



BSI Standards Publication

## Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Guidance for the development of embedded software

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## National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of CLC IEC/TR 63201:2020. It is identical to IEC TR 63201:2019. It supersedes PD IEC TR 63201:2019, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PEL/121/1, Low voltage switchgear and controlgear.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique  
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## European foreword

This document (CLC IEC/TR 63201:2020) consists of the text of IEC/TR 63201:2019 prepared by SC 121A "Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear" of IEC/TC 121 "Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage".

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The text of the International Technical Report IEC/TR 63201:2019 was approved by CENELEC as a European Technical Report without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following notes have to be added for the standards indicated:

IEC 60880:2006	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 60880:2009 (not modified)
IEC 61508 (series)	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 61508 (series)
IEC 61508-3:2010	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 61508-3:2010 (not modified)
IEC 61508-4:2010	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 61508-4:2010 (not modified)
IEC 61508-7:2010	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 61508-7:2010 (not modified)
IEC 61511-1:2016	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 61511-1:2017 (not modified)
IEC 62061	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 62061
IEC 62443 (series)	NOTE	Harmonized as EN IEC 62443 (series)
ISO 13849-1:2015	NOTE	Harmonized as EN ISO 13849-1:2015 (not modified)

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	4
INTRODUCTION .....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	7
4 Risk assessment and identification of the main functions.....	10
5 Design management .....	10
5.1 Objective.....	10
5.2 Software management plan of the main functions.....	10
5.3 Configuration management.....	11
5.4 Change management .....	11
5.5 Defect management.....	12
5.6 System build and release processes .....	13
5.6.1 Binary generation.....	13
5.6.2 Release management.....	13
6 Manual parameterization of the embedded software.....	13
6.1 General .....	13
6.2 Influences on main function related parameters.....	14
6.3 Requirements for software-based manual parameterization.....	14
6.4 Verification of the parameterization tool.....	15
6.5 Documentation of software-based manual parameterization.....	15
7 Design lifecycle.....	15
7.1 General .....	15
7.2 Tools usage.....	16
7.3 Software lifecycle.....	16
7.3.1 Software lifecycle model.....	16
7.3.2 Independence of review, testing and verification activities.....	17
7.4 Requirements definition.....	18
7.4.1 General .....	18
7.4.2 System requirements .....	18
7.4.3 Software requirements specification.....	18
7.5 Software architecture .....	20
7.5.1 General .....	20
7.5.2 Software architecture specification.....	20
7.6 Software unit design.....	20
7.6.1 General .....	20
7.6.2 Input information.....	20
7.6.3 Software unit specification.....	21
7.7 Coding.....	21
7.8 Software unit test.....	22
7.9 Software integration test.....	22
7.10 Software testing.....	22
7.10.1 General .....	22
7.10.2 Test planning and execution .....	23

7.11	Documentation .....	23
7.12	Configuration and change management process .....	24
7.13	Verification and relationship with the validation of the equipment or system.....	24
	Bibliography.....	26
	Figure 1 – Defect management process .....	12
	Figure 2 – V-model of software lifecycle.....	17

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR – GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMBEDDED SOFTWARE

## FOREWORD

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IEC TR 63201, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 121A: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear, of IEC technical committee 121: Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
121A/256/DTR	121A/287A/RVDTR

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report 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.

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.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

**IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.**

## INTRODUCTION

Programmable electronics are now being integrated within switchgear and controlgear. For example, soft-starters, electronic overload relays, circuit-breakers with electronic trip units, proximity switches with built-in micro-controllers and some accessories such as extension modules and control panels are using programmable electronics with embedded software called firmware. This embedded software often supports the main functions (see 3.3) provided by the equipment such as overcurrent protection and other important functions, e.g. alarm detection from monitoring devices.

The integration of embedded software within switchgear and controlgear should not degrade the integrity of their main functions compared to purely electromechanical equipment. Therefore, a minimum set of standard requirements for embedded software is provided in this document.

This document takes into account the existing best practices for developing embedded software within safety functions for automation given by IEC 61508-3. Functional safety approach is mainly used in machinery, automotive, automation and process automation where safety functions are implemented with multiple components which should reach a consistent level of integrity when combined. In other sectors, such as electric distribution and power control systems, key functions such as over-current release, residual current release, load monitoring, etc. should follow installation rules and coordination rules which are systematically safety and reliability related. Therefore, this document can be seen as providing the principles of the good practice given by IEC 61508-3.

This document is also intended to provide an up-to-date method with regards to the supplement SE of UL 489.

The intention of this document is to provide guidance about:

- risk assessment aspects in relation to embedded software;
- embedded software evaluation method;
- software architecture;
- basic coding rules;
- measures to control software errors;
- software verification and its relationship with the validation of the equipment or system.

In this document, the term “software” is used as a generalized term for embedded software.

## LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR – GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMBEDDED SOFTWARE

### 1 Scope

This document provides information, and recommended minimum requirements related to embedded software supporting the main functions of switchgear and controlgear during the whole lifecycle of the equipment. It includes also the parameterization aspects and basics about secure coding standards.

This document can be used in addition to product standard requirements when not already covered.

This document is appropriate for new development or major changes in existing equipment.

This document is not intended to cover the functional safety of control systems for machinery or for automation which are covered by IEC 62061, ISO 13849-1 and IEC 61508 (all parts), neither the cybersecurity risk which are covered by ISO 27005, and IEC 62443 (all parts). It gives only some example of secure coding rules.

NOTE Future new publication IEC TS 63208<sup>1</sup> is under development for implementing embedded cybersecurity measures within switchgear and controlgear based on ISO 27005 and IEC 62443 (all parts).

### 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.

ISO/IEC 2382-1:1993, *Information technology – Vocabulary – Part 1: Fundamental terms*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 2382-1:1993, 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 Embedded software

software, supplied by the manufacturer, that is an integral part of the equipment and that is not accessible for partial modification

Note 1 to entry: Firmware and system software are examples of embedded software.

Note 2 to entry: An embedded software can be upgraded by an integral upload.

<sup>1</sup> Future publication IEC TS 63208 is currently at CD stage.