

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval –  
Part 1: Test requirements**

**Modules photovoltaïques (PV) pour applications terrestres – Qualification de la  
conception et homologation –  
Partie 1: Exigences d'essai**



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IEC Central Office  
3, rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms .....	9
4 Test samples .....	11
5 Marking and documentation.....	13
5.1 Name plate .....	13
5.2 Documentation.....	13
5.2.1 Minimum requirements .....	13
5.2.2 Information to be given in the documentation.....	13
5.2.3 Assembly instructions .....	15
6 Testing.....	15
7 Pass criteria .....	17
7.1 General.....	17
7.2 Power output and electric circuitry .....	18
7.2.1 Identification of rated values and tolerances .....	18
7.2.2 Verification of rated label values → Gate No. 1.....	20
7.2.3 Maximum power degradation during type approval testing → Gate No. 2.....	23
7.2.4 Electrical circuitry .....	23
7.3 Visual defects .....	23
7.4 Electrical safety .....	23
8 Major visual defects.....	24
9 Report .....	24
10 Modifications .....	25
11 Test flow and procedures .....	26
Annex A (informative) Changes from previous edition .....	28
A.1 General.....	28
A.2 Procedures for bifacial modules .....	28
A.3 Use of representative samples .....	30
A.4 Addition of dynamic mechanical load test.....	31
A.5 Addition of test for potential induced degradation.....	31
A.6 Simulator requirements .....	33
A.6.1 General .....	33
A.6.2 Rationale for changes to spectral requirements .....	34
A.6.3 Rationale for changes to uniformity requirements .....	35
A.7 References to retest guidelines.....	36
A.8 Weight on junction boxes .....	36
A.9 Correction to monolithically-integrated hot-spot endurance test .....	36
A.10 Number of modules in sequence .....	38
A.11 Removal of nominal module operating temperature (NMOT) .....	39
A.12 Very low currents during thin-film tests .....	40
A.13 Limit bypass diode testing to three diodes.....	40
A.14 Revert the insulation test to 2005 version .....	40
A.15 Bending test.....	41

A.16 Stabilization option for boron oxygen LID (MQT 19.3) .....	41
Bibliography.....	42
Figure 1 – Geometry that shows radius of curvature of a flexible module .....	10
Figure 2 – Full test flow for design qualification and type approval of photovoltaic modules .....	17
Figure 3 – Examples of hypothetical partial nameplates (left column), datasheets (center column), and derived rated values and tolerances (right column) .....	20
Figure A.1 – Derived temperature coefficients ( $\alpha$ ) for nine different mc-Si products types.....	38
Table 1 – Required component tests .....	17
Table 2 – Summary of Gate No. 1 requirements.....	17
Table 3 – Summary of test levels .....	26
Table A.1 – Published uncertainty values as a function of simulator uniformity class .....	35
Table A.2 – Summary of foil placement during insulation test in three different versions.....	40

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES –  
DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –****Part 1: Test requirements**

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International Standard IEC 61215-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This second edition of IEC 61215-1 cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC 61215-1, published in 2016; it constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) Addition of a test taken from IEC TS 62782.
- b) Addition of a test taken from IEC TS 62804-1.
- c) Addition of test methods required for flexible modules. This includes the addition of the bending test (MQT 22).
- d) Addition of definitions, references and instructions on how to perform the IEC 61215 design qualification and type approval on bifacial PV modules.

- e) Clarification of the requirements related to power output measurements.
- f) Addition of weights to junction box during 200 thermal cycles.
- g) Requirement that retesting be performed according to IEC TS 62915.
- h) Removal of the nominal module operating test (NMOT), and associated test of performance at NMOT, from the IEC 61215 series.

Informative Annex A explains the background and reasoning behind some of the more substantial changes that were made in the IEC 61215 series in progressing from edition 1 to edition 2.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1828A/FDIS	82/1848/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard 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 61215 series, published under the general title *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval*, 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

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## INTRODUCTION

Whereas Part 1 of this standards series describes requirements (both in general and specific with respect to device technology), the sub-parts of Part 1 define technology variations and Part 2 defines a set of test procedures necessary for design qualification and type approval. The test procedures described in Part 2 are valid for all device technologies.

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# TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

## Part 1: Test requirements

### 1 Scope

This document lays down requirements for the design qualification of terrestrial photovoltaic modules suitable for long-term operation in open-air climates. The useful service life of modules so qualified will depend on their design, their environment and the conditions under which they are operated. Test results are not construed as a quantitative prediction of module lifetime.

In climates where 98<sup>th</sup> percentile operating temperatures exceed 70 °C, users are recommended to consider testing to higher temperature test conditions as described in IEC TS 63126. Users desiring qualification of PV products with lesser lifetime expectations are recommended to consider testing designed for PV in consumer electronics, as described in IEC TS 63163 (under development). Users wishing to gain confidence that the characteristics tested in IEC 61215 appear consistently in a manufactured product may wish to utilize IEC 62941 regarding quality systems in PV manufacturing.

This document is intended to apply to all terrestrial flat-plate module materials such as crystalline silicon module types as well as thin-film modules. It does not apply to systems that are not long-term applications, such as flexible modules installed in awnings or tenting.

This document does not apply to modules used with concentrated sunlight although it may be utilized for low concentrator modules (1 to 3 suns). For low concentration modules, all tests are performed using the irradiance, current, voltage and power levels expected at the design concentration.

This document does not address the particularities of PV modules with integrated electronics. It may however be used as a basis for testing such PV modules.

The objective of this test sequence is to determine the electrical characteristics of the module and to show, as far as possible within reasonable constraints of cost and time, that the module is capable of withstanding prolonged exposure outdoors. Accelerated test conditions are empirically based on those necessary to reproduce selected observed field failures and are applied equally across module types. Acceleration factors may vary with product design, and thus not all degradation mechanisms may manifest. Further general information on accelerated test methods including definitions of terms may be found in IEC 62506.

Some long-term degradation mechanisms can only reasonably be detected via component testing, due to long times required to produce the failure and necessity of stress conditions that are expensive to produce over large areas. Component tests that have reached a sufficient level of maturity to set pass/fail criteria with high confidence are incorporated into the IEC 61215 series via addition to Table 1. In contrast, the tests procedures described in this series, in IEC 61215-2, are performed on modules.

### 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.