

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

---

**Low resistance measurements – Methods and guidance**

**Mesures de faibles résistances – Méthodes et recommandations**





**THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED**  
**Copyright © 2019 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.

Droits de reproduction réservés. Sauf indication contraire, aucune partie de cette publication ne peut être reproduite ni utilisée sous quelque forme que ce soit et par aucun procédé, électronique ou mécanique, y compris la photocopie et les microfilms, sans l'accord écrit de l'IEC ou du Comité national de l'IEC du pays du demandeur. Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de l'IEC ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de l'IEC de votre pays de résidence.

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 It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.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.

#### A propos de l'IEC

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

#### A propos des publications IEC

Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

#### Recherche de publications IEC - [webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)

La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études,...). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

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

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et une fois par mois par email.

#### Service Clients - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

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

Le premier dictionnaire d'électrotechnologie en ligne au monde, avec plus de 22 000 articles terminologiques en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 16 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

#### Glossaire IEC - [std.iec.ch/glossary](http://std.iec.ch/glossary)

67 000 entrées terminologiques électrotechniques, en anglais et en français, extraites des articles Termes et Définitions des publications IEC parues depuis 2002. Plus certaines entrées antérieures extraites des publications des CE 37, 77, 86 et CISPR de l'IEC.

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

---

**Low resistance measurements – Methods and guidance**

**Mesures de faibles résistances – Méthodes et recommandations**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
ELECTROTECHNIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

---

ICS 31.040.01

ISBN 978-2-8322-6870-4

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.  
Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	4
1 Scope .....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms and definitions .....	6
4 Resistance measurement phenomena .....	7
4.1 General.....	7
4.2 Lead and contact resistance .....	7
4.3 Self-heating .....	9
4.4 Variation of resistance with temperature .....	10
4.5 Thermoelectric e.m.f. ....	12
4.6 Peltier effect .....	15
5 Methods of measurement .....	16
5.1 General.....	16
5.2 Four-wire resistance measurement .....	16
5.3 Offset compensation method.....	19
5.4 Current inversion method .....	22
5.5 Differential current inversion method.....	25
5.6 Short-term trigger method .....	28
6 Connecting the specimen .....	32
6.1 Resistors with lead wires for soldered assembly .....	32
6.1.1 Connecting leaded resistors in a test fixture .....	32
6.2 Resistors with solder terminations for surface mount assembly.....	33
6.2.1 Connecting SMD resistors on a test substrate.....	33
6.2.2 Connecting SMD resistor in a test fixture .....	35
7 Information to be given in the relevant component specification.....	36
Annex A (normative) Letter symbols and abbreviated terms .....	37
A.1 Letter symbols .....	37
A.2 Abbreviated terms .....	38
Annex B (informative) Test results of soldering pad with Kelvin connection for surface mount resistors .....	39
B.1 General.....	39
B.2 Test procedures .....	39
B.2.1 Test substrates .....	39
B.2.2 Test method .....	41
B.3 Measurement result and studies .....	42
Bibliography.....	45
Figure 1 – Resistance measurement using two-wire sensing.....	8
Figure 2 – Variation of resistance with temperature (random example) .....	10
Figure 3 – Resistances on a resistor with lead wires .....	11
Figure 4 – SMD chip resistor on a PCB .....	12
Figure 5 – Thermoelectric e.m.f. ....	13
Figure 6 – Thermocouples on a resistor with lead wires .....	14
Figure 7 – Resistance measurement affected by thermoelectric e.m.f. ....	15

Figure 8 – Four-wire resistance measurement .....	17
Figure 9 – Offset compensation method for resistance measurement.....	19
Figure 10 – Current and voltage in the offset compensation method .....	20
Figure 11 – Current inversion method for resistance measurement .....	22
Figure 12 – Current and voltage in the current inversion method.....	23
Figure 13 – Current and voltage in the differential current inversion method .....	26
Figure 14 – Example of resistor specimen.....	31
Figure 15 – Connecting leaded resistors in a test fixture .....	32
Figure 16 – Resistance of cylindrical copper lead wires .....	33
Figure 17 – Soldering pad of test substrate for Kelvin (four-point) connections .....	34
Figure 18 – Resistance of PCB conductor tracks with 35 µm copper thickness.....	35
Figure 19 – Example for connecting SMD resistors on a test fixture .....	36
Figure B.1 – Lengths of soldering pad.....	40
Figure B.2 – Position of voltage sense conductor.....	40
Figure B.3 – Thickness of the solder printing screen and position of sense line .....	43
Figure B.4 – Position of voltage-sensing line.....	43
Figure B.5 – Soldering pad length.....	44
Figure B.6 – Recommended soldering pad.....	44
Table 1 – Relative Seebeck coefficients of selected metals .....	13
Table A.1 – Letter symbols .....	37
Table B.1 – Thickness of solder printing screen .....	41
Table B.2 – Table of test conditions .....	42

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## LOW RESISTANCE MEASUREMENTS – METHODS AND GUIDANCE

### 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 62812 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 40: Capacitors and resistors for electronic equipment.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
40/2665/FDIS	40/2671/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.

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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

The contents of the corrigendum of March 2020 have been included in this copy.

Currently in preview, click buy full version

# LOW RESISTANCE MEASUREMENTS – METHODS AND GUIDANCE

## 1 Scope

Resistance measurements are typically compromised by a variety of phenomena, for example serial resistance in the measurement path, self-heating or non-ohmic properties. Whether the effect of such phenomena on a resistance measurement is acceptable or not depends on the magnitude of each effect in comparison to the resistance and to the required accuracy. Hence, the risk of erroneous resistance measurements increases with decreasing resistance and with a tightening of the permissible tolerance.

This document specifies methods of measurement and associated test conditions that eliminate or reduce the influence of adverse phenomena in order to improve the attainable accuracy of low-resistance measurements.

The methods described in this document are applicable for the individual measurements of the resistance of individual resistors, and also for resistance measurements as part of a test sequence. They are applied if prescribed by a relevant component specification, or if agreed between a customer and a manufacturer.

## 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 60068-1, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60115-1:2008, *Fixed resistors for use in electronic equipment – Part 1: Generic specification*

IEC 60294, *Measurement of the dimensions of a cylindrical component with axial terminations*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60115-1 and the following apply:

A list of Greek letter symbols and abbreviated terms is provided in Annex A.

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

#### **electromotive force**

e.m.f.

difference in potential that gives rise to an electric current