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BSI Standards Publication

**Nuclear power plants — Instrumentation  
and control systems important to safety —  
Criteria for seismic trip system**

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## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of IEC 63186:2021.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee NCE/8, Instrumentation, Control & Electrical Systems of Nuclear Facilities.

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

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation and control systems important to safety  
– Criteria for seismic trip system**

**Centrales nucléaires de puissance – Systèmes d'instrumentation et de contrôle-  
commande importants pour la sûreté – Critères pour système de protection  
sismique**

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ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS – INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS IMPORTANT TO SAFETY – CRITERIA FOR SEISMIC TRIP SYSTEM

#### FOREWORD

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IEC 63186 has been prepared by subcommittee 45A: Instrumentation, control and electrical power systems of nuclear facilities, of IEC technical committee 45: Nuclear instrumentation. It is an International Standard.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
45A/1391/FDIS	45A/1397/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

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This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications](http://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications).

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
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## INTRODUCTION

### **a) Technical background, main issues and organization of the standard**

Earthquakes pose one of the major external threats to the safe operation of nuclear power plants. Structures, systems and components important to safety of a nuclear power plant are generally designed to tolerate a postulated design basis earthquake. To mitigate the adverse effects of a strong earthquake and further enhance reactor safety, the seismic trip system has been implemented in many reactor designs.

Nevertheless, a dedicated IEC standard for the design of such I&C system was missing. Lessons learned from the Fukushima accident emphasize the importance of installing an automatic seismic trip system as it provides a valuable lead time and enhances the safety margins in potential accident conditions. IEC 63186 is the first effort in this field and provides technical guidance and requirements for the design of this system. It discusses general considerations for a seismic trip system and explains the rationale for the system design. Specific requirements for the system design and equipment specification are presented. Requirements for tests used to demonstrate the functionality of the designed system are also included.

### **b) Situation of the current standard in the structure of the IEC SC 45A standard series**

IEC 63186 is the third level SC 45A document tackling the issue of the seismic trip system design.

It is built upon a number of first and second level SC 45A documents. For example, IEC 63186 refers to IEC 61513 for general requirements, IEC 61226 for classification determination, and IEC/IEEE 60780-323 for testing requirements.

For more details on the structure of the SC 45A standard series see item d) of this introduction.

### **c) Recommendations and limitations regarding the application of this standard**

The design of the seismic trip system should be harmonized with overall plant designs and the seismic design requirements in particular. Key issues to be coordinated include, but are not limited to, classification, system architecture, acceleration sensor mounting positions, interface to actuated device, and trip set-point.

This document focuses on the design requirements for the seismic trip system. Other parts of the system lifecycle, particularly the operation and maintenance requirements are not within the scope of IEC 63186.

### **d) Description of the structure of the IEC SC 45A standard series and relationships with other IEC documents and other bodies documents (IAEA, ISO)**

The top-level documents of the IEC SC 45A standard series are IEC 61513 and IEC 63046. IEC 61513 provides general requirements for I&C systems and equipment that are used to perform functions important to safety in NPPs. IEC 63046 provides general requirements for electrical power systems of NPPs; it covers power supply systems including the supply systems of the I&C systems. IEC 61513 and IEC 63046 are to be considered in conjunction and at the same level. IEC 61513 and IEC 63046 structure the IEC SC 45A standard series and shape a complete framework establishing general requirements for instrumentation, control and electrical systems for nuclear power plants.

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IEC 61513 and IEC 63046 refer directly to other IEC SC 45A standards for general topics related to categorization of functions and classification of systems, qualification, separation, defence against common cause failure, control room design, electromagnetic compatibility, cyber security, software and hardware aspects for programmable digital systems, coordination of safety and security requirements and management of ageing. The standards referenced directly at this second level should be considered together with IEC 61513 and IEC 63046 as a consistent document set.

At a third level, IEC SC 45A standards not directly referenced by IEC 61513 or by IEC 63046 are standards related to specific equipment, technical methods, or specific activities. Usually these documents, which make reference to second-level documents for general topics, can be used on their own.

A fourth level extending the IEC SC 45 standard series, corresponds to the Technical Reports which are not normative.

The IEC SC 45A standards series consistently implements and details the safety and security principles and basic aspects provided in the relevant IAEA safety standards and in the relevant documents of the IAEA nuclear security series (NSS). In particular this includes the IAEA requirements SSR-2/1, establishing safety requirements related to the design of nuclear power plants (NPPs), the IAEA safety guide SSG-30 dealing with the safety classification of structures, systems and components in NPPs, the IAEA safety guide SSG-39 dealing with the design of instrumentation and control systems for NPPs, the IAEA safety guide SSG-34 dealing with the design of electrical power systems for NPPs and the implementing guide NSS17 for computer security at nuclear facilities. The safety and security terminology and definitions used by SC 45A standards are consistent with those used by the IAEA.

IEC 61513 and IEC 63046 have adopted a presentation format similar to the basic safety publication IEC 61508 with an overall life-cycle framework and a system life-cycle framework. Regarding nuclear safety, IEC 61513 and IEC 63046 provide the interpretation of the general requirements of IEC 61508-1, IEC 61508-2 and IEC 61508-4, for the nuclear application sector. In this framework IEC 60880, IEC 62138 and IEC 62566-2 correspond to IEC 61508-3 for the nuclear application sector. IEC 61513 and IEC 63046 refer to ISO as well as to IAEA GS-R part 2 and IAEA GS-G-3.1, and IAEA GS-G-3.5 for topics related to quality assurance (QA). At level 2, regarding nuclear security, IEC 62645 is the entry document for the IEC/SC 45A security standards. It builds upon the valid high level principles and main concepts of the generic security standards, in particular ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27002; it adapts them and completes them to fit the nuclear context and coordinates with the IEC 62443 series. At level 2, IEC 60964 is the entry document for the IEC/SC 45A control rooms standards and IEC 62342 is the entry document for the ageing management standards.

NOTE It is assumed that for the design of I&C systems in NPPs that implement conventional safety functions(e.g. to address worker safety, asset protection, chemical hazards, process energy hazards) international or national standards would be applied.

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## **NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS – INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS IMPORTANT TO SAFETY – CRITERIA FOR SEISMIC TRIP SYSTEM**

### **1 Scope**

This document specifies the minimum requirements for the design of the seismic trip system, and the components thereof, used in a nuclear power plant to mitigate seismic effects. This system is intended to shut down the reactor in operation automatically before it is significantly impacted by the vibratory ground motion incurred by strong earthquakes. This document is applicable to both the design of new built plants and the upgrading of plants in operation. It may be used for the design of other types of nuclear facilities where normal operation shall be stopped in case of strong seismic motions.

NOTE In addition to the seismic trip system, other names are possible for the system covered in this document, e.g. automatic seismic trip system or earthquake scram/trip system.

### **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 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60671, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation and control systems important to safety – Surveillance testing*

IEC 60709, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation, control and electrical power systems important to safety – Separation*

IEC/IEEE 60780-323, *Nuclear facilities – Electrical equipment important to safety – Qualification*

IEC 60880, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation and control systems important to safety – Software aspects for computer-based systems performing category A functions*

IEC/IEEE 60980-344:2020, *Nuclear facilities – Equipment important to safety – Seismic qualification*

IEC 60987, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation and control important to safety – Hardware requirements*

IEC 61226, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation, control and electrical power systems important to safety – Categorization of functions and classification of systems*

IEC 61513:2011, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation and control important to safety – General requirements for systems*

IEC 62003, *Nuclear power plants – Instrumentation, control and electrical power systems – Requirements for electromagnetic compatibility testing*