

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Power line communication systems for power utility applications –  
Part 3: Digital Power Line Carrier (DPLC) Terminals and hybrid ADPLC Terminals**

**Systèmes de communication sur lignes d'énergie pour les applications des  
compagnies d'électricité –  
Partie 3: Équipements terminaux à courants porteurs sur lignes d'énergie  
numériques (DPLC) et équipements terminaux hybrides ADPLC**



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	7
INTRODUCTION.....	9
1 Scope.....	10
2 Normative references.....	11
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms.....	12
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	12
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	13
4 Generic structure of DPLC and ADPLC terminals.....	14
5 Access side interfaces.....	17
5.1 General.....	17
5.2 Digital interfaces.....	17
5.2.1 Ethernet IEEE 802.3 interface.....	17
5.2.2 Serial interface.....	18
5.3 Analogue interfaces.....	18
5.4 Teleprotection system interface.....	19
5.4.1 Description.....	19
5.4.2 Integrated teleprotection.....	19
5.4.3 Teleprotection interface frequency band.....	19
5.4.4 Teleprotection interface impedance.....	19
5.4.5 Teleprotection interface reflection.....	19
5.4.6 Teleprotection interface signal levels.....	20
5.4.7 Teleprotection interface control circuits.....	20
6 HF line interface.....	20
6.1 DPLC high frequency band & channeling.....	20
6.2 Frequency accuracy.....	21
6.3 Signal levels.....	21
6.4 In-band emissions.....	21
6.5 Nominal impedance.....	21
6.6 Return loss.....	21
6.7 Degree of unbalance to earth.....	21
6.8 Tapping loss.....	21
6.9 Spurious emissions.....	22
6.10 Nominal output power in the high frequency band.....	23
7 Quality and performance.....	23
7.1 General.....	23
7.2 Dynamic range of the DPLC receiver.....	24
7.3 Bit rate.....	24
7.4 Start-up time.....	25
7.5 Recovery time after synchronization loss.....	25
7.6 Sensitivity.....	25
7.7 Selectivity.....	25
7.8 Adaptability to line conditions.....	25
7.9 Quality of voice channels.....	25
7.10 Telephone signalling transmission.....	26

7.11	Quality on the serial DATA channels .....	26
7.11.1	General .....	26
7.11.2	Bit rate .....	26
7.11.3	BER.....	26
7.11.4	Nominal transmission link delay.....	27
7.12	Quality of the frame transmission using Ethernet interfaces .....	27
7.12.1	General .....	27
7.12.2	LAN to LAN Speed .....	27
7.12.3	LAN to LAN latency .....	27
7.12.4	Packet loss on the LAN transfer.....	27
8	Testing .....	27
8.1	General.....	27
8.2	Test setup for DPLC link tests.....	28
8.3	Signal to noise ratio .....	28
8.4	Return loss .....	28
8.5	Degree of unbalance to earth.....	30
8.5.1	General .....	30
8.5.2	Longitudinal conversion loss.....	30
8.5.3	Output signal balance .....	31
8.6	Tapping loss .....	31
8.7	Spurious and in-band emissions .....	32
8.8	Selectivity .....	33
8.9	Bit error rate .....	35
8.10	Serial data transmission delay .....	37
8.11	Dynamic range of the DPLC receiver .....	38
8.12	LAN to LAN testing .....	38
8.12.1	General .....	38
8.12.2	Maximum LAN to LAN throughput.....	39
8.12.3	LAN to LAN latency.....	39
8.13	Start-up time .....	39
8.14	Recovery time after synchronization loss .....	39
9	Configuration and management .....	40
9.1	General.....	40
9.2	Configuration .....	40
9.3	Network management system .....	40
9.4	Local terminal alarms.....	40
9.5	Event logging.....	41
10	Cyber security .....	41
10.1	General.....	41
10.2	Transmitted payload .....	41
10.3	Management interface .....	41
10.3.1	General .....	41
10.3.2	Legacy-style management interfaces / Manufacturer-specific management interfaces .....	42
10.3.3	LAN/WAN connected management interfaces .....	42
10.3.4	Authentication and role-base model.....	42

10.4	Network management system interface .....	42
10.5	Security-related event logging .....	43
11	DPLC safety .....	43
11.1	General .....	43
11.2	Safety reference standard .....	43
11.3	Classification of DPLC terminals .....	43
11.4	Ingress protection .....	44
11.5	Type and routine tests .....	45
12	Storage and transportation, operating conditions, power supply .....	47
12.1	Storage and transportation .....	47
12.1.1	Climatic conditions .....	47
12.1.2	Mechanical .....	48
12.2	Operating conditions .....	50
12.2.1	Climatic conditions .....	50
12.2.2	Mechanical .....	51
12.2.3	Operating conditions set of tests .....	51
12.3	Power supply .....	52
12.3.1	AC supply .....	52
12.3.2	DC supply .....	52
13	EMC .....	53
13.1	Emission and immunity reference standard .....	53
13.2	Emission .....	53
13.2.1	Radiated and conducted emission .....	53
13.2.2	Low frequency disturbance emission .....	58
13.3	Immunity .....	58
13.3.1	EMC environment .....	58
13.3.2	Functional requirements .....	60
13.3.3	Immunity test list .....	60
Annex A (informative)	HF modulated power signal for ADPLC .....	63
A.1	General .....	63
A.2	Computation model of ADPLC .....	63
A.3	Distribution of E/U ratio of voice channels .....	65
A.4	Distribution of E/U ratio of sinusoidal waves .....	67
A.5	Example of E/U ratio of a digital signal .....	68
A.6	Composite distribution of E/U ratios .....	69
A.7	RMS power and load capacity of voice signals .....	71
A.8	Comprehensive load capacity for ADPLC .....	73
A.9	Simplified computation method for comprehensive load capacity .....	74
	Bibliography .....	75
	Figure 1 – Schematic representation of the elements needed to implement a PLC system .....	11
	Figure 2 – Generic architecture of a DPLC terminal .....	15
	Figure 3 – Generic structure of an ADPLC terminal .....	16
	Figure 4 – ETH IEEE 802.3 RJ45 type connector .....	17
	Figure 5 – ETH IEEE 802.3 SC type connector .....	18

Figure 6 – Tapping loss limits for DPLC terminals .....	22
Figure 7 – Max level of spurious emissions outside the high frequency band .....	23
Figure 8 – Reference points for measuring DPLC parameters .....	24
Figure 9 – Block diagram of a serial data channel .....	26
Figure 10 – Test circuit for return loss measurement.....	29
Figure 11 – Test circuit for LCL measurement (transmission port).....	30
Figure 12 – Test circuit for OSB measurement (Rx port) .....	31
Figure 13 – Test circuit for tapping loss measurement .....	32
Figure 14 – Test circuit for spurious and in-band emissions measurement .....	33
Figure 15 – Test circuit for selectivity measurement.....	34
Figure 16 – Test circuit for bit error rate measurement.....	36
Figure 17 – Test circuit for serial data transmission delay measurement with a data tester .....	37
Figure 18 – Test circuit for serial data transmission delay measurement.....	37
Figure 19 – Test circuit for maximal throughput and latency measurement.....	38
Figure 20 – LF disturbances measurement setup .....	58
Figure A.1 – Calculation model of load capacity for ADPLC .....	64
Figure A.2 – Cumulative distributions of E/U ratio of voice channels to positive half .....	66
Figure A.3 – Probability density of combined sine waves .....	67
Figure A.4 – Constellation diagram of 64 QAM.....	68
Figure A.5 – Amplitude spectra of unmodulated OFDM sub-carriers.....	68
Figure A.6 – Probability of constellation point power in 64 QAM.....	69
Figure A.7 – Cumulative distribution of comprehensive E/U ratios.....	70
Figure A.8 – Cumulative distribution of equivalent volume for N system channel.....	72
Table 1 – Dependence of voice channel quality vs. DPLC capacity .....	26
Table 2 – Basic insulation (Table C.6 of IEC 60255-27:2013).....	43
Table 3 – Double or reinforced insulation (Table C.10 of IEC 60255-27:2013) .....	44
Table 4 – List of Type and Routine Tests (Table 12 of IEC 60255-27:2013) .....	46
Table 5 – Classification of climatic conditions (Table 1 of IEC 60721-3-1:1997) .....	47
Table 6 – Climatic tests for storage and transportation.....	48
Table 7 – Classification of mechanical conditions for transportation (Table 5 of IEC 60721-3-2:1997) .....	49
Table 8 – Classification of climatic conditions from Table 1 of IEC 60721-3-3:2002 .....	50
Table 9 – Classification of mechanical conditions from Table 6 of IEC 60721-3-3:2002.....	51
Table 10 – Climatic Tests .....	51
Table 11 – Sinusoidal vibration test .....	52
Table 12 – Non-repetitive shock test.....	52
Table 13 – Emission – Enclosure port (Table 1 of IEC 61000-6-4:2011).....	54
Table 14 – Emission – Low voltage AC and DC mains port (Table 2 of IEC 61000-6-4:2011).....	56
Table 15 – Emission – Telecommunications/network port (Table 3 of IEC 61000-6-4:2011).....	57
Table 16 – Characterization of the electromagnetic phenomena (Table 1 of IEC 61000-6-5:2015).....	59
Table 17 – Port classification .....	59

Table 18 – Performance criteria .....	60
Table 19 – Immunity test list .....	61
Table A.1 – Approximation formula for E/U cumulative distribution of speech.....	66
Table A.2 – PDF of constellation point power in 64 QAM constellation diagram .....	69
Table A.3 – Calculation of $P_{RMS}(1\%)$ and load capacity.....	73

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

POWER LINE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS  
FOR POWER UTILITY APPLICATIONS –

**Part 3: Digital Power Line Carrier (DPLC) Terminals  
and hybrid ADPLC Terminals**

## FOREWORD

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This International Standard has been prepared by IEC technical committee 57: Power systems management and associated information exchange.

This first edition of IEC 62488-3 cancels and replaces the relevant parts of IEC TR 60663 and IEC 60473, which will be withdrawn at a later date.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
57/2355/FDIS	57/2372/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard 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.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 62488 series, published under the general title *Power line communication systems for power utility applications* can be found on the IEC website

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the first introduction of power line carrier communications in the power systems industry this form of communication has become widely spread throughout the world. This worldwide development will be covered by new standards reflecting the current state of the art in digital PLC communications.

The communication services offered by modern digital power line carrier links and networks enable a high efficiency of data transmission and therefore a low level of operational costs of automation equipment especially for long high-voltage power transmission lines.

Analogue and digital PLC terminals may co-exist using principles of frequency division multiplexing, allowing a successive digitalization of PLC based communications.

Digital PLC terminals may also be combined with traditional analogue PLC transmission paths as hybrid analog & digital PLC equipment, offering reliable and seamless communication for control and/or protection operating at extra high-, high- and medium-voltage levels of the electrical transmission networks and at high-voltage electrical distribution networks.

IEC 62488 consists of four parts dealing with all aspects of power line communication systems operating over electricity power lines.

IEC 62488 applies to power line carrier terminals and systems (PLC) used to transmit information over power networks including extra high, high and medium voltage (EHV/HV/MV) power lines.

Currently this standard series is organised as follows:

- IEC 62488-1, *Planning of analogue and digital power line carrier systems operating over EHV/HV/MV electricity grids*
- IEC 62488-2, *Analogue Power Line Carrier terminals or APLC*
- IEC 62488-3, *Digital Power Line Carrier terminals or DPLC and hybrid ADPLC Terminals*
- IEC 62488-4, *Broadband Power Line systems or BPL*

NOTE IEC 62488-4 has not yet been published.

This document is the third part of IEC 62488 and is composed of the following Clauses:

- Clause 1 – Scope of IEC 62488-3
- Clause 2 – Normative references
- Clause 3 – Terms, definitions and abbreviation contains newly introduce in this document additionally to IEC 62488-1 and IEC 62488-2
- Clause 4 – Introduces generic architectures of DPLC and hybrid ADPLC terminals.
- Clause 5 – Defines access side interfaces of DPLC and hybrid ADPLC terminals.
- Clause 6 – Describes transmission line side high frequency interface and defines related parameters
- Clause 7 – Gives several requirements concerning quality and performance of a single or a couple of interconnected DPLC terminals
- Clause 8 – Defines test setup and describes testing methodology
- Clause 9 – Describes configuration and management requirements for DPLC terminals
- Clause 10 – Describes general requirements regarding cyber security
- Clause 11 – Specifies safety requirements
- Clause 12 – Specifies requirements for storage and transportation, operating conditions, power supply
- Clause 13 – Specifies EMC requirements

## **POWER LINE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR POWER UTILITY APPLICATIONS –**

### **Part 3: Digital Power Line Carrier (DPLC) Terminals and hybrid ADPLC Terminals**

#### **1 Scope**

This part of IEC 62488 applies to power line carrier terminals and networks used to transmit information over power networks including extra high, high and medium voltage (EHV/HV/MV) power lines using both digital and optionally analogue modulation systems in a frequency range between 16 kHz and 1 MHz (see also IEC 62488-1).

In many countries, power line carrier (PLC) channels represent a significant part of the utility-owned telecommunication system. A circuit normally routed via a PLC channel can also be routed via a channel using a different transmission medium such as point to point radio, optical fibre or open wire circuit.

It is therefore important that the input and output interfaces that are used between terminals in the communication system are standardised.

The issues requiring consideration of DPLC and/or APLC devices as parts of a telecommunication network can be found in IEC 62488-1.

Figure 1 shows the correspondence between the elements needed to implement PLC systems and the related International Standards.