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IEEE Standard Criteria for Programmable Digital Devices in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Generating Stations

IEEE Power and Energy Society

Sponsored by the
Nuclear Power Engineering Committee

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USA

IEEE Std 7-4.3.2™-2016
(Revision of IEEE Std 7-4.3.2-2010)

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Abstract: Additional specific requirements to supplement the criteria and requirements of IEEE Std 603™ are specified for programmable digital devices. Within the context of this standard, the term programmable digital device is any device that relies on software instructions or programmable logic to accomplish a function. Examples include a computer, a programmable hardware device, or a device with firmware. Systems using these devices will also be referred to as digital safety systems in this standard. The criteria contained herein, in conjunction with criteria in IEEE Std 603, establish minimum functional and design requirements for programmable digital devices used as components of a safety system.

Keywords: commercial grade item, diversity, IEEE 7-4.3.2™, programmable digital devices, safety systems, software, software tools, software verification and validation

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 7-4.3.2, IEEE Standard Criteria for Programmable Digital Devices in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Generating Stations.

This standard evolved from IEEE Std 7-4.3.2-2010. It represents a continued effort by an IEEE working group to support the specification, design, and implementation of digital programmable devices in safety systems of nuclear power generating stations.

This standard specifies additional digital system requirements to supplement the criteria and requirements of IEEE Std 603™-2009.[1] This standard should be used in conjunction with IEEE Std 603-2009 for completeness of the safety system design when a programmable digital device is to be used for a safety system function.

This standard recognizes that development processes for programmable digital devices continue to evolve. As such, the information presented should not be viewed as the only possible solution. This is in keeping with the desire to use advances in digital technology, provided the criteria and requirements of IEEE Std 603-2009 and this standard are met. For example, while this standard does not address specifically artificial intelligence systems or fourth generation languages, their use is not precluded.

Subclause 5.1 in IEEE Std 603-2009 defines the single-failure criterion. Guidance for the application of this criterion is provided in IEEE Std 379™-2014 [B15].[2] The approach stated in 5.5 of IEEE Std 379-2014 is also appropriate for potential common-cause failures associated with programmable digital systems that have been developed under the requirements of IEEE Std 603-2009 and this standard. Additional guidance for determining the need for design diversity in safety-related digital systems is provided in 5.16 of this standard.

In summary, the following major changes were implemented in this version of IEEE Std 7-4.3.2:

— The references were updated to include current IEEE standards.

— Changed title from computer to programmable digital devices to encompass technologies such as Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs).

— Enhanced draft standard to define unique requirements for programmable digital devices that are not computers.

— Provided more specific criteria on the use of software tools used for digital devices and development of hardware, software, firmware, and programmable logic (see 5.3.2).

— Updated 5.9 to define the criteria for a secure development environment.

— Moved simplicity discussion from 5.6 to 5.18.

— Updated Annex D by restructuring the format so that it will be more useful also added an entire section to describe a process of performing hazard analysis activities in conjunction with software development processes.

— Added several clauses in areas where guidance was lacking and deleting portions considered un-useful or unproductive.

— Implemented editorial clarification changes throughout the standard.

[1]Information on references can be found in Clause 2.
[2]Numbers in brackets correspond with those of the bibliography in Annex H.

Contents

IEEE Standard Criteria for Programmable Digital Devices in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Generating Stations

1. Scope

This standard serves to amplify criteria in IEEE Std 603™-2009, to address the use of programmable digital devices as part of safety systems in nuclear power generating stations.[3] The criteria contained herein, in conjunction with criteria in IEEE Std 603-2009, establish minimum functional and design requirements for programmable digital devices used as components of a safety system.

2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document (i.e., they must be understood and used, so each referenced document is cited in text and its relationship to this document is explained). For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments or corrigenda) applies.

IEEE Std 323™-2003 (Reaff 2008), IEEE Standard for Qualifying Class 1E Equipment for Nuclear Power Generating Stations.[4,5]

[3]Information on footnotes can be found in Clause 2.
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