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Edition 1.0 2016-09

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Photovoltaic (PV) arrays – Design requirements

Groupes photovoltaïques (PV) – Exigences de conception

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FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62548 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This International Standard cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC TS 62548 published in 2013.

This International Standard includes the following significant technical changes with respect to IEC TS 62548:

a) provisions for systems including DC to DC conditioning units;
b) considerable revision of Clause 6 on safety issues which includes provisions for protection against electric shock including array insulation monitoring and earth fault detection.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1149/FDIS	82/1166/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this document 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.

Attention is drawn to the co-existence of IEC 60364-7-712 and IEC 62548. Both standards have been developed in close coordination by different technical committees.

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- withdrawn,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.

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PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ARRAYS – DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

1 Scope and object

This International Standard sets out design requirements for photovoltaic (PV) arrays including DC array wiring, electrical protection devices, switching and earthing provisions. The scope includes all parts of the PV array up to but not including energy storage devices, power conversion equipment or loads. An exception is that provisions relating to power conversion equipment are covered only where DC safety issues are involved. The interconnection of small DC conditioning units intended for connection to PV modules are also included.

The object of this document is to address the design safety requirements arising from the particular characteristics of photovoltaic systems. Direct current systems, and PV arrays in particular, pose some hazards in addition to those derived from conventional AC power systems, including the ability to produce and sustain electrical arcs with currents that are not greater than normal operating currents.

In grid connected systems, the safety requirements of this document are however critically dependent on the inverters associated with PV arrays complying with the requirements of IEC 62109-1 and IEC 62109-2.

Installation requirements are also critically dependent on compliance with the IEC 60364 series (see Clause 4).

PV arrays of less than 100 W and less than 35 V DC open circuit voltage at STC are not covered by this document.

PV arrays in grid connected systems connected to medium or high voltage systems are not covered in this document. Variations and additional requirements for large-scale ground mounted PV power plants with restricted access to personnel will also be addressed in IEC TS 62738[1].

Additional requirements may be needed for more specialized installations, for example concentrating systems, tracking systems or building integrated PV.

The present international standard also includes extra protection requirements of PV arrays when they are directly connected with batteries at the DC level.

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 60228, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60269-6, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 6: Supplementary requirements for fuse-links for the protection of solar photovoltaic energy systems*

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1 Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: IEC 2CD 62738.