frequency classification map	70
Annex E (informative) Synchronous three channel multi-spectral analyzer	72
E.1 Synchronous three channel multi-spectral analyzer	72
Annex F (informative) Electrical pulse and RF radiation sensing systems in limited use.....	75
F.1 Rotor-mounted scanner PD sensor	75
F.2 Capacitive probes	75
F.3 Machine frame and other ground circuit sensors.....	75
Annex G (informative) Interpretive methods in limited use.....	76
G.1 Quadratic rate.....	76

IEEE Guide for the Measurement of Partial Discharges in AC Electric Machinery

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1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This guide discusses both on-line and off-line partial discharge (PD) measurements on complete windings of any type, as well as measurements on individual form-wound coils and bars. Measurements selected from those that are outlined may be appropriate for application during the manufacture, installation, operation, and maintenance of windings of ac electric machinery.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to identify test methods that may be useful in the measurement of PD activity involving the electrical insulation systems of ac electric machinery for quality control and to detect winding aging.

1.3 Limitations

The users of this guide are cautioned that: