



BSI Standards Publication

## Optical amplifiers

---

Part 3: Classification, characteristics and applications

## National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of IEC TR 61292-3:2020. It supersedes PD IEC TR 61292-3:2003, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee GEL/86/3, Fibre optic systems and active devices.

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

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2020  
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2020

ISBN 978 0 539 03018 1

ICS 33.160.10; 33.180.30

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

This Published Document was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 March 2020.

### Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
------	---------------

---



# IEC TR 61292-3

Edition 2.0 2020-03

## TECHNICAL REPORT



---

**Optical amplifiers –  
Part 3: Classification, characteristics and applications**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

---

ICS 33.160.10; 33.180.30

ISBN 978-2-8322-8014-0

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms .....	6
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	6
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	7
4 Classification.....	8
4.1 Types of OA.....	8
4.2 Amplification forms .....	9
4.2.1 Lumped (or discrete) amplification and distributed amplification.....	10
4.2.2 Single channel and multichannel amplification .....	10
4.2.3 Fixed and variable gain amplification .....	10
4.3 Application of optical amplifiers.....	11
5 General properties, performance and configurations.....	12
5.1 Erbium-doped fibre amplifiers (EDFAs).....	12
5.1.1 General properties.....	12
5.1.2 Typical performance .....	13
5.1.3 Configurations .....	14
5.1.4 Control scheme .....	16
5.1.5 Product configurations and application.....	17
5.2 Fibre Raman amplifiers (FRAs).....	18
5.2.1 General properties.....	18
5.2.2 Typical performance .....	19
5.2.3 Configuration.....	20
5.2.4 Control scheme .....	20
5.2.5 Product configuration and application .....	20
5.3 Semiconductor amplifiers (SOAs).....	20
5.3.1 General properties.....	20
5.3.2 Typical performance .....	21
5.3.3 Configuration.....	21
5.3.4 Product configurations and applications.....	22
Annex A (informative) Other rare earth-doped fibre amplifiers.....	23
A.1 General.....	23
A.2 Praseodymium-doped fibre amplifier (PDFA).....	23
A.3 Thulium-doped fibre amplifier (TDFA) .....	24
Annex B (informative) SDM amplifiers.....	26
Bibliography.....	27
Figure 1 – Classification of optical amplifiers .....	9
Figure 2 – Amplification bandwidth of each type of amplifier .....	10
Figure 3 – Application forms of optical amplifiers in an optical transmission system.....	11
Figure 4 – Application forms of optical amplifiers in optical network (ROADM with colourless, directionless and contention-less function and arrayed amplifier).....	12
Figure 5 – Abridged and primary energy levels for erbium ion.....	13
Figure 6 – Pumping configurations of optical fibre amplifier .....	14

Figure 7 – Core and cladding pumping configurations .....	15
Figure 8 – Configuration of ROPA .....	15
Figure 9 – Single stage and double stage configurations .....	16
Figure 10 – Control schemes of EDFA .....	17
Figure 11 – Product configurations .....	18
Figure A.1 – Abridged and primary energy levels for praseodymium ion.....	23
Figure A.2 – Abridged and primary energy levels for thulium ion .....	25
Figure B.1 – Space division multiplexing amplifiers .....	26

Currently in preview, click buy full version

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS –

## Part 3: Classification, characteristics and applications

## FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end, and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publications"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a Technical Report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC TR 61292-3, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 86C: Fibre optic systems and active devices, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2003. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) document architecture now focuses on EDFA, FRA and SOA;
- b) the description of PDFFA and TDFFA has been moved to the annexes;
- c) the EDWA description has been deleted;

- d) information on single channel amplification, multi-channel amplification, configuration and control method for EDFA, FRA and SOA has been added;
- e) information on future amplifiers, arrayed amplifiers and SDM amplifiers has been added.

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

Draft TR	Report on voting
86C/1597/DTR	86C/1630/RVDTR

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.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61292 series, published under the general title *Optical amplifiers*, can be found on the IEC website.

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.

**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.**

## OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS –

### Part 3: Classification, characteristics and applications

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61292, which is a Technical Report, establishes the classification of optical amplifiers (OAs). It also includes a brief description of each amplifier, its general properties, performance, configurations and applications.

#### 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 60050-731, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 731: Optical fibre communication* (available at [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org))

IEC 61291-1, *Optical amplifiers – Part 1: Generic specification*

IEC TR 61931, *Fibre optic – Terminology*

#### 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

##### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-731, IEC 61291-1, IEC TR 61931, and 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>

##### 3.1.1 erbium-doped fibre amplifier EDFA

rare earth doped fibre amplifier, where the core of the fibre is doped with erbium ions

##### 3.1.2 semiconductor optical amplifier SOA

optical amplifier that uses a semiconductor to provide the gain medium

Note 1 to entry: These amplifiers have a similar structure to Fabry-Pérot laser diodes but with anti-reflection design elements at the end faces. The signal is amplified through the stimulated emission phenomenon of gain medium.

##### 3.1.3 single channel amplifier

optical amplifier amplifying one signal