



ANSI C12.1-2022

*American National Standard for Electric Meters—  
Code for Electricity Metering*

Secretariat:

**National Electrical Manufacturers Association**

Approved: June 9, 2022

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

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*Published by*

**National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
1300 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 900  
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209**

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Printed in the United States of America

**Foreword** (This foreword is not part of American National Standard C12.1-2022)

This American National Standard establishes acceptable performance criteria for electricity meters. Accuracy class designations, current class designations, voltage and frequency ratings, test current values, service connection arrangements, pertinent dimensions, form designations, and environmental tests are covered.

This version of C12.1 has been modified in several areas in an effort to respond to a changing industry and to improve the clarity of some of the tests. In the North American market, electromechanical meters are no longer manufactured and tests related to them have been deprecated. Additional work in the field of electromagnetic compatibility and auxiliary communications device influence has also been included in this version. The content of another standard in this series, ANSI C12.20, has been merged into C12.1 so that there is now a singular document that covers the entire Code for Electricity Metering. Blondel and non-Blondel meters are both covered by this new version of C12.1. C12.20 will be withdrawn with the publication of this version of C12.1.

Most other specifications have been retained from the previous edition. The following is a brief summary of the main changes:

- Polyphase loading has been mandated for all type testing of polyphase meters
- Voltage tests for meters with wide input voltage ranges have been simplified
- Test No. 4: Effect of variation of power factor has been greatly simplified
- Test No. 7: Equality of current circuits has been simplified
- Test No. 10: Effect of register friction has been deprecated
- Test No. 12: Effect of tilt has been deprecated
- Introduction of the Critical Change Value concept for certain External Influence tests
- Test No. 17: Effect of high-voltage line surges has been modernized
- Test No. 18: Effect of external magnetic field has been modernized
- Test No. 26: Effect of radio frequency interference has been modernized
- Test No. 28: Effect of electrostatic discharge (ESD) has been modernized
- Tests 39 through 44: Harmonic Influence have been carried over from C12.20
- Appendices A and B have been modernized
- A section on non-Blondel metering has been added to Appendix A

The Code for Electricity Metering is a body of work that originated over 110 years ago with the first edition released in 1910. Since then, a great many people have dedicated themselves to updating and modernizing this work. This latest edition is dedicated to all the past and present committee members who have demonstrated a passion for Electricity Metering standards development, and upon whose shoulders this latest version stands.

The Secretariat of the Accredited Standards Committee on Electricity Metering, C12, is held by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). At the time this standard was processed and approved, the C12 Committee had the following members:

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## CONTENTS

<b>Section 1 Scope and References</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope .....	1
1.2 References .....	1
<b>Section 2 Definitions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Section 3 Standards and Standardizing Equipment</b> .....	<b>12</b>
3.1 General.....	12
3.2 Traceability paths to the International System of Units, SI.....	12
3.2.1 Direct transfer .....	12
3.2.1.1 Independent laboratory.....	12
3.2.1.2 Meter laboratory transport standard comparison to an NMI .....	12
3.2.1.3 Indirect transfer .....	12
3.3 Meter laboratory .....	12
3.3.1 Laboratory conditions .....	13
3.3.2 Reference temperature and humidity .....	13
3.3.3 Laboratory power sources .....	13
3.4 Meter shop .....	13
3.5 Laboratory standards .....	13
3.5.1 Basic reference standards .....	13
3.5.2 Transport standards .....	13
3.6 Periodic verification of reference standards .....	13
3.7 Portable/field/working standard watt-hour meters .....	13
3.8 Performance records .....	14
3.9 Performance requirements for standard watt-hour meters.....	14
3.9.1 General test conditions .....	14
3.9.1.1 Test voltage.....	14
3.9.1.2 Test current .....	14
3.9.1.3 Test phase angle .....	14
3.9.1.4 Test frequency .....	14
3.9.1.5 Total harmonic distortion.....	14
3.9.1.6 Ambient temperature .....	14
3.9.1.7 External magnetic field .....	14
3.9.2 Tests for portable and reference standards .....	14
3.9.2.1 Insulation.....	14
3.9.2.2 Accuracy specification for the effect of variation of voltage and current .....	15
<b>Section 4 Acceptable Performance of New Types of Electricity Meters and Associated Equipment</b> .....	<b>16</b>
4.1 General.....	16
4.1.1 Acceptable meters.....	16
4.1.2 Adequacy of testing laboratory .....	16
4.1.3 Retesting of new meter type .....	16
4.1.4 Test documentation.....	16
4.1.5 Test device .....	16

4.1.6	Tests performed as a group.....	16
4.1.7	Handling of failed device.....	16
4.1.8	Restart testing.....	17
4.1.9	Reporting of test meters.....	17
4.2	Types of meters.....	17
4.2.1	Basic type.....	17
4.2.2	Variations within the basic type.....	17
4.2.3	Type designation.....	17
4.2.4	Form designation.....	17
4.2.5	Acceptance of basic types in whole or part.....	17
4.2.6	Minor variations.....	17
4.2.7	Special types.....	17
4.3	Specifications for design and construction.....	17
4.3.1	Sealing.....	17
4.3.2	Enclosures.....	18
4.3.3	Terminals and markings.....	18
4.3.4	Construction and workmanship.....	18
4.3.5	Provision for adjustment.....	18
4.4	Selection of meters for approval tests.....	18
4.4.1	Samples to be representative of the basic type.....	18
4.4.2	Number to be tested.....	18
4.5	Conditions of test.....	19
4.5.1	Tests to be applied.....	19
4.5.2	Configuration.....	19
4.5.3	Meters for special service.....	19
4.5.4	Meters of non-standard classes.....	19
4.5.5	Meters with wide-voltage range.....	19
4.5.6	Meters equipped with an auxiliary communication device (ACD).....	19
4.5.6.1	Reference conditions.....	19
4.5.6.2	Test mode.....	19
4.5.6.3	Test time.....	19
4.5.6.4	Antennas.....	20
4.5.6.5	Multiple ACDs.....	20
4.5.6.6	ACD states.....	20
4.5.6.7	Tests with dormant ACD condition.....	20
4.5.7	Mounting.....	20
4.5.8	Voltage and frequency.....	20
4.5.9	Current classes and test amperes.....	20
4.5.10	Form designations.....	21
4.5.11	Displays.....	23
4.5.11.1	Viewing requirements.....	23
4.5.11.2	Size of digits.....	23
4.5.11.3	Direction of energy flow.....	23
4.5.12	Provisions for testing of calibration.....	23

4.5.12.1	Requirement for test outputs .....	23
4.5.12.2	Physical implementation of test pulse output .....	23
4.5.13	Nameplate .....	24
4.6	Rules governing the acceptance of types .....	24
4.6.1	Tolerances .....	24
4.6.2	Determination of failure and rejection .....	24
4.6.2.1	Failure .....	24
4.6.2.2	Meter type certification rejection criteria .....	24
4.7	Performance requirements .....	26
4.7.1	Test conditions .....	26
4.7.1.1	Loading for accuracy tests .....	26
4.7.1.2	List of type tests .....	28
4.7.2	Accuracy tests, internal influences .....	31
4.7.2.1	Test No. 1: No load .....	31
4.7.2.2	Test No. 2: Starting load .....	32
4.7.2.3	Test No. 3: Load performance .....	33
4.7.2.4	Test No. 4: Effect of variation of power factor .....	34
4.7.2.5	Test No. 5: Effect of variation of voltage .....	37
4.7.2.6	Test No. 6: Effect of variation of frequency .....	39
4.7.2.7	Test No. 7: Equality of current circuits .....	40
4.7.2.8	Test No. 8: Meter losses .....	40
4.7.2.9	Test No. 9: Temperature rise .....	41
4.7.2.10	Test No. 10: Effect of resistor inductance .....	45
4.7.2.11	Test No. 11: Effect of internal heating .....	46
4.7.2.12	Test No. 12: Effect of tilt .....	47
4.7.2.13	Test No. 13: Stability of performance .....	47
4.7.2.14	Test No. 14: Effect of phase sequence reversal .....	48
4.7.3	Performance tests, external influences .....	49
4.7.3.0	Performance verification .....	49
4.7.3.1	Test No. 15: Insulation .....	50
4.7.3.2	Test No. 16: Voltage interruptions test .....	51
4.7.3.3	Test No. 17: Effect of high-voltage line surges .....	51
4.7.3.4	Test No. 18: Effect of external magnetic field .....	53
4.7.3.5	Test No. 19: Effect of variation of ambient temperature .....	54
4.7.3.6	Test No. 20: Effect of temporary overloads .....	58
4.7.3.7	Test No. 21: Effect of current surges in ground conductors .....	59
4.7.3.8	Test No. 22: Effect of superimposed signals .....	59
4.7.3.9	Test No. 23: Effect of voltage variation—secondary time base .....	59
4.7.3.10	Test No. 24: Effect of variation of ambient temperature— secondary time base .....	59
4.7.3.11	Test No. 25: Effect of electrical fast transient/burst test .....	60
4.7.3.11a	Test No. 25a: Effect of electrical oscillatory SWC test .....	62
4.7.3.12	Test No. 26: Effect of radio frequency interference .....	63
4.7.3.13	Test No. 27: Radio frequency conducted and radiated emission test .....	65

4.7.3.14	Test No. 28: Effect of electrostatic discharge (ESD).....	69
4.7.3.15	Test No. 29: Effect of storage temperature .....	70
4.7.3.16	Test No. 30: Effect of operating temperature .....	70
4.7.3.17	Test No. 31: Effect of relative humidity .....	71
4.7.3.18	Test No. 32: Mechanical shock.....	71
4.7.3.19	Test No. 33: Transportation drop.....	71
4.7.3.20	Test No. 34: Mechanical vibration .....	72
4.7.3.21	Test No. 35: Transportation vibration .....	72
4.7.3.22	Test No. 36: Weather simulation test .....	72
4.7.3.23	Test No. 37: Salt-spray test .....	72
4.7.3.24	Test No. 38: Rain tightness.....	73
4.7.4	Harmonics influence—effect of non-sinusoidal waveforms.....	73
4.7.4.1	Test No. 39: 90 degree phase fired waveform .....	74
4.7.4.2	Test No. 40: Quadriform waveform.....	76
4.7.4.3	Test No. 41: Peaked waveform.....	78
4.7.4.4	Test No. 42: Pulse waveform .....	80
4.7.4.5	Test No. 43: Multiple zero crossings on current.....	82
4.7.4.6	Test No. 44: Multiple zero crossings on voltage.....	84
<b>Section 5 Standards for New and In-Service Performance.....</b>		<b>86</b>
5.0	General principles .....	86
5.0.1	Purpose .....	86
5.0.1.1	New metering devices .....	86
5.0.1.2	In-service metering devices.....	86
5.0.2	Tests .....	86
5.0.2.1	As-found tests .....	86
5.0.2.2	As-left tests .....	86
5.0.2.3	Metering devices removed from service.....	86
5.0.2.4	Metering devices returned to service .....	86
5.0.3	Performance tests.....	87
5.0.3.1	Objectives .....	87
5.0.3.2	New metering device acceptance testing .....	87
5.0.3.3	In-service metering devices.....	87
5.0.3.4	Test plans.....	88
5.0.3.5	Test records .....	89
5.1	Watt-hour meters.....	90
5.1.1	Accuracy requirements .....	90
5.1.1.1	Test loads.....	90
5.1.1.2	Acceptable performance .....	90
5.1.1.3	Adjustment limits.....	90
5.1.1.4	Acceptable performance for electronic registers .....	90
5.1.2	Tests .....	90
5.1.2.1	New meters and as-found tests .....	90
5.1.2.2	As-left tests .....	90
5.1.2.3	Meters returned to service.....	90

5.1.3	Test plans .....	90
5.1.3.1	Periodic interval plan .....	90
5.1.3.2	Performance monitoring of new types of meters .....	91
5.1.4	Determination of average percentage registration .....	91
5.1.4.1	Method 1 .....	91
5.1.4.2	Method 2 .....	91
5.1.4.3	Method 3 .....	91
5.1.4.4	Method 4 .....	91
5.2	Instrument transformers, magnetic (external to meter) .....	91
5.2.1	Pre-installation tests .....	91
5.2.2	Instrument transformers removed from service .....	92
5.2.3	Performance tests .....	92
5.2.3.1	Burden test.....	92
5.2.3.2	Secondary voltage test.....	92
5.2.4	Inspection .....	92
5.3	Coupling capacitor voltage transformers (external to meter) .....	92
5.3.1	Performance tests .....	92
5.4	Integrated communication devices.....	92
5.4.1	Performance tests .....	92
5.5	Service switches (integrated and external to meter) .....	92
5.5.1	Performance tests .....	92
5.6	Demand and interval registers (integrated).....	93
5.6.1	Accuracy requirements .....	93
5.6.1.1	Acceptable performance for new demand or interval registers .....	93
5.6.1.2	In-service acceptable performance.....	93
5.6.1.3	Test points.....	93
5.6.1.4	Adjustment limits.....	93
5.6.1.5	Performance limits .....	93
5.7	Other energy measurement devices not already listed (integrated and external to meter) .....	93
5.7.1	Pulse recorder accuracy requirements.....	93
5.7.1.1	Acceptable performance for pulse recorders.....	93
5.8	Other non-energy measurement devices in a metering device circuit (integrated and external to meter).....	94
<b>Section 6 Auxiliary Pulse Devices for Electricity Metering .....</b>		<b>95</b>
6.1	General.....	95
6.1.1	Information to be shown on pulse initiator .....	95
6.1.2	Information to be shown on pulse amplifier or relay .....	95
6.1.3	Information to be shown on pulse totalizers .....	95
6.2	Tests to be applied.....	95
6.3	Performance requirements .....	95
6.3.1	Test conditions .....	95
6.3.2	Initial conditions .....	96
6.3.3	Mechanical load.....	96
6.3.4	Insulation.....	96

6.3.5	Performance test .....	96
6.3.6	Sunlight interference test—pulse devices containing optical sensors.....	96
<b>Appendix A Measurement of Power, Energy, and Related Quantities .....</b>		<b>100</b>
A.1	Measurement of power .....	100
A.1.1	Introduction .....	100
A.1.2	Blondel's theorem.....	100
A.1.3	Direct-current services .....	100
A.1.3.1	Two-wire direct-current services .....	100
A.1.3.2	Three-wire direct-current services.....	100
A.1.3.3	Ammeter and voltmeter method.....	100
A.1.4	Single-phase alternating-current services .....	101
A.1.4.1	Single-phase two-wire services.....	101
A.1.4.2	Single-phase three-wire services .....	101
A.1.5	Two-phase services .....	101
A.1.5.1	Two-phase three-wire services .....	101
A.1.5.2	Two-phase four-wire services .....	101
A.1.5.3	Two-phase five-wire services .....	101
A.1.5.4	Balanced two-phase services .....	101
A.1.6	Three-phase services.....	101
A.1.6.1	Three-wattmeter method .....	101
A.1.6.2	Two-wattmeter method.....	101
A.1.6.3	Balanced three-phase services.....	102
A.2	Measurement of energy .....	102
A.2.1	Basic considerations .....	102
A.2.1.1	Voltage-sensor connection.....	102
A.2.1.2	Application of Blondel's theorem.....	102
A.2.1.3	Watt-hour meter element.....	102
A.2.2	Direct-current or single-phase services .....	102
A.2.2.1	Two-wire direct-current and single-phase services .....	102
A.2.2.2	Three-wire direct-current and single-phase services .....	102
A.2.2.3	Single-phase three-wire services with balanced voltages .....	103
A.2.2.4	Large-capacity or high-voltage direct-current meters.....	103
A.2.2.5	Large-capacity or high-voltage alternating-current meters .....	103
A.2.3	Open wye services .....	103
A.2.4	Two-phase services .....	103
A.2.4.1	Two-phase three-wire services .....	103
A.2.4.2	Two-phase four- or five-wire services .....	104
A.2.4.3	Two-phase five-wire services with balanced voltages .....	104
A.2.5	Three-phase services, all types .....	104
A.2.5.1	Methods comparable to power measurements .....	104
A.2.6	Three-phase three-wire services .....	104
A.2.6.1	Two-element method.....	104
A.2.6.2	Three-element method .....	104
A.2.6.3	Balanced voltage and load .....	104

A.2.7	Three-phase four-wire wye services.....	104
	A.2.7.1 Three-element four-wire wye meter.....	104
	A.2.7.2 Two-and-a-half-element four-wire wye meter.....	105
A.2.8	Three-phase four-wire delta services.....	105
	A.2.8.1 Possible methods of metering.....	105
	A.2.8.2 Three-element four-wire delta meter.....	105
	A.2.8.3 Two-element four-wire delta meter.....	105
A.2.9	Three-phase seven-wire double wye-connected services.....	105
	A.2.9.1 Three single-phase three-wire elements.....	105
A.2.10	Basic meter design considerations.....	105
A.2.11	Factors affecting meter accuracy.....	106
	A.2.11.1 Light loads.....	106
	A.2.11.2 Variations in voltage.....	106
	A.2.11.3 Variations in power factor.....	106
	A.2.11.4 Variations in frequency.....	106
	A.2.11.5 Variations in temperature.....	106
	A.2.11.6 External magnetic fields.....	106
	A.2.11.7 Load range.....	107
	A.2.11.8 Surges.....	107
	A.2.11.9 Adverse environmental conditions.....	107
A.3	Measurement of power factor.....	107
	A.3.1 Single-phase two-wire services.....	107
	A.3.2 Single-phase and polyphase services.....	107
	A.3.3 Balanced three-phase three-wire services.....	108
	A.3.4 System power factor.....	108
	A.3.5 Interval power factor.....	108
A.4	Measurement of reactive energy (varhours, quadergy).....	108
	A.4.1 Q-hour method.....	108
	A.4.2 Electronic meters.....	109
A.5	Non-Blondel metering applications.....	109
	A.5.1 Introduction.....	109
	A.5.2 The single-phase 2S application.....	110
	A.5.3 A vector approach to power computation.....	111
	A.5.3.1 Analysis of 12S and 2S metering of a three-wire single-phase application.....	112
	A.5.3.2 Analysis of 4-wire wye metering using two-element meters (Forms 5S, 26S, 45S, 66S).....	117
	A.5.3.3 Analysis of 4-wire wye metering using 2.5 element meters (Forms 6S, 7S, 14S, 29S, 36S, 46S).....	118
	A.5.3.4 Analysis of 4-wire delta metering using two-element meters (Forms 5S, 45S).....	119
	A.5.3.5 Analysis of 4-wire delta metering using 2.5 element meters (Forms 8S, 15S, 24S).....	120
A.5.4	Conclusions.....	122

<b>Appendix B Standards and Standardizing Equipment</b> .....	<b>124</b>
B.1    General.....	124
B.2    Final authority.....	124
B.2.1    Electrical units.....	124
B.2.1.1    Current .....	124
B.2.1.2    Time .....	124
B.2.1.3    Force .....	125
B.2.1.4    Energy .....	125
B.2.1.5    Power .....	125
B.2.1.6    Electric potential.....	125
B.2.1.7    Resistance .....	125
B.2.1.8    Charge .....	125
B.2.1.9    Capacitance .....	125
B.2.1.10    Magnetic flux .....	125
B.2.1.11    Inductance .....	125
B.3    This section has been removed .....	125
B.4    Establishing a local reference standard of energy.....	125
B.4.1    Meter laboratory .....	127
B.4.2    Meter shop.....	127
B.4.3    Independent standards laboratory.....	127
B.5    Laboratory conditions.....	127
B.5.1    Reference temperature and humidity .....	127
B.5.2    Laboratory power sources .....	128
B.6    Laboratory reference standards .....	128
B.6.1    Stability of reference standards .....	128
B.6.2    Basic reference standards .....	128
B.6.2.1    Intercomparison .....	129
B.6.3    Transport standards .....	129
B.6.4    Voltage references .....	129
B.6.4.1    Standard cells .....	129
B.6.4.2    Unsaturated standard cells.....	129
B.6.4.3    Solid state voltage standards .....	129
B.6.5    Standard resistors .....	129
B.6.6    DC ratio devices .....	129
B.6.6.1    Reference standard volt box .....	129
B.6.6.2    Reference voltage dividers.....	130
B.6.6.3    Universal ratio set and Kelvin-Varley divider .....	130
B.6.6.4    Resistance bridges .....	130
B.6.6.5    Direct-current comparator .....	130
B.6.7    AC ratio devices .....	130
B.6.7.1    Transformer test set.....	130
B.6.8    AC-DC transfer standards.....	130
B.6.8.1    Stability .....	130
B.6.9    Reference standard of energy .....	131

B.6.10	Time interval .....	131
B.6.11	Periodic verification of reference standards .....	131
B.7	Laboratory secondary standards.....	131
B.7.1	Voltage measuring equipment.....	131
B.7.2	Indicating instruments .....	131
B.7.2.1	Measurement uncertainty.....	131
B.7.2.2	Instrument bearings or suspensions .....	131
B.7.2.3	Range extension.....	131
B.7.3	Watt-hour meters .....	132
B.7.4	Calibration checks .....	132
B.7.4.1	Voltage measuring accessories .....	132
B.7.4.2	Digital voltmeter (multimeters) calibrations .....	132
B.7.4.3	Calibration of indicating instruments .....	132
B.7.4.4	Watt-hour meters .....	132
B.8	Shop instruments .....	132
B.8.1	Indicating instruments .....	132
B.8.2	Portable standard watt-hour meters .....	133
B.9	Performance records .....	133
B.9.1	Importance of records .....	133
B.10	Abnormal conditions .....	133
B.11	This section has been removed .....	133
B.12	Acceptable performance of standard watt-hour meters.....	133
B.12.1	General.....	133
B.12.1.1	Optional provision for pulse output.....	134
B.12.1.2	Overcurrent protection .....	134
B.12.1.3	Nameplate .....	134
B.12.2	This section has been removed.....	134
B.12.3	Mechanical requirements for reference standard meters .....	134
B.12.3.1	General.....	134
B.12.3.2	Adjusting devices .....	134
B.12.3.3	Device orientation .....	134
B.12.3.4	Case .....	134
B.12.3.5	Sealing.....	134
B.12.3.6	Window.....	135
B.12.3.7	Terminals.....	135
B.12.3.8	Digital readouts .....	135
B.12.3.9	Provision for pulse output .....	135
<b>Appendix C Registration and Meter Constants .....</b>		<b>136</b>
C.1	General.....	136
C.2	Symbols.....	136
C.3	Object of the test .....	136
C.4	Test procedure .....	136
C.5	Allowed effect.....	136
C.6	Mandatory testpoints.....	136

<b>Appendix D Periodic Testing Schedule .....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Appendix E Variable Interval Plan .....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Appendix F 90 Degree Phase Fired Waveform Definitions .....</b>	<b>139</b>
F.1    Fourier construction of 90 degree phase fired current waveform with same peak as $I_{ref}$ .....	139
F.2    Sine construction of 90 degree phase fired current waveform with same peak as $I_{ref}$ .....	139
<b>Appendix G Type B Optical Test Output Port (OTOP) .....</b>	<b>142</b>
G.0    Type B—separate port for OTOP .....	142
G.1    Physical specifications .....	142
G.2    Output optical characteristics .....	142
<b>Appendix H Historical Background .....</b>	<b>144</b>
H.1    Preface to the First Edition (1910) .....	144
H.2    Preface to the Second Edition (1922) .....	145
H.3    Preface to the Third Edition (1928) .....	145
H.4    Preface to the Fourth Edition (1941) .....	146
H.5    Preface to the Fifth Edition (1965) .....	147
H.6    Preface to the Sixth Edition (1975) .....	148
H.7    Foreword to the Seventh Edition (1982) .....	150
H.8    Foreword to the Eighth Edition (1988) .....	151
H.9    Foreword to the Ninth Edition (1995) .....	154
H.10   Foreword to the Tenth Edition (2001) .....	155
H.11   Foreword to the Eleventh Edition (2008) .....	157
H.12   Foreword to the Twelfth Edition (2014) .....	159

**TABLES**

Table 1 Maximum Percent Errors at Reference Conditions .....	15
Table 2 Maximum Percent Errors with Variation of Voltage and Current .....	15
Table 3 Current Classes and Test Amperes .....	20
Table 4 Typical Blondel Meter Form Designations .....	21
Table 5 Typical Non-Blondel Meter Forms.....	22
Table 6 Table of Failures Based on the Number of Meters Tested .....	25
Table 7 Polyphase Service Loading for Use on Accuracy Tests .....	27
Table 8 ABC Phase Sequence, Current and Voltage Phase Angles Stated Relative to $V_A$ .....	28
Table 9 CBA Phase Sequence, Current and Voltage Phase Angles Stated Relative to $V_A$ .....	28
Table 10 List of Type Tests.....	30
Table 11 Starting Load Test.....	32
Table 12 Load Performance Test.....	33
Table 13 ACD Extreme State Load Performance Test.....	34
Table 14 Effect of Variation of Power Factor Performance Test.....	36
Table 15 Effect of Variation of Voltage .....	37
Table 16 Effect of Variation of Voltage on Solid State Auxiliary Devices.....	39
Table 17 Effects of Variation of Frequency .....	39
Table 18 Equality of Current Circuits for Multi-Current Circuit Meters .....	40
Table 19 Temperature-Rise Test Specifications.....	41
Table 20 Effect of Internal Heating for Current Classes 2, 10, and 20.....	46
Table 21 Effect of Internal Heating for Current Classes 100, 200, and 320 .....	47
Table 22 Limits for Stability of Performance .....	48
Table 23 Limits for Phase Sequence Reversal.....	48
Table 24 Selected Coupling Modes for Power Line Surge Testing.....	52
Table 25 Effect of External Magnetic Field.....	54
Table 26 Effect of Variation of Ambient Temperature.....	56
Table 27 Effect of Variation of Ambient Temperature for Temperatures $> +50^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $< -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .....	57
Table 28 Effect of Variation of Temperature on Solid State Auxiliary Devices .....	58
Table 29 Effect of Temporary Overloads on Accuracy.....	58
Table 30 Effect of Current Surge in Ground Conductor .....	59
Table 31 Test Modes, Voltage, and Application for Each External Connection Group, Oscillatory Test .....	62
Table 32 Maximum Difference in Energy Accumulation, Radiated Interference .....	63
Table 33 Maximum Difference in Energy Accumulation, Conducted Interference .....	64
Table 34 Current Test Values for $I_{ref}$ .....	74
Table 35 Effect of Harmonic Influence: 90 Degree Phase Fired Current Waveform Performance Requirements .....	75
Table 36 Quadriform Waveform .....	76
Table 37 Effect of Harmonic Influence: Quadriform Waveform Performance Requirements .....	77
Table 38 Peaked Waveform .....	78
Table 39 Effect of Harmonic Influence: Peaked Waveform Performance Requirements .....	79
Table 40 Pulse Waveform.....	80
Table 41 Effect of Harmonic Influence: Pulse Waveform Performance Requirements.....	81
Table 42 Multiple Zero Crossing Current Waveform .....	82

Table 43 Effect of Harmonic Influence: Multiple Zero Crossing Current Waveform Performance Requirements .....	83
Table 44 Multiple Zero Crossing Voltage Waveform .....	84
Table 45 Effect of Harmonic Influence: Multiple Zero Crossing Voltage Waveform.....	85
Table 46 Performance Test, Pulse Devices.....	96
Table 47 Common Non-Blondel Applications .....	109
Table 48 Errors Under Various 2s Application Conditions .....	114
Table 49 Errors Under Various 4-Wire Wye Non-Blondel Applications .....	119
Table 50 Errors Under Various 4-Wire Delta Non-Blondel Applications.....	122
Table 51 Periodic Testing Schedule.....	137
Table 52 Variable Interval Plan.....	138
Table 53 90 Degree Phase Fired Waveform .....	141
Table 54 Type B Transmitter Performance .....	142

**FIGURES**

Figure 1 Diagram of Quadrants ..... 35

Figure 2 Location of Temperature Detectors ..... 42

Figure 3 Dimensions for Jumper Bars of Simulated Meter Temperature-Rise Test for Single-Phase and Polyphase Meters (Maximum Rating 100 A)..... 43

Figure 4 Dimensions for Jumper Bars of Simulated Meter Temperature-Rise Test for Single-Phase and Polyphase Meters (Maximum Rating 101 – 200 A Rating)..... 44

Figure 5 Dimensions for Jumper Bars of Simulated Meter Temperature-Rise Test for Single-Phase and Polyphase Meters (Maximum Rating 201 – 320 A Rating)..... 45

Figure 6 Magnetic Field Orientations 1, 2, and 3 ..... 54

Figure 7 Test No. 25 Electrical Fast Transient/Burst Direct Connection..... 61

Figure 8 Test No. 25 Electrical Fast Transient/Burst Capacitive Clamp Connection ..... 61

Figure 9 Typical Test Layout for Test 26a: Effect of Radio Frequency Radiated Interference, Reference 4.7.3.12.1 ..... 64

Figure 10 Typical Wiring Diagram for Test 26b—Conducted Interference ..... 65

Figure 11 Typical Test Layout for Test 27—Radiated and Conducted Emissions, Reference 4.7.3.13 ..... 66

Figure 12 Typical Wiring Detail for Self-Contained Meters for Test 27—Radiated and Conducted Emissions, Reference 4.7.3.13 ..... 67

Figure 13 Typical Wiring Detail for Transformer Rated Meters for Test 27—Radiated and Conducted Emissions, Reference 4.7.3.13 ..... 68

Figure 14 Typical GTEM Test Layout for Radiated Interference Test 26a, Reference 4.7.3.12..... 69

Figure 15 90 Degree Phase Fired Waveform ..... 74

Figure 16 Quadriform Waveform ..... 76

Figure 17 Peaked Waveform ..... 78

Figure 18 Pulse Waveform ..... 81

Figure 19 Multiple Zero Crossing Current Waveform ..... 82

Figure 20 Multiple Zero Crossing Voltage Waveform ..... 84

Figure 21 Sunlight Interference Test ..... 98

Figure 22 Variable Angles Sunlight Interference Test ..... 99

Figure 23 2S Meter Connections..... 110

Figure 24 2S Meter Application ..... 111

Figure 25 Single-Phase, 3-Wire Vector Diagrams..... 112

Figure 26 2S Errors at PF=1.0..... 116

Figure 27 5S Metering Application ..... 117

Figure 28 6S Metering Application ..... 118

Figure 29 5S Metering Application ..... 120

Figure 30 8S Metering Application ..... 121

Figure 31 Traceability Path Diagram ..... 126

Figure 32 90 Degree Phase Fired Waveform ..... 140

Figure 33 Type B Transmitter Performance..... 143

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## Section 1 Scope and References

### 1.1 Scope

This standard establishes acceptable performance criteria for new types of AC watthour meters, demand meters, demand registers, pulse devices, and auxiliary devices. It also describes acceptable in-service performance levels for meters and devices used in revenue metering. It also includes information on related subjects, such as recommended measurement standards, installation requirements, test methods, and test schedules. This Code for Electricity Metering is designed as a reference for those concerned with the art of electricity metering, such as utilities, manufacturers, and regulatory bodies.

Where differences exist between the requirements of this standard and the most current version of ANSI C12.10, the requirements of this standard shall prevail.

### 1.2 References

The following publications shall be used in conjunction with this standard. When they are superseded by an approved revision, the latest approved revision shall apply:

ANSI C12.7-2014 *Requirements for Watthour Meter Sockets*

ANSI C12.10-2011 *Physical Aspects of Watthour Meters—Safety Standard*

ANSI C12.18-2006 (R2016) *Protocol Specification for ANSI Type 2 Optical Port*

ANSI/ASQ Z1.4-2003 (R2018) *Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes*

ANSI/ASQ Z1.9-2003 (R2018) *Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Variables for Percent Nonconforming*

ANSI/IEEE C63.4-2014 *Methods of Measurement of Radio-Noise Emissions from Low-Voltage Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the Range of 9 kHz to 40 GHz*

ASTM B117-2019 *Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus*

ASTM G155-2013 *Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Non-Metallic Materials*

Code of Federal Regulations (Telecommunication) CFR 47, Part 15—*Radio Frequency Devices, Subparts A—General and B—Unintentional Radiators*

Chapter 19 “The Customers’ Premises, Service and Installations,” *Handbook for Electricity Metering, 11th Edition, Washington, D.C.: Edison Electric Institute, 2014*

IEC 61000-4-3:2020 *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 4-3: Testing and measurement techniques - Radiated, radio-frequency, electromagnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-6:2013 *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 4-6: Testing and measurement techniques - Immunity to conducted disturbances, induced by radio-frequency fields*

IEEE 1-2000 *IEEE Recommended Practice - General Principles for Temperature Limits in the Rating of Electrical Equipment and for the Evaluation of Electrical Insulation*

IEEE C37.90.1-2012 *IEEE Standard Surge Withstand Capability (SWC) Tests for Relays and Relay Systems Associated with Electric Power Apparatus*