

AS IEC 62217:2021  
IEC 62217:2012



STANDARDS  
Australia



# **Polymeric HV insulators for indoor and outdoor use — General definitions, test methods and acceptance criteria**



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AS IEC 62217:2021

This Australian Standard® was prepared by EL-010, Overhead Lines. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 4 January 2021.

This Standard was published on 22 January 2021.

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Aerial Application Association of Australia  
Australian Industry Group  
Civil Aviation Safety Authority  
Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union — Electrical Division  
Department of Regional NSW  
Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council  
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS IEC 62217:2020.

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ISBN 978 1 76113 160 8

# **Polymeric HV insulators for indoor and outdoor use — General definitions, test methods and acceptance criteria**

Originated as AS 62217—2007.  
Revised and redesignated as AS IEC 62217:2021.



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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee EL-010, Overhead Lines, to supersede AS 62217—2007.

The objective of this document is to —

- (a) define the common terms used for polymeric insulators;
- (b) prescribe common test methods for design tests on polymeric insulators; and
- (c) prescribe acceptance or failure criteria, if applicable.

This document applies to polymeric insulators whose insulating body consists of one or various organic materials. Polymeric insulators covered by this document include both solid core and hollow insulators. They are intended for use on HV overhead lines and in indoor and outdoor equipment.

This document is identical with, and has been reproduced from, IEC 62217:2012, *Polymeric HV insulators for indoor and outdoor use — General definitions, test methods and acceptance criteria*.

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NOTES

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope and object.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	8
4 Identification.....	10
5 Environmental conditions .....	10
6 Information on transport, storage and installation .....	11
7 Classification of tests.....	11
7.1 Design tests .....	11
7.2 Type tests .....	12
7.3 Sample tests .....	12
7.4 Routine tests .....	12
8 General requirements for insulator test specimens .....	12
9 Design tests .....	13
9.1 General.....	13
9.2 Tests on interfaces and connections of end fittings.....	13
9.2.1 General .....	13
9.2.2 Test specimens.....	13
9.2.3 Reference voltage and temperature for verification tests .....	13
9.2.4 Reference dry power frequency test .....	13
9.2.5 Product specific pre-stressing .....	13
9.2.6 Water immersion pre-stressing .....	14
9.2.7 Verification tests .....	14
9.3 Tests on shed and housing material.....	15
9.3.1 Hardness test .....	15
9.3.2 Accelerated weathering test .....	15
9.3.3 Tracking and erosion test – 1 000 h salt fog test – Procedure.....	16
9.3.4 Flammability test.....	18
9.4 Tests on the core material .....	18
9.4.1 Porosity Test (Dye penetration test) .....	18
9.4.2 Water diffusion test.....	19
Annex A (informative) Difference between the tracking and erosion and accelerated ageing test on polymeric insulators .....	23
Annex B (informative) Recommended application of tests .....	24
Annex C (informative) Explanation of the concept of classes for the design tests .....	25
Bibliography .....	26
Figure 1 – Examples of test specimen for core material .....	19
Figure 2 – Example of boiling container for the water diffusion test .....	20
Figure 3 – Electrodes for the voltage test .....	21
Figure 4 – Voltage test circuit.....	22

Table 1 – Normal environmental conditions.....	11
Table 2 – Initial NaCl content of the water as a function of the specimen dimensions.....	17
Table 3 – Flammability requirements .....	18

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**POLYMERIC HV INSULATORS  
FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR USE –  
GENERAL DEFINITIONS, TEST METHODS  
AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62217 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 36: Insulators.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2005. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes a significant technical change with respect to the previous edition.

The first edition of IEC 62217 (2005) included two other alternative tracking and erosion tests (a 5 000 hour multi-stress test and a tracking wheel test) which were based on tests developed by CIGRE and utilities. These tests are no longer given as normative alternatives following the results of a study/questionnaire by TC 36 on the relative merits of all three tracking and erosion tests. The 5 000 hour multi-stress test and a tracking wheel test are described in IEC/TR 62730 (2012).

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

FDIS	Report on voting
36/321/FDIS	36/324/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.

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

Polymeric insulators consist either of one insulating material (resin insulators) or two or several insulating materials (composite insulators). The insulating materials are generally cross-linked organic materials synthesised from carbon or silicon chemistry and form the insulating body. Insulating materials can be composed from organic materials containing various inorganic and organic ingredients, such as fillers and extenders. End fittings are often used at the ends of the insulating body to transmit mechanical loads. Despite these common features, the materials used and the construction details employed by different manufacturers may be widely different.

The tests given in this standard are those which are, in general, common to a great majority of insulator designs and materials, whatever their final application. They have been regrouped in this standard to avoid repetition in the relevant product standards and drift between procedures as the various product standards are drafted or revised.

The majority of these tests have been grouped together as "Design tests", to be performed only once for insulators of the same design. The design tests are intended to eliminate insulator designs, materials or manufacturing technologies which are not suitable for high-voltage applications. The influence of time on the electrical properties of the complete polymeric insulator and its components (core material, housing, interfaces etc.) has been considered in specifying the design tests in order to ensure a satisfactory lifetime under normal operating and environmental conditions.

Pollution tests, according to IEC 60507 or IEC 61245, are not included in this document, the applicability of their methodology to composite insulators not having been proven and still requiring study by CIGRE. The results of such pollution tests performed on insulators made of polymeric materials do not correlate with experience obtained from service. Specific pollution tests for polymeric insulators are still under consideration.

The 1 000 hour salt-fog tracking and erosion test given in this second edition of IEC 62217 is considered as a screening test intended to reject materials or designs which are inadequate. This test is not intended to predict long term performance for insulator designs under cumulative service stresses. For more information, see Annex C. The first edition of IEC 62217 (2005) included two other alternative tracking and erosion tests (a 5 000 hour multi-stress test and a tracking wheel test) which were based on tests developed by CIGRE and utilities. These tests are no longer given as normative alternatives following the results of a study/questionnaire by TC 56 on the relative merits of all three tracking and erosion tests. The 5 000 hour multi-stress test and a tracking wheel test are described in IEC/TR 62730 (2012).

Composite insulators are used in both a.c. and d.c. applications. In spite of this fact a specific tracking and erosion test procedure for d.c. applications as a design test has not yet been defined and accepted. The 1 000 hour a.c. tracking and erosion test described in this standard is used to establish a minimum requirement for the tracking resistance of the housing material.

IEC Guide 111 has been followed wherever possible during the preparation of this standard.

# POLYMERIC HV INSULATORS FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR USE – GENERAL DEFINITIONS, TEST METHODS AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

## 1 Scope and object

This International Standard is applicable to polymeric insulators whose insulating body consists of one or various organic materials. Polymeric insulators covered by this standard include both solid core and hollow insulators. They are intended for use on HV overhead lines and in indoor and outdoor equipment.

The object of this standard is

- to define the common terms used for polymeric insulators;
- to prescribe common test methods for design tests on polymeric insulators;
- to prescribe acceptance or failure criteria, if applicable;

These tests, criteria and recommendations are intended to ensure a satisfactory life-time under normal operating and environmental conditions (see Clause 5). This standard shall only be applied in conjunction with the relevant product standard.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050-471:2007, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 471: Insulators*

IEC 60060-1, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60068-2-11, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests. Test KA: Salt mist*

IEC 60507, *Artificial pollution tests on high-voltage insulators to be used on a.c. systems*

IEC 60695-11-10, *Fire hazard testing – Part 11-10: Test flames – 50 W horizontal and vertical flame test methods*

IEC 60721-1, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 1: Environmental parameters and their severities*

IEC 60815-1, *Selection and dimensioning of high-voltage insulators intended for use in polluted conditions – Part 1: Definitions, information and general principles*

ISO 868, *Plastics and ebonite – Determination of indentation hardness by means of a durometer (Shore hardness)*