



BSI Standards Publication

Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules — Design qualification and type approval

Part 2: Test procedures

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN IEC 61215-2:2021. It is identical to IEC 61215-2:2021. It supersedes [BS EN 61215-2:2017](#), which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee GEL/82, Photovoltaic Energy Systems.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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and corrigenda (if any)

English Version

Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 2: Test procedures (IEC 61215-2:2021)

Modules photovoltaïques (PV) pour applications terrestres -
Qualification de la conception et homologation - Partie 2:
Procédures d'essai
(IEC 61215-2:2021)

Terrestrische Photovoltaik(PV)-Module - Bauarteignung und
Bauartzulassung - Teil 2: Prüfverfahren
(IEC 61215-2:2021)

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on 2021-03-31. CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CENELEC member.

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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

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European foreword

The text of document 82/1829/FDIS, future edition 2 of IEC 61215-2, prepared by IEC/TC 82 "Solar photovoltaic energy systems" was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN IEC 61215-2:2021.

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which the document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2021-12-31
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2024-03-31

This document supersedes EN 61215-2:2017 and all of its amendments and corrigenda (if any).

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Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 61215-2:2021 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following notes have to be added for the standards indicated:

IEC 62506	NOTE	Harmonized as EN 62506
IEC 62938:2020	NOTE	Harmonized as EN IEC 62938:2020 (not modified)
IEC 62941	NOTE	Harmonized as EN IEC 62941

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(normative)

Normative references to international publications with their corresponding European publications

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.

NOTE 1 Where an International Publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

NOTE 2 Up-to-date information on the latest versions of the European Standards listed in this annex is available here: www.cenelec.eu.

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>EN/HD</u>	<u>Year</u>
IEC 60068-1	-	Environmental testing - Part 1: General and guidance	EN 60068-1	-
IEC 60068-2-21	-	Environmental testing - Part 2-21: Tests - Test U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices	EN 60068-2-21	-
IEC 60068-2-78	2012	Environmental testing - Part 2-78: Tests - Test Cab: Damp heat, steady state	EN 60068-2-78	2013
IEC 60891	-	Photovoltaic devices - Procedures for temperature and irradiance corrections to measured I-V characteristics	EN 60891	-
IEC 60904-1	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 1: Measurement of photovoltaic current-voltage characteristics	EN IEC 60904-1	-
IEC 60904-1-1	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 1-1: Measurement of current-voltage characteristics of multi-junction photovoltaic (PV) devices	EN 60904-1-1	-
IEC/TS 60904-1-2	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 1-2: Measurement of current-voltage characteristics of bifacial photovoltaic (PV) devices	-	-
IEC 60904-2	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 2: Requirements for photovoltaic reference devices	EN 60904-2	-
IEC 60904-3	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data	EN IEC 60904-3	-
IEC 60904-7	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 7: Computation of the spectral mismatch correction for measurements of photovoltaic devices	EN IEC 60904-7	-

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IEC 60904-8	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 8: Measurement of spectral responsivity of a photovoltaic (PV) device	EN 60904-8	-
IEC 60904-9	2020	Photovoltaic devices - Part 9: Classification of solar simulator characteristics	EN IEC 60904-9	2020
IEC 60904-10	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 10: Methods of linear dependence and linearity measurements	EN IEC 60904-10	-
IEC/TR 60904-14	-	Photovoltaic devices - Part 14: Guidelines for production line measurements of single-junction PV module maximum power output and reporting at standard test conditions	-	-
IEC 61140	-	Protection against electric shock - Common aspects for installation and equipment	EN 61140	-
IEC 61215-1	2021	Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 1: Test requirements	EN IEC 61215-1	2021
IEC 61215-1-1	-	Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 1-1: Special requirements for testing of crystalline silicon photovoltaic (PV) modules	EN IEC 61215-1-1	-
IEC 61730-1	2016	Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification - Part 1: Requirements for construction	EN IEC 61730-1	2018
-	-		/AC:2018-06	
IEC 61730-2	-	Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification - Part 2: Requirements for testing	EN IEC 61730-2	-
IEC/TS 61836	-	Solar photovoltaic energy systems - Terms, definitions and symbols	-	-
IEC/TS 62782	-	Photovoltaic (PV) modules - Cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load testing	-	-
IEC 62790	-	Junction boxes for photovoltaic modules - Safety requirements and tests	EN 62790	-
IEC/TS 62804-1	2015	Photovoltaic (PV) modules - Test methods for the detection of potential-induced degradation - Part 1: Crystalline silicon	-	-
IEC TS 63163	— ¹	Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules for consumer products – Design qualification and type approval	-	-

¹ Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ADTS.

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

Part 2: Test procedures

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.
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International Standard IEC 61215-2 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This second edition of IEC 61215-2 cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC 61215-2 issued in 2016; it constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) Addition of cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load testing (MQT 20).
- b) Addition of a test for detection of potential-induced degradation (MQT 21).
- c) Addition of test methods required for bifacial PV modules.
- d) Addition of test methods required for flexible modules. This includes the addition of the bending test (MQT 22).
- e) Revision of simulator requirements to ensure uncertainty is both well-defined and minimized.

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- f) Correction to the hot spot endurance test, where the procedure for monolithically integrated (MLI) thin film technologies (MQT 09.2) previously included two sections describing a procedure only appropriate for silicon modules.
- g) Selection of three diodes, rather than all, for testing in the bypass diode thermal test (MQT 18).
- h) Removal of the nominal module operating test (NMOT), and associated test of performance at NMOT, from the IEC 61215 series.

Informative Annex A of IEC 61215-1:2021 explains the background and reasoning behind some of the more substantial changes that were made in the IEC 61215 series in progressing from edition 1 to edition 2.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/1829/FDIS	82/1853/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.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61215 series, published under the general title *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval*, can be found on the IEC website.

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.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

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INTRODUCTION

Whereas Part 1 of this standards series describes requirements (both in general and specific with respect to device technology), the sub-parts of Part 1 define technology variations and Part 2 defines a set of test procedures necessary for design qualification and type approval. The test procedures described in Part 2 are valid for all device technologies.

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TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

Part 2: Test procedures

1 Scope

This document lays down requirements for the design qualification of terrestrial photovoltaic modules suitable for long-term operation in open-air climates. The useful service life of modules so qualified will depend on their design, their environment and the conditions under which they are operated. Test results are not construed as a quantitative prediction of module lifetime.

In climates where 98th percentile operating temperatures exceed 70 °C, users are recommended to consider testing to higher temperature test conditions as described in IEC TS 63126¹. Users desiring qualification of PV products with lesser lifetime expectations are recommended to consider testing designed for PV in consumer electronics, as described in IEC TS 63163 (under development). Users wishing to gain confidence that the characteristics tested in IEC 61215 appear consistently in a manufactured product may wish to utilize IEC 62941 regarding quality systems in PV manufacturing.

This document is intended to apply to all terrestrial flat plate module materials such as crystalline silicon module types as well as thin-film modules.

This document does not apply to modules used with concentrated sunlight although it may be utilized for low concentrator modules (1 to 3 suns). For low concentration modules, all tests are performed using the irradiance, current, voltage and power levels expected at the design concentration.

The objective of this test sequence is to determine the electrical characteristics of the module and to show, as far as possible within reasonable constraints of cost and time, that the module is capable of withstanding prolonged exposure outdoors. Accelerated test conditions are empirically based on those necessary to reproduce selected observed field failures and are applied equally across module types. Acceleration factors may vary with product design and thus not all degradation mechanisms may manifest. Further general information on accelerated test methods including definitions of terms may be found in IEC 62506.

Some long-term degradation mechanisms can only reasonably be detected via component testing, due to long times required to produce the failure and necessity of stress conditions that are expensive to produce over large areas. Component tests that have reached a sufficient level of maturity to set pass/fail criteria with high confidence are incorporated into the IEC 61215 series via addition to Table 1 in IEC 61215-1:2021. In contrast, the tests procedures described in this series, in IEC 61215-2, are performed on modules.

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.

¹ Information on 98th percentile operating temperature as a function of system location and mounting configuration is included in IEC TS 63126.