

IEEE Recommended Practice for Testing Transformers and Inductors for Electronics Applications

IEEE Power Electronics Society

Developed by the
Standards Committee

IEEE Std 389™ -2020
(Revision of IEEE Std 389-1996)

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Approved 5 March 2020

IEEE SA Standards Board

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Abstract: A number of tests are presented for use in determining the significant parameters and performance characteristics of electronics transformers and inductors. These tests are designed primarily for transformers and inductors used in all types of electronics applications, but they may apply to the other types of transformers of large apparent-power rating used in the electric power utility industry.

Keywords: common-mode rejection tests, corona tests, current transformer tests, electronic inductors, electronic power transformers, IEEE 389™, inductance measurements, inrush-current evaluation, insulation tests, large rectifiers, noise tests, product rating, pulse transformers, quality factor, resistance tests, self-resonance, temperature rise tests, terminated impedance measurements, transformer capacitance, voltage-time shielding

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 389-2020, IEEE Recommended Practice for Testing Transformers and Inductors for Electronics Applications.

This recommended practice has been prepared to serve as a guide in the design, testing, and specifying of electronics transformers and inductors. This document contains many tests and experimental methods for evaluating almost every aspect of electronics transformer performance, including a number of tests for determining transformer environmental characteristics such as audible-noise generation. The tests and specifications included are aimed primarily at the testing and evaluation of transformers of relatively low apparent-power rating, such as those used in communications, instrumentation, control, small appliances, and computer applications. However, most of these tests are perfectly applicable to transformers of any rating. A useful feature of this recommended practice is the listing, in Clause 4, of all standard tests used in the specification of a transformer. This clause will provide a useful starting point for many users of this recommended practice.

Metre, kilogram, and second (MKS) units (Standard International or SI units) are used throughout this recommended practice; equivalent centimetre, gram, and second (CGS) units are sometimes given where their usage is still common practice. Definitions and symbols are in accordance with those of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) wherever possible.

Contents

1. Overview	11
1.1 Scope	11
1.2 Purpose	11
1.3 Word usage	12
2. Normative references	13
3. Definitions	14
4. How to specify electronics transformers	14
5. Insulation and corona tests	18
5.1 General	18
5.2 Electric strength test (hi-pot test)	18
5.3 Induced potential test	20
5.4 Corona tests	22
6. DC resistance tests	26
6.1 General	26
6.2 Resistance values under 1 Ω —Kelvin double-bridge method	26
6.3 Resistance values from 1 Ω to megohms	27
7. Loss measurements	32
7.1 No-load loss	32
7.2 Excitation apparent-power measurements	37
7.3 Stray-load losses	37
7.4 Short-circuit power test	39
7.5 Efficiency and power factor	40
8. Ratio of transformation	42
8.1 General	42
8.2 Ideal transformation ratio	42
8.3 Transformation ratio by impedance	43
8.4 Transformation ratio by inductance	43
8.5 Coefficient of coupling	44
8.6 Measurement methods	44
8.7 Impedance unbalance	46
8.8 Balance tests	48
8.9 Polarity tests	50
9. Transformer capacitance	50
9.1 General	50
9.2 Interwinding capacitance	53
9.3 Distributed capacitance	53
9.4 Bridge methods	54
10. Inductance measurements by impedance bridge method	55
10.1 General	55
10.2 Method of measurement	55
11. Transformer response measurements	60

11.1 Transformer frequency response	60
11.2 Transformer pulse response	63
12. Noise tests	65
12.1 Test conditions for audible noise	65
12.2 Measurement of audible noise	65
13. Terminated impedance measurements	66
13.1 General	66
13.2 Return-loss method	66
14. Temperature rise tests	68
14.1 Test methods	68
14.2 Notes on the technique of measurement	68
15. Self-resonance	70
15.1 General	70
15.2 Measurement	71
16. Voltage-time product rating	72
16.1 General	72
16.2 Recommended voltage-time product test methods	72
17. Shielding	73
17.1 Electrostatic shielding	73
17.2 Magnetic shielding	77
18. Measurement of quality factor Q	78
18.1 Definition	78
18.2 Methods	78
18.3 Bridge measurements	79
18.4 Q -meter measurements	79
18.5 Transmission method	80
18.6 Damped-oscillation method	81
19. Common-mode rejection (CMR) test	86
20. Inrush-current evaluation and measurement	87
20.1 Measurement	87
20.2 Calculation	87
20.3 Other considerations	88
21. Current transformer test	89
21.1 Cancellation	89
21.2 Recommended test procedure for current-transformation ratio and phase angle	89
Annex A (informative) Instrumentation for voltage and current measurements on inductors and transformers	91
A.1 General	91
A.2 True RMS measurements	91
A.3 Flux voltage measurements	92
A.4 Applications	92
Annex B (informative) AC high-potential dielectric testing	93
B.1 General	93

B.2 Leakage current.....	93
B.3 Corona.....	93
B.4 Breakdown	94
B.5 Test equipment requirement.....	94
Annex C (informative) Bibliography.....	95

IEEE Recommended Practice for Testing Transformers and Inductors for Electronics Applications

1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This recommended practice presents a number of tests for use in determining the significant parameters and performance characteristics of electronics transformers and inductors. These tests are designed primarily for transformers and inductors used in all types of electronics applications. Even though these tests may be useful to the other types of transformers used in power distribution applications in utilities, industry, and others, the tests discussed in this document may supplement or complement the tests, but are not intended to replace the tests in standards for transformers, such as those in the IEEE C57 series of standards. Some of the tests described are intended for qualifying a product for a specific application, while others are test practices used for manufacturing and customer acceptance testing. The tests described in this recommended practice include those most commonly used in the electronics transformer industry: electric strength, resistance, power loss, inductance, impedance, balance, ratio of transformation, and many others used less frequently.

1.2 Purpose

The following are the specific types of transformers and inductors to which this recommended practice is applicable:

- a) Electronic power
 - 1) Power
 - 2) Isolating
 - 3) Current limiting
 - 4) Rectifier
 - 5) Combination (rectifier and filament)
 - 6) Ferroresonant
 - 7) Converter