

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Arc welding equipment – Part 13: Welding current return clamp



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2021 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
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
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 corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

IEC publications search - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform

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 It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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 once a month by email.

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: sales@iec.ch.

IEC online collection - oc.iec.ch

Discover our powerful search engine and read freely all the publications previews. With a subscription you will always have access to up to date content tailored to your needs.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 000 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 18 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.



IEC 60974-13

Edition 2.0 2021-04

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**Arc welding equipment –
Part 13: Welding current return clamp**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 25.160.30

ISBN 978-2-8322-9694-3

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

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
1 Scope	5
2 Normative references	5
3 Terms and definitions	5
4 Environmental conditions	6
5 Tests	6
5.1 Test conditions	6
5.2 Measuring instruments	6
5.3 Test sequence	6
6 Designation	7
7 Protection against electric shock – Voltage drop	7
8 Thermal rating	8
8.1 Temperature rise	8
8.2 Resistance to hot objects	8
9 Mechanical requirements	9
9.1 RETAINING MEANS	9
9.2 Welding cable entry	9
9.3 Welding cable connection	9
9.4 Drop withstand	10
10 Marking	10
11 Instructions for use	10
Bibliography	11
Figure 1 – Device for testing the resistance to hot objects	8
Table 1 – Relation between WELDING CURRENT RETURN CLAMP test current and welding cables cross-sectional area	7

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ARC WELDING EQUIPMENT –

Part 13: Welding current return clamp

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.

International Standard IEC 60974-13 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 26: Electric welding.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published in 2011, and constitutes a technical revision.

The significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition are the following:

- Modified the title from "Welding clamp" to "Welding current return clamp" and updated the term through the document.
- Updated all values of test current in Table 1 corrected to 40 °C.
- Updated the reference to EN 50565-1:2014, *Electric cables – Guide to use for cables with a rated voltage not exceeding 450/750 V (U0/U) – Part 1: General guidance*

This part of IEC 60974 is to be used in conjunction with IEC 60974-1.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
26/717/FDIS	26/722/RVD

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.

In this standard, the following print types are used:

- conformity statements: in *italic type*.
- terms defined in Clause 3: in SMALL ROMAN CAPITALS.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60974 series, published under the general title *Arc welding equipment*, 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.

ARC WELDING EQUIPMENT –

Part 13: Welding current return clamp

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60974 is applicable to WELDING CURRENT RETURN CLAMPS for arc welding processes, designed to make an electrical connection to the workpiece without using tools.

This document is not applicable to WELDING CURRENT RETURN CLAMPS for underwater welding and plasma cutting.

This document specifies safety and performance requirements of WELDING CURRENT RETURN CLAMPS.

This document does not specify requirements for welding cables.

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 60050-151:2001, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 151: Electrical and magnetic devices*

IEC 60050-151:2001/AMD1:2013

IEC 60050-151:2001/AMD2:2014

IEC 60050-151:2001/AMD3:2019

IEC 60050-151:2001/AMD4:2020

IEC 60974-1:2017, *Arc welding equipment – Part 1: Welding power sources*

IEC 60974-1:2017/AMD1:2019

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-151, IEC 60974-1, as well as the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

WELDING CURRENT RETURN CLAMP

WORK CLAMP, US

RETURN CURRENT CLAMP, UK

clamp that is attached to, or in contact with, the workpiece, to connect the welding return cable to the workpiece

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-851:2008, 851-14-36]