Australian Standard™

Functional safety of electrical/electronic/ programmable electronic safety-related systems

Part 1: General requirements

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT/6, Information Technology for Industrial Automation and Integration. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 July 1999 and published on 5 August 1999.

The following interests are represented on Committee IT/6:

Australian Association of Consulting Engineers

Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association

Australian Information Industry Association

CSIRO Centre for Planning and Design

CSIRO Manufacturing Science and Technology

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 99165

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First published as AS 61508.1—1999.

Published by:

Standards Australia
1 The Crescent,
Homebush NSW 2140 Australia

ISBN 0 7337 2895 2

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT/6, Information Technology for Industrial Automation and Integration. This Standard is identical with and has been reproduced from IEC 61508-1:1998, *Functional safety of electrical/electronic/ programmable electronic safety-related systems*, Part 1: *General requirements*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide designers of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic devices used in safety-related applications with the general requirements for a generic approach for all safety lifecycle activities.

A reference to an International Standard identified in the normative references clause (Clause 2) by strikethrough (~~example~~) is replaced by a reference to the Australian Standard listed immediately thereafter and identified by shading (example). Where the strike-through referenced document and the referenced Australian Standard are identical, this is indicated in parenthesis after the title of the latter.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which it applies. An 'informative' annex is only for information and guidance.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

(a) Its number does not appear on each page of text and its identity is shown only on the cover and title page.

(b) In the source text 'this part of IEC 61508' should read 'this Australian Standard', and 'this International Standard' should read 'this series of Standards'.

(c) A full point should be substituted for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

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INTRODUCTION

Systems comprised of electrical and/or electronic components have been used for many years to perform safety functions in most application sectors. Computer-based systems (generically referred to as programmable electronic systems (PESs)) are being used in all application sectors to perform non-safety functions and, increasingly, to perform safety functions. If computer system technology is to be effectively and safely exploited, it is essential that those responsible for making decisions have sufficient guidance on the safety aspects on which to make these decisions.

This International Standard sets out a generic approach for all safety lifecycle activities for systems comprised of electrical and/or electronic and/or programmable electronic components (electrical/electronic/programmable electronic systems (E/E/PESs)) that are used to perform safety functions. This unified approach has been adopted in order that a rational and consistent technical policy be developed for all electrically-based safety-related systems. A major objective is to facilitate the development of application sector standards.

In most situations, safety is achieved by a number of protective systems which rely on many technologies (for example mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, electronic, programmable electronic). Any safety strategy must therefore consider not only all the elements within an individual system (for example sensors, controlling devices and actuators) but also all the safety-related systems making up the total combination of safety-related systems. Therefore, while this International Standard is concerned with electrical/electronic/programmable electronic (E/E/PE) safety-related systems, it may also provide a framework within which safety-related systems based on other technologies may be considered.

It is recognized that there is a great variety of E/E/PES applications in a variety of application sectors and covering a wide range of complexity, hazard and risk potentials. In any particular application, the required safety measures will be dependent on many factors specific to the application. This International Standard, by being generic, will enable such measures to be formulated in future application sector international standards.

This International Standard

– considers all relevant overall, E/E/PES and software safety lifecycle phases (for example, from initial concept, through design, implementation, operation and maintenance to decommissioning) when E/E/PESs are used to perform safety functions;
– has been conceived with a rapidly developing technology in mind; the framework is sufficiently robust and comprehensive to cater for future developments;
– enables application sector international standards, dealing with safety-related E/E/PESs, to be developed; the development of application sector international standards, within the framework of this standard, should lead to a high level of consistency (for example, of underlying principles, terminology etc.) both within application sectors and across application sectors; this will have both safety and economic benefits;
– provides a method for the development of the safety requirements specification necessary to achieve the required functional safety for E/E/PE safety-related systems;

– uses safety integrity levels for specifying the target level of safety integrity for the safety functions to be implemented by the E/E/PE safety-related systems;

– adopts a risk-based approach for the determination of the safety integrity level requirements;

– sets numerical target failure measures for E/E/PE safety-related systems which are linked to the safety integrity levels;

– sets a lower limit on the target failure measures, in a dangerous mode of failure, that can be claimed for a single E/E/PE safety-related system; for E/E/PE safety-related systems operating in

  – a low demand mode of operation, the lower limit is set at an average probability of failure of 10–5 to perform its design function on demand,

  – a high demand or continuous mode of operation, the lower limit is set at a probability of a dangerous failure of 10^{-9} per hour;

NOTE – A single E/E/PE safety-related system does not necessarily mean a single-channel architecture.

  – adopts a broad range of principles, techniques and measures to achieve functional safety for E/E/PE safety-related systems, but does not use the concept of fail safe which may be of value when the failure modes are well defined and the level of complexity is relatively low. The concept of fail safe was considered inappropriate because of the full range of complexity of E/E/PE safety-related systems that are within the scope of the standard.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems

Part 1:
General requirements

1 Scope

1.1 This International Standard covers those aspects to be considered when electrical/electronic/programmable electronic systems (E/E/PESs) are used to carry out safety functions. A major objective of this standard is to facilitate the development of application sector international standards by the technical committees responsible for the application sector. This will allow all the relevant factors, associated with the application, to be fully taken into account and thereby meet the specific needs of the application sector. A dual objective of this standard is to enable the development of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic (E/E/PE) safety-related systems where application sector international standards may not exist.

1.2 In particular, this standard

a) applies to safety-related systems when one or more of such systems incorporates electrical/electronic/programmable electronic devices;

NOTE 1 – In the context of low complexity E/E/PE safety-related systems, certain requirements specified in this standard may be unnecessary, and exemption from compliance with such requirements is possible (see 4.2, and the definition of a low complexity E/E/PE safety-related system in 3.4.4 of IEC 61508-4).

NOTE 2 – Although a person can form part of a safety-related system (see 3.4.1 of IEC 61508-4), human factor requirements related to the design of E/E/PE safety-related systems are not considered in detail in this standard.

b) is generically-based and applicable to all E/E/PE safety-related systems irrespective of the application; [1)]

c) covers possible hazards caused by failures of the safety functions to be performed by E/E/PE safety-related systems, as distinct from hazards arising from the E/E/PE equipment itself (for example electric shock etc);

d) does not cover E/E/PE systems where

   – a single E/E/PE system is capable of providing the necessary risk reduction, and

   – the required safety integrity of the E/E/PE system is less than that specified for safety integrity level 1 (the lowest safety integrity level in this standard).

e) is mainly concerned with the E/E/PE safety-related systems whose failure could have an impact on the safety of persons and/or the environment; however, it is recognized that the consequences of failure could also have serious economic implications and in such cases this standard could be used to specify any E/E/PE system used for the protection of equipment or product;

f) considers E/E/PE safety-related systems, other technology safety-related systems and external risk reduction facilities in order that the safety requirements specification for the E/E/PE safety-related systems can be determined in a systematic, risk-based manner;

1) Applies to French text only.