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FINAL VERSION

Electrostatics –
Part 1: Electrostatic phenomena – Principles and measurements

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

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This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.

IEC TR 61340 edition 1.1 contains the first edition (2012-06) [documents 101/344/DTR and 101/355/RVC] and its corrigenda 1 (2013-03) and 2 (2017-12), and its amendment 1 (2020-06) [documents 101/598/DTR and 101/604/RVDTR].

This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.

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 61340-1, which is a technical report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 101: Electrostatics.

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

A list of all the parts in the IEC 61340 series, published under the general title *Electrostatics,* can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment 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- withdrawn,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.

INTRODUCTION

Static electricity has been known for around 2 500 years but until recently had little impact on humankind. More recently in the last century the nature of static electricity became better understood and the principles of charge separation and accumulation could be described. Despite this improved understanding, it remains difficult to predict with certainty the polarity and magnitude of charges built up in any situation due to the many factors involved, and to, many electrostatics remains a “black art” rather than a science.

The development of modern materials, especially polymers, and their nearly ubiquitous application in fields such as floor materials, furnishings, clothing and engineering materials, has made static electricity an everyday phenomenon. In some industries, such as electronics manufacture and processes using flammable materials, unintended and invisible electrostatic discharges can lead to substantial component damage or unreliability, or fires or explosions. In everyday life, experience of electrostatic shocks to personnel has become commonplace. This has led to increasing need to understand such phenomena, and to specify materials, equipment and procedures for use in preventing and controlling electrostatic problems in the human environment.

This technical report gives an overview of the field of electrostatics and has been prepared to give the user a view of the background, principles, methods of measurement and industrial applications prepared in conformity with IEC TC101 publications.

ELECTROSTATICS –

Part 1: Electrostatic phenomena – Principles and measurements

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61340, which is a technical report, describes the fundamental principles of electrostatic phenomena including charge generation, retention and dissipation and electrostatic discharges.

Methods for measuring electrostatic phenomena and related properties of materials are described in a general way.

Hazards and problems associated with electrostatic phenomena and principles of their control are outlined.

Useful applications of electrostatic effects are summarized.

The purpose of this technical report is to serve as a reference for the development of electrostatics related standards, and to provide guidance for their end-users.

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 60079-10-1, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 10-1: Classification of areas – Explosive gas atmospheres*

IEC 60079-10-2, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 10-2: Classification of areas – Combustible dust atmospheres*

IEC TS 60079-32-1:2013, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 32-1: Electrostatic hazards, guidance*

IEC 60079-32-2, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 32-2: Electrostatic hazards – Tests*

IEC 61000-4-2, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-2: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrostatic discharge immunity test*

IEC 61340-5-1, *Electrostatics – Part 5-1: Protection of electronic devices from electrostatic phenomena – General requirements*

IEC TR 61340-5-2, *Electrostatics – Part 5-2: Protection of electronic devices from electrostatic phenomena – User guide*

IEC 61340-6-1, *Electrostatics – Part 6-1: Electrostatic control for healthcare – General requirements for facilities*