

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

---

**Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies**  
**Part 2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies**





**THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED**  
**Copyright © 2020 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland**

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

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)

**About the IEC**

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

**About IEC publications**

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

**IEC publications search - [webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)**

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee,...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

**IEC Just Published - [webstore.iec.ch/justpublished](http://webstore.iec.ch/justpublished)**

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

**IEC Customer Service Centre - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)**

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

**Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)**

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 000 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 16 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

**IEC Glossary - [std.iec.ch/glossary](http://std.iec.ch/glossary)**

67 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

---

**Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies -  
Part 2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

---

ICS 29.130.20

ISBN 978-2-8322-8587-9

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

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
1 Scope.....	5
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms and definitions .....	6
4 Symbols and abbreviations.....	9
5 Interface characteristics .....	9
6 Information .....	10
7 Service conditions .....	11
8 Constructional requirements .....	11
9 Performance requirements .....	14
10 Design verification.....	15
11 Routine verification.....	19
Annexes .....	22
Annex AA (informative) Items subject to agreement between the PSC assembly manufacturer and the user.....	23
Annex BB (informative) Forms of internal separation (see 8.101).....	27
Annex CC (informative) Determining power loss by measurement for circuits exceeding 1600 A in a reference design .....	32
Annex DD (informative) Assemblies for use in photovoltaic installations .....	34
Annex EE (informative) Items subject to agreement between the photovoltaic assembly (PVA) manufacturer and the user .....	43
Annex FF (informative) Design verification (PVA only).....	47
Annex GG (informative) List of notes concerning certain countries.....	49
Bibliography.....	50
Figure BB.1 – Symbols used in Figures BB.2, BB.3 and BB.4 .....	27
Figure BB.2 – Forms 1 and 2 .....	29
Figure BB.3 – Form 3.....	30
Figure BB.4 – Form 4.....	31
Figure CC.1 – Power loss measurement .....	33
Figure DD.101 – Indicative arrangement of radiant heat lamps for temperature-rise test with simulated solar radiation.....	41
Table 101 – Values of assumed loading.....	19
Table 102 – Test voltages across the open contacts of equipment suitable for isolation.....	19
Table 103 – Electrical conditions for the different positions of withdrawable parts .....	20
Table 104 – Forms of internal separation .....	21
Table AA.1 – Items subject to agreement between the PSC-assembly manufacturer and the user .....	23
Table DD.101 – Solar radiation conditions .....	38
Table EE.1 – Items subject to agreement between the PVA manufacturer and the user .....	43
Table FF.1 – List of design verifications to be performed on PVA.....	47

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR ASSEMBLIES –****Part 2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies**

## 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 Publication(s)”). 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.

International Standard IEC 61439-2 has been prepared by subcommittee 121B: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies, of IEC technical committee 121: Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2011. It constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) addition of Annexes DD, EE and FF for assemblies for use in photovoltaic installation;
- b) clarification of the requirements for forms of internal separation and the addition of the requirement, when the form of separation is higher than 1, all parts within the functional unit compartment that remain live when the functional unit is switched off shall be protected to at least IPXXB;
- c) alignment with the structure of IEC 61439-1:2020;

- d) addition of temperature-rise verification for; (i) temperature-rise verification of assemblies with natural cooling and circuits rated above 1 600 A by a combination of comparison with a reference design and calculation, and; (ii) temperature-rise verification of assemblies with active cooling and rated currents up to 1 600 A.
- e) consideration of IP with active cooling.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
121B/104/FDIS	121B/109/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 1.

In this document, general terms and definitions are defined in Clause 3. Further terms and definitions specific to Annex DD are given in this annex to facilitate easier reading.

The reader's attention is drawn to the fact that Annex GG lists all the "in-some-country" clauses on differing practices of a less permanent nature relative to the subject of this document.

This document is to be read in conjunction with IEC 61439-1:2020. The provisions of the general rules dealt with in IEC 61439-1 are only applicable to this document insofar as they are specifically cited. When this document states "addition", "modification" or "replacement", the relevant text in IEC 61439-1 is to be adapted accordingly.

Subclauses that are numbered with a 101 (102, 103, etc.) suffix are additional to the same subclause in IEC 61439-1.

Tables and figures in this document that are new are numbered starting with 101.

New annexes in this document are lettered AA, BB, etc.

In this document, the term PSC assembly is defined in 3.1.101.

NOTE Throughout the IEC 61439 series of standards, the term assembly (see 3.1.1 of IEC 61439-1:2020) is used for a low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assembly.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61439 series, under the general title *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies* can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stipulated 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.

# LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR ASSEMBLIES –

## Part 2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61439 defines the specific requirements for the power switchgear and controlgear assembly (abbreviated 'PSC-assembly' throughout this document see 3.1.10<sup>1</sup>) as follows:

- assemblies for which the rated voltage does not exceed 1 000 V AC or 1 500 V DC;
- assemblies designed for a nominal frequency of the incoming supply or supplies not exceeding 1 000 Hz;

NOTE 1 Frequencies above 1 kHz are considered as high frequencies, see also IEC 60071-1:2007, 5.3.3.2.5 to take into account additional constraints to insulation coordination.

- assemblies intended for indoor and outdoor applications;
- stationary or movable assemblies with or without enclosures;
- assemblies intended for use in connection with the generation, transmission, distribution and conversion of electrical energy, and for the control of equipment consuming electrical energy and for associated data processing;
- assemblies designed for use under special service conditions, for example in ships and in rail vehicles, provided that the other relevant specific requirements are complied with;

NOTE 2 Supplementary requirements for assemblies in ships are covered by IEC 60092-302-2.

This document also applies to assemblies for use in photovoltaic installations, designated as photovoltaic assemblies (PVA). The particular characteristics, specific service conditions and the requirements for PVA's are included in annexes DD, EE and FF.

This document provides supplementary requirements for PSC-assemblies intended for use as part of the electrical equipment of machines and can be applied in addition to the requirements given in IEC 60094-1.

This document applies to all assemblies whether they are designed, manufactured and verified on a one-off basis or fully standardised and manufactured in quantity.

The manufacturing and/or assembly can be carried out by an entity other than the original manufacturer (see 3.10.1 of IEC 61439-1:2020).

This document does not apply to individual devices, for example, circuit-breakers, fuse switches and self-contained components such as, motor starters, power electronic converter systems and equipment (PECS), switch mode power supplies (SMPS), uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), basic drive modules (BDM), complete drive modules (CDM), adjustable speed power drives systems (PDS), stand-alone energy storage systems (battery and capacitor systems), and other electronic equipment which comply with their relevant product standards. This document describes their integration into a PSC-assembly or an empty enclosure used as a part of a PSC-assembly.

For some applications, such as, explosive atmospheres, functional safety, there may be a need to comply with the requirements of other standards or legislation in addition to those specified in the IEC 61439 series.