

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



General requirements for arc fault detection and protection devices (AFDDs)

Exigences générales des dispositifs pour la détection de défaut d'arcs (DPDA) et des dispositifs de protection



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et des dispositifs de protection**

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Exigences générales des dispositifs pour la détection de défaut d'arcs (DPDA) et des dispositifs de protection

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| FOREWORD..... | 9 |
| INTRODUCTION..... | 11 |
| 1 Scope..... | 12 |
| 2 Normative references..... | 13 |
| 3 Terms and definitions..... | 15 |
| 4 Classification..... | 18 |
| 4.1 According to the method of construction..... | 18 |
| 4.2 According to the method of mounting and connection..... | 18 |
| 4.3 According to the number of poles and current paths..... | 18 |
| 4.4 AFDD providing monitoring information..... | 18 |
| 5 Characteristics of AFDDs..... | 19 |
| 5.1 Summary of characteristics and conditions to mitigate the risk of fire..... | 19 |
| 5.2 Rated quantities and other characteristics..... | 19 |
| 5.2.1 Rated voltage..... | 19 |
| 5.2.2 Rated current (I_n)..... | 19 |
| 5.2.3 Rated frequency..... | 19 |
| 5.2.4 Rated making and breaking capacity (I_m)..... | 20 |
| 5.2.5 Rated making and breaking capacity on one pole (I_{m1})..... | 20 |
| 5.3 Standard and preferred values..... | 20 |
| 5.3.1 Preferred values of rated voltage (U_n)..... | 20 |
| 5.3.2 Preferred values of rated current (I_n)..... | 21 |
| 5.3.3 Preferred Standard values of rated frequency..... | 21 |
| 5.3.4 Minimum value of the rated making and breaking capacity (I_m)..... | 21 |
| 5.3.5 Minimum value of the rated making and breaking capacity on one pole (I_{m1})..... | 21 |
| 5.3.6 Standard and preferred values of the rated conditional short-circuit current (I_{nc}) and standard and preferred values of the rated conditional short-circuit current for one pole (I_{nc1})..... | 21 |
| 5.3.7 Limiting values of operating criteria for AFDDs for low and high arc currents..... | 22 |
| 5.4 Standard value of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})..... | 22 |
| 5.5 Coordination with short-circuit protective devices (SCPDs)..... | 23 |
| 5.5.1 General..... | 23 |
| 5.5.2 Rated conditional short-circuit current (I_{nc}) and rated conditional short-circuit on one pole (I_{nc1})..... | 23 |
| 5.5.3 Operating characteristics of opening means for AFDDs according to 4.1.1..... | 23 |
| 6 Marking and other product information..... | 24 |
| 6.1 Marking..... | 24 |
| 6.2 Additional marking for AFDDs according to 4.1.1..... | 25 |
| 6.2.1 Marking of AFDDs..... | 25 |
| 6.2.2 Instructions for wiring and operation..... | 26 |
| 7 Standard conditions for operation in service and for installation..... | 26 |
| 7.1 Standard conditions..... | 26 |
| 7.2 Conditions of installation..... | 27 |
| 7.3 Pollution degree..... | 27 |
| 8 Requirements for construction and operation..... | 27 |

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 8.1 | General | 27 |
| 8.2 | Mechanical design | 28 |
| 8.2.1 | General | 28 |
| 8.2.2 | Mechanism | 29 |
| 8.2.3 | Clearances and creepage distances (see Annex B) | 30 |
| 8.2.4 | Screws, current-carrying parts and connections | 33 |
| 8.2.5 | Terminals for external conductors | 33 |
| 8.3 | Protection against electric shock | 35 |
| 8.4 | Dielectric properties and isolating capability | 36 |
| 8.5 | Temperature rise | 36 |
| 8.5.1 | Temperature-rise limits | 36 |
| 8.5.2 | Ambient air temperature | 37 |
| 8.6 | Operating characteristics | 37 |
| 8.6.1 | Operating characteristics of the protective device part | 37 |
| 8.6.2 | Operating characteristics | 37 |
| 8.7 | Mechanical and electrical endurance | 38 |
| 8.8 | Performance at short-circuits currents | 38 |
| 8.9 | Resistance to mechanical shock and impact | 38 |
| 8.10 | Resistance to heat | 38 |
| 8.11 | Resistance to abnormal heat and to fire | 38 |
| 8.12 | Behaviour of AFDDs in case of overcurrents in the main circuit | 38 |
| 8.13 | Behaviour of AFDDs in case of current surges caused by impulse voltages | 39 |
| 8.14 | Reliability | 39 |
| 8.15 | Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) | 39 |
| 8.16 | Masking test for correct operation behaviour in presence of various appliances connected to the load side | 39 |
| 8.17 | Performance of the AFD test device | 39 |
| 8.18 | Performance in case of partial loss of supply connections | 40 |
| 9 | Testing procedure | 40 |
| 9.1 | General | 40 |
| 9.1.1 | General testing procedure for the different type of AFDDs | 40 |
| 9.1.2 | The characteristics of AFDDs are checked by means of type tests | 41 |
| 9.1.3 | For certification purposes, type tests are carried out in test sequences | 42 |
| 9.1.4 | Routine tests to be carried out by the manufacturer on each device | 42 |
| 9.2 | Test conditions | 42 |
| 9.3 | Test of indelibility of marking | 43 |
| 9.4 | Test of reliability of screws, current-carrying parts and connections | 44 |
| 9.5 | Test of reliability of terminals for external conductors | 45 |
| 9.6 | Verification of protection against electric shock | 46 |
| 9.7 | Test of dielectric properties | 47 |
| 9.7.1 | General | 47 |
| 9.7.2 | Resistance to humidity | 47 |
| 9.7.3 | Insulation resistance of the main circuit | 47 |
| 9.7.4 | Dielectric strength of the main circuit | 48 |
| 9.7.5 | Insulation resistance and dielectric strength of auxiliary circuits | 49 |
| 9.7.6 | Capability of control circuits connected to the main circuit in respect of withstanding high d.c. voltages due to insulation measurements | 49 |
| 9.7.7 | Verification of impulse withstand voltages (across clearances and across solid insulation) and of leakage current across open contacts | 50 |

| | | |
|--------|---|----|
| 9.8 | Test of temperature-rise | 53 |
| 9.8.1 | Ambient air temperature | 53 |
| 9.8.2 | Test procedure | 54 |
| 9.8.3 | Measurement of the temperature of parts | 54 |
| 9.8.4 | Temperature-rise of a part | 54 |
| 9.9 | Verification of the operating characteristics | 54 |
| 9.9.1 | General | 54 |
| 9.9.2 | Series arc fault tests | 54 |
| 9.9.3 | Parallel arc fault tests | 58 |
| 9.9.4 | Masking test, verification of correct operation | 60 |
| 9.9.5 | Unwanted tripping test | 62 |
| 9.10 | Verification of mechanical and electrical endurance | 64 |
| 9.10.1 | General test conditions | 64 |
| 9.10.2 | Test procedure | 64 |
| 9.10.3 | Condition of the AFDD after test | 65 |
| 9.11 | Verification of the behaviour of the AFDD under short-circuit conditions | 65 |
| 9.11.1 | General | 65 |
| 9.11.2 | Short-circuit tests for AFDDs according to 4.1.1 | 65 |
| 9.12 | Verification of resistance to mechanical shock and impact | 73 |
| 9.12.1 | Mechanical shock | 73 |
| 9.12.2 | Mechanical impact | 74 |
| 9.13 | Test of resistance to heat | 76 |
| 9.14 | Test of resistance to abnormal heat and to fire | 77 |
| 9.15 | Verification of the trip-free mechanism | 78 |
| 9.15.1 | General test conditions | 78 |
| 9.15.2 | Test procedure | 78 |
| 9.16 | Test of resistance to rusting | 78 |
| 9.17 | Verification of limiting value of the non-operating current under overcurrent conditions | 79 |
| 9.18 | Verification of behaviour of AFDDs in case of current surges caused by impulse voltages | 79 |
| 9.18.1 | General | 79 |
| 9.18.2 | Verification of behaviour at surge currents up to 3 000 A (8/20 μ s surge current test) | 79 |
| 9.19 | Verification of reliability | 80 |
| 9.19.1 | General | 80 |
| 9.19.2 | Climatic test | 80 |
| 9.19.3 | Test with temperature of 40 °C | 81 |
| 9.20 | Verification of ageing of electronic components | 82 |
| 9.21 | Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) | 82 |
| 9.21.1 | General | 82 |
| | 9.21.2 EMC tests covered by other clauses of the present standard | |
| | 9.21.3 EMC tests to be performed | |
| | 9.21.4 AFDDs Performance criteria | |
| 9.21.2 | Electromagnetic emission of AFDDs | 85 |
| 9.21.3 | Electromagnetic immunity of AFDDs | 85 |
| 9.22 | Verification of protection due to overvoltage due to a broken neutral in a three phase system | 88 |
| 9.23 | Verification of the behaviour in case of partial loss of supply connections | 88 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Annex A (normative) Test sequence and number of samples to be submitted for certification purposes..... | 116 |
| Annex B (normative) Determination of clearances and creepage distances..... | 125 |
| Annex C (normative) Arrangement for the detection of the emission of ionized gases during short-circuit tests..... | 130 |
| Annex D (normative) Additional requirements and tests for AFDDs according to the classification 4.1.3 designed to be assembled on site together with a main protective device (circuit-breaker or RCCB or RCBO)..... | 133 |
| Annex E (normative) Routine tests..... | 138 |
| Annex F (informative) Description of the shaker arc test in 9.10.2 | 139 |
| Annex IA (informative) Methods of determination of short-circuit power-factor..... | 141 |
| Annex IB (informative) Examples of terminal designs..... | 143 |
| Annex IC (informative) Correspondence between ISO and AWG copper conductors..... | 146 |
| Annex ID (informative) Follow-up testing program for AFDDs..... | 147 |
| Annex IE (informative) SCPDs for short-circuit tests..... | 151 |
| Annex J (normative) Particular requirements for AFDDs with screwless type terminals for external copper conductors..... | 153 |
| Annex K (normative) Particular requirements for AFDDs with flat quick-connect terminations..... | 161 |
| Annex L (normative) Specific requirements for AFDDs with screw-type terminals for external untreated aluminium conductors and with aluminium screw-type terminals for use with copper or with aluminium conductors..... | 168 |
| Bibliography..... | 178 |
| | |
| Figure 1 – Thread forming tapping screw..... | 89 |
| Figure 2 – Thread cutting tapping screw..... | 89 |
| Figure 3 – Standard test finger (9.6)..... | 90 |
| Figure 4 – Test circuit for series arc fault tests..... | 91 |
| Figure 5 – Arc generator..... | 91 |
| Figure 6 – Test circuit for parallel arc fault tests..... | 91 |
| Figure 7 – Test circuit for parallel arc cable cutting test..... | 92 |
| Figure 8 – Test apparatus..... | 92 |
| Figure 9 – Test for verification of correct operation in case of parallel arc to ground..... | 92 |
| Figure 10 – Test circuit for masking tests (inhibition and disturbing loads)..... | 92 |
| Figure 11 – Test configuration for masking tests..... | 93 |
| Figure 12 – EMI filter 1 for masking tests..... | 93 |
| Figure 13 – EMI filter 2 for masking tests..... | 94 |
| Figure 14 – EMI filter description installed in Figure 13..... | 94 |
| Figure 15 – Test circuit for masking tests with line impedance..... | 94 |
| Figure 16 – Cross talk test..... | 95 |
| Figure 17 – Controlled current test circuit Void..... | 96 |
| Figure 18 – Controlled current with delay angle 45°, 90° and 135° Void..... | 96 |
| Figure 19 – Typical diagram for all short circuit tests except for 9.11.2.4 c)..... | 99 |
| Figure 20 – Typical diagram for short circuit tests ((9.11.2.4.c)..... | 101 |
| Figure 21 – Detail of impedance Z, Z ₁ and Z ₂ | 102 |
| Figure 22 – Example of calibration record for short-circuit test (9.11.2.2 j)..... | 102 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Figure 23 – Mechanical shock test apparatus (9.12.1) | 103 |
| Figure 24 – Mechanical impact test apparatus (9.12.2.2) | 104 |
| Figure 25 – Striking element for pendulum impact test apparatus (9.12.2.2)..... | 105 |
| Figure 26 – Mounting support for sample for mechanical impact test (9.12.2.2)..... | 106 |
| Figure 27 – Example of mounting of unenclosed AFDD for mechanical impact test (9.12.2.2)..... | 107 |
| Figure 28 – Example of mounting of panel mounting type AFDD for the mechanical impact test (9.12.2.2)..... | 108 |
| Figure 29 – Application of force for mechanical test of rail mounted AFDD (9.12.2.3)..... | 109 |
| Figure 30 – Ball-pressure test apparatus (9.13.2) | 109 |
| Figure 31 – Surge current impulse 8/20 μ s..... | 110 |
| Figure 32 – Test circuit for the surge current test at AFDDs..... | 110 |
| Figure 33 – Stabilizing period for reliability test (9.19.2.3)..... | 111 |
| Figure 34 – Reliability test cycle (9.19.2.3) | 112 |
| Figure 35 – Example for test circuit for verification of ageing of electronic components (9.20)..... | 113 |
| Figure 36 – Preparation of the cable specimens (9.9.2.6) | 114 |
| Figure 37 – Example of arc voltage and current waveform obtained with cable specimen | 114 |
| Figure 38 – Test circuit for series arc in a three-phase system with balanced and unbalanced load | 115 |
| Figure 39 – Test configuration for masking tests for three-pole and four-pole AFDDs..... | 115 |
| Figure C.1 – Test arrangement | 131 |
| Figure C.2 – Grid | 132 |
| Figure C.3 – Grid circuit..... | 132 |
| Figure F.1 – Gap Measurement..... | 139 |
| Figure F.2 – Shaker arc test table with Loose Terminals | 139 |
| Figure F.3 – AFDD connected to the shaker arc table during test..... | 140 |
| Figure IB.1 – Examples of pillar terminals | 143 |
| Figure IB.2 – Examples of screw terminals and stud terminals | 144 |
| Figure IB.3 – Example of saddle terminals | 145 |
| Figure IB.4 – Examples of lug terminals | 145 |
| Figure IE-1 – Test apparatus for the verification of the minimum I^2t and I_p values to be withstood by the AFDD | 152 |
| Figure J.1 – Connecting samples | 158 |
| Figure J.2 – Examples of screwless-type terminals | 160 |
| Figure K.1 – Example of position of the thermocouple for measurement of the temperature-rise | 164 |
| Figure K.2 – Dimensions of male tabs..... | 165 |
| Figure K.3 – Dimensions of round dimple detents (see Figure K.2) | 166 |
| Figure K.4 – Dimensions of rectangular dimple detents (see Figure K.2)..... | 166 |
| Figure K.5 – Dimensions of hole detents..... | 166 |
| Figure K.6 – Dimensions of female connectors | 167 |
| Figure L.1 – General arrangement for the test..... | 176 |
| Figure L.2 – Example for the use of the terminals in the AFDD | 176 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Figure L.3 – Example for the use of the terminals in the AFDD | 177 |
| Figure L.4 – Example for the use of the terminals in the AFDD | 177 |
| Figure L.5 – Example for the use of the terminals in the AFDD | 177 |
| Figure L.6 – Example for the use of the terminals in the AFDD | 177 |
| | |
| Table 1 – Limit values of break time for $U_n = 230\text{ V}$ and 400 V AFDDs | 22 |
| Table 2 – Limit values of break time for $U_n = 120\text{ V}$ AFDDs | 22 |
| Table 3 – Maximum allowed number of arcing half-cycles within 0,5 s for $U_n = 230\text{ V}$ AFDDs and $U_n = 120\text{ V}$ AFDDs | 22 |
| Table 4 – Rated impulse withstand voltage as a function of the nominal voltage of the installation | 23 |
| Table 5 – Marking and position of marking | 24 |
| Table 6 – Standard conditions for operation in service | 27 |
| Table 7 – Minimum clearances and creepage distances (1 of 2) | 31 |
| Table 8 – Connectable cross-sections of copper conductors for screw-type terminals | 34 |
| Table 9 – Temperature-rise values | 37 |
| Table 10 – List of type tests | 42 |
| Table 11 – Test copper conductors corresponding to the rated currents | 43 |
| Table 12 – Screw thread diameters and applied torques | 44 |
| Table 13 – Pulling forces | 45 |
| Table 14 – Test voltage of auxiliary circuits | 49 |
| Table 15 – Test voltage for verification of impulse withstand voltage | 51 |
| Table 16 – Test voltage for verifying the suitability for isolation, referred to the rated impulse withstand voltage of the AFDD and the altitude where the test is carried out | 52 |
| Table 17 – Tests to be made to verify the behaviour of AFDDs under short-circuit conditions | 66 |
| Table 18 – Minimum values of I^2t and I_p | 67 |
| Table 19 – Power factors for short-circuit tests | 68 |
| Table 20 – Tests already covered in this standard | |
| Table 21 – Tests to be applied for EMC | |
| Table 22 – Preferred values of rated voltage | 20 |
| Table 23 – Immunity tests | 85 |
| Table A.1 – Test sequences for AFDDs classified according to 4.1.1 | 117 |
| Table A.2 – Test sequences for AFDDs classified according to 4.1.2 | 119 |
| Table A.3 – Test sequences for AFDDs classified according to 4.1.3 | 121 |
| Table A.4 – Number of samples for full test procedure | 123 |
| Table A.5 – Number of samples for simplified test procedure | 124 |
| Table ID.1 – Test sequences during follow-up inspections | 147 |
| Table ID.2 – Number of samples to be tested | 150 |
| Table IE.1 – Indication of silver wire diameters as a function of rated currents and short-circuit currents | 151 |
| Table J.1 – Connectable conductors | 155 |
| Table J.2 – Cross-sections of copper conductors connectable to screwless-type terminals | 156 |
| Table J.3 – Pull forces | 157 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Table K.1 – Informative table on colour code of female connectors in relationship with the cross section of the conductor..... | 162 |
| Table K.2 – Overload test forces..... | 163 |
| Table K.3 – Dimensions of tabs..... | 164 |
| Table K.4 – Dimensions of female connectors..... | 167 |
| Table L.1 – Marking for terminals..... | 169 |
| Table L.2 – Connectable cross-sections of aluminium conductors for screw-type terminals..... | 170 |
| Table L.3 – List of tests according to the material of conductors and terminals..... | 171 |
| Table L.4 – Connectable conductors and their theoretical diameters..... | 171 |
| Table L.5 – Cross sections (<i>S</i>) of aluminium test conductors corresponding to the rated currents..... | 172 |
| Table L.6 – Test conductor length..... | 173 |
| Table L.7 – Equalizer and busbar dimensions..... | 173 |
| Table L.8 – Test current as a function of rated current..... | 175 |
| Table L.9 – Example of calculation for determining the average temperature deviation <i>D</i> | 175 |

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ARC FAULT DETECTION AND PROTECTION DEVICES (AFDDs)

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In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendments 1 and 2. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

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INTRODUCTION

This International Standard aims to provide necessary requirements and testing procedures for devices to be installed by skilled people in households and similar uses to mitigate the risk of igniting an electrical fire downstream of the device.

Residual Current Devices (RCDs) are recognised as efficient to reduce the risk of fire by detection of leakage current and arcing to ground as a consequence of tracking currents within an electrical installation. However, RCDs as fuses or circuit-breakers are not able to reduce the risk of electrical fire due to series or parallel arcing between live conductors.

During a series arc fault, there is no leakage to ground therefore RCDs cannot detect such a fault. Moreover, the impedance of the series arc fault reduces the load current, which will keep the current below the tripping threshold of the circuit-breaker and the fuse. In the case of a parallel arc between phase and neutral conductor, the current is only limited by the impedance of the installation. In the worst cases of sporadic arcs, the conventional circuit breakers were not designed for that purpose.

Experience and information available confirmed that the r.m.s. current value of an earth fault current caused by an arcing fault, which is able to ignite a fire, is not limited to the rated power supply frequency of 50/60 Hz, but may contain a much higher frequency spectrum that is not taken into account for the testing of RCDs.

It has been recognised that the risk of igniting a fire within an electrical installation can also be a consequence of an overvoltage due to a broken neutral in a three phase installation.

This ~~standard~~ document covers devices designed to be installed in a distribution board at the origin of one ~~or several~~ final circuits of a fixed installation.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ARC FAULT DETECTION AND PROTECTION DEVICES (AFDDs)

1 Scope

This International Standard applies to arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) for household and similar uses, intended to be used in a.c. circuits, for rated voltages not exceeding 440 V a.c, with rated frequencies of 50 Hz, 60 Hz or 50/60 Hz and rated currents not exceeding 63 A.

NOTE 1 In the USA, Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI) are considered similar to AFDDs.

An AFDD is designed by the manufacturer:

- either as a single device having opening means able to open the protected circuit in specified conditions; or
- as a single device ~~integrating~~, with arc fault detection integrated in or assembled by manufacturer to a protective device; or
- as a separate unit, according to Annex D assembled on site with a declared protective device.

The integrated protection device is either a circuit-breaker in accordance with IEC 60898-1 or an RCD in accordance with IEC 61008-1, IEC 61009-1 or IEC 62423.

These devices are intended to mitigate the risk of fire in a final circuits of a fixed installation due to the effect of arc fault currents that pose a risk of fire ignition under certain conditions if the arcing persists.

Protection against fire ignition due to overvoltage due to a broken neutral within a three phase installation to be included in this type of equipment as an additional option is under consideration in 9.22.

NOTE 2 Tracking current leads to arcing and therefore may ignite fire.

This International Standard applies to devices performing simultaneously the detection and discrimination of arcing current with regards to fire hazards and defines operating criteria under specified conditions for the opening of the circuit when the arcing current exceeds the limit values given in this standard.

AFDDs complying with this standard, with the exception of those with an uninterrupted neutral, are suitable for use in IT systems.

~~The maximum rated voltage is 240 V a.c. AFDDs, according to this standard, are supplied either between line and neutral or between two lines.~~

~~The maximum rated current (I_n) is 63 A a.c.~~

AFDDs energised from batteries or a circuit other than the protected circuit are not covered by this standard.

AFDDs provide isolation, they are intended to be operated by uninstructed persons and do not require maintenance.

Particular requirements may be necessary for:

- AFDDs incorporated in or intended only for association with plugs and socket-outlets or with appliance couplers for household or similar general purposes;