BS EN IEC 62446-2:2020

BSI Standards Publication

Photovoltaic (PV) systems — Requirements for testing, documentation and maintenance

Part 2: Grid connected systems — Maintenance of PV systems

bsi.

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN IEC 62446-2:2020. It is identical to IEC 62446-2:2020.

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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English Version

Photovoltaic (PV) systems - Requirements for testing, documentation and maintenance - Part 2: Grid connected systems - Maintenance of PV systems (IEC 62446-2:2020)

Systèmes photovoltaïques (PV) - Exigences pour les essais, la documentation et la maintenance - Partie 2: Systèmes connectés au réseau électrique - Maintenance des systèmes PV (IEC 62446-2:2020)

Photovoltaik(PV)-Systeme - Anforderungen an Prüfung, Dokumentation und Instandhaltung - Teil 2: Netzgekoppelte Systeme - Instandhaltung von PV-Systemen (IEC 62446-2:2020)

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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 82/1656/FDIS, future edition 1 of IEC 62446-2, prepared by IEC/TC 82 "Solar photovoltaic energy systems" was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN IEC 62446-2:2020.

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)	2021-01-22
• latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the document have to be withdrawn	(dow)	2023-04-22

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Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 62446-2:2020 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following notes have to be added for the standards indicated:

IEC 60300-3-3	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 60300-3-3
IEC 60891	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 60891
IEC 60904-1	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 60904-1

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62446-2 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1656/FDIS	82/1676/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.

This International Standard is to be used in conjunction with IEC 62446-1:2016.

The requirements in IEC 62446-2 are to be used with the requirements in IEC 62446-1:2016, and supplement or modify clauses in IEC 62446-1:2016. All Clauses 1 to 9 of IEC 62446-1:2016 apply, including the applicable Annexes. When IEC 62446-2 contains clauses that add to, modify, or replace clauses in IEC 62446-1:2016, the relevant text of IEC 62446-1:2016 is to be applied with the required changes.

Clauses, subclauses, figures, tables and annexes additional to those in IEC 62446-1:2016 are numbered in continuation of the sequence existing in IEC 62446-1:2016.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication 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

This Part 2 of IEC 62446 gives requirements and recommendations for the maintenance of PV systems, including periodic inspections, safety and performance related preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance and troubleshooting. Grid connected PV systems are generally considered to be a very low maintenance means of power generation. While this is true relative to conventional generation sources that utilize fuel and/or rotating machinery, PV systems do require some level of preventive and corrective maintenance to perform as anticipated over lifetimes that can exceed 20 years. The level of maintenance required or recommended for performance can vary considerably based on the owner’s preference or contractual obligations for power production; however, a minimum level of monitoring or maintenance is critical for safety and reducing the risk of fire. Adherence to a minimum set of maintenance requirements is also integral to the goals of the IECRE Conformity Assessment system, which is intended to drive the licensing and certification of PV systems and plants from the design to the operations stage.

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

Part 2: Grid connected systems – Maintenance of PV systems

1 Scope

This clause of IEC 62446-1:2016 is applicable with the following exception:

Addition:

This Part 2 of IEC 62446 describes basic preventive, corrective, and performance related maintenance requirements and recommendations for grid-connected PV systems. The maintenance procedures cover:

- Basic maintenance of the system components and connections for reliability, safety and fire prevention
- Measures for corrective maintenance and troubleshooting
- Worker safety

This document also addresses maintenance activities for maximizing anticipated performance such as module cleaning and upkeep of vegetation. Special considerations unique to rooftop or ground-mounted systems are summarized. This document does not cover off-grid systems or systems that include batteries or other energy storage technologies; however, parts may be applicable to the PV circuits of those systems.

This document also does not cover maintenance of medium and high voltage a.c. equipment that are sometimes integral to larger scale systems, as those requirements are not specific to PV systems.

Maintenance of PV systems is often lumped into the catch-all term operations and maintenance (O&M.) This document does not address business or management operational processes (e.g. forecasting, utility pricing incentives, etc.) or other considerations driven by factors outside of basic system working condition, safety and performance.

The confirmation of a system’s compliance with the appropriate design and installation standards is covered in Part 1 and takes place during initial project commissioning.

The objectives of this document are to:

- Identify a baseline set of maintenance requirements which may differ by system type (residential, commercial, utility scale), owner, or financing requirements.
- Identify additional maintenance steps that are recommended or optional.
- Identify factors to be used to determine appropriate maintenance intervals.
- Ensure that remote diagnostic methods are allowed as means for periodic verification, problem identification and early failure detection.
- Ensure that alternate means of achieving maintenance related requirements are allowed to accommodate for innovation, manufacturer specific methods, evolving customer requirements, etc.