



BSI Standards Publication

**High voltage test techniques —
Measurement of partial
discharges by electromagnetic
and acoustic methods**

National foreword

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

SPECIFICATION TECHNIQUE



**High voltage test techniques – Measurement of partial discharges by
electromagnetic and acoustic methods**

**Techniques d'essais à haute tension – Mesurage des décharges partielles par
méthodes électromagnétiques et acoustiques**

INTERNATIONAL
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COMMISSION

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references.....	7
3 Terms et definitions.....	7
4 Electromagnetic PD phenomena.....	10
4.1 Physical background.....	10
4.2 Transmission aspects.....	10
4.3 Measuring systems.....	11
4.3.1 Electric/electromagnetic fields.....	10
4.3.2 Frequency ranges.....	10
4.3.3 Sensors.....	10
4.3.4 Instrument related influences.....	12
4.3.5 Instrument quantities.....	13
4.3.6 Performance and sensitivity check.....	13
5 Acoustic PD phenomena.....	15
5.1 Physical background.....	15
5.2 Transmission path aspects.....	15
5.3 Measuring system.....	15
5.3.1 General.....	15
5.3.2 Sensors.....	16
5.3.3 Instrument quantities.....	16
5.3.4 Performance and sensitivity check.....	17
6 Location of PD sources.....	17
6.1 General.....	17
6.2 Electromagnetic methods.....	18
6.3 Acoustic methods.....	18
6.4 Mixed electromagnetic and acoustic methods.....	18
Annex A (informative) Advantages and disadvantages of electromagnetic measurements.....	19
A.1 Advantages.....	19
A.2 Disadvantages.....	19
Annex B (informative) Advantages and disadvantages of acoustic PD measurements.....	20
B.1 Advantages.....	20
B.2 Disadvantages.....	20
Annex C (informative) Application-specific aspects.....	21
C.1 Gas insulated switchgear (GIS).....	21
C.2 VHF and UHF methods.....	21
C.3 Acoustic methods.....	22
C.4 Sensitivity verification of electromagnetic and acoustic measurements on GIS.....	23
C.4.1 General.....	23
C.4.2 Sensitivity verification of UHF measurements.....	23
C.4.3 Sensitivity verification of acoustic measurement.....	24
C.4.4 Location of PD sources inside GIS.....	24
C.4.5 Time-of-flight measurements with the UHF method.....	24

C.4.6	Signal reduction analysis.....	25
C.4.7	Acoustic location methods.....	25
C.5	Rotating machines	26
C.6	Transformers	27
C.6.1	Physical background of high frequency and acoustic PD phenomena on transformers	27
C.6.2	UHF PD signals in transformers.....	28
C.6.3	Acoustic PD signals in transformers	28
C.6.4	Spatial location of PD sources in liquid-insulated transformers/reactors.....	28
C.7	Cable/accessories.....	29
	Bibliography	33
	Figure 1 – Classification of instruments for signal processing.....	13
	Figure 2 – Overview of the important aspects of electromagnetic PD detection.....	14
	Figure 3 – Overview of performance and sensitivity checks in different apparatus	14
	Figure C.1 – Defect location by time-of-flight measurement	25
	Figure C.2 – Illustration of the physical principle of acoustic and electromagnetic PD detection in an oil/paper insulated transformer.....	28
	Figure C.3 – Classical arrival time based PD location for transformers/reactors with a combination of the electric and acoustic PD signals.....	29

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**HIGH VOLTAGE TEST TECHNIQUES –
MEASUREMENT OF PARTIAL DISCHARGES
BY ELECTROMAGNETIC AND ACOUSTIC METHODS**

FOREWORD

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- the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts, or
- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 62478, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 42: High-voltage and high-current test techniques.

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
42/325/DTS	42/333/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical specification 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

- transformed into an International standard,
- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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INTRODUCTION

Partial discharges (PDs) generate electromagnetic and acoustic waves, emit light and produce chemical decomposition of insulation materials; these physical and chemical effects can be detected by various diagnostic methods and appropriate sensing elements (sensors). Besides the so-called 'conventional', electrical method described in IEC 60270, it is possible to detect and measure PDs with various 'non-conventional' methods (see Annexes A and B).

There is a special need to give recommendations for two used non-conventional methods, acoustic and electromagnetic ones, and this document is the first step in this direction.

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HIGH VOLTAGE TEST TECHNIQUES – MEASUREMENT OF PARTIAL DISCHARGES BY ELECTROMAGNETIC AND ACOUSTIC METHODS

1 Scope

This document is applicable to electromagnetic (HF/VHF/UHF) and acoustic measurements of PDs which occur in insulation of electrical apparatus.

This specification deals with a large variety of applications, sensors of different frequency ranges and differing sensitivities. The tasks of PD location and measuring system calibration or sensitivity check are also taken into account.

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 TS 60034-27, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 27: Off-line partial discharge measurements on the stator winding insulation of rotating electrical machines*

IEC 60270, *High-voltage test techniques – Partial discharge measurements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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

partial discharge

PD

complex physical phenomena consisting of a localized electrical discharge caused by partial breakdown of an insulating medium under the influence of the local electrical field stress

3.1.1

partial discharge current pulses

PD current pulses

extremely fast current pulses, whose rise time and pulse width depend on the discharge type, defect type, geometry and gas pressure

3.1.2

electromagnetic effects of PD

PD current pulses resulting in the emission of transient electromagnetic waves at very high frequency ranges