



Edition 5.0 2023-11

Corrected version  
2026-03

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear –  
Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and  
motor-starters**

**Appareillage à basse tension –  
Partie 4-1: Contacteurs et démarreurs de moteurs – Contacteurs et démarreurs  
électromécaniques**



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INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
ELECTROTECHNIQUE  
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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

#### Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters

### 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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IEC 60947-4-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 121A: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear, of IEC technical committee 121: Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage. It is an International Standard.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition published in 2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) objective in the scope;
- b) instantaneous only motor protective switching device IMPSD (3.5.33);
- c) kinds of equipment (5.2.1);

- d) methods of overload protection of motors (5.2.6);
- e) adoption of the AC-7d from IEC 61095:2023 (in 5.4.2);
- f) separately mounted overload relay of a starter (in 5.7.3 b));
- g) starter and contactor suitable for use downstream to basic drive module (6.1.2 w));
- h) reference to IEC TS 63058 for environmental aspects (in 6.4);
- i) wiring subject to movement (in 8.1.3);
- j) use of voltage transient limiting device (8.1.18);
- k) accessible parts subject to temperature limits (in 8.2.2.3);
- l) reference to Annex X of IEC 60947-1:2020 for the co-ordination of MPSD with SCPD (8.2.5.4);
- m) reference to IEC TR 63216 with different EMC environments (8.3.1);
- n) reference to IEC TR 63201 for the embedded software design (8.4);
- o) reference to IEC TS 63208 for cybersecurity aspects (8.5);
- p) update and completion of the measurement method of the power consumption of the electromagnet (9.3.3.2.1.2);
- q) update of Annex C including rational about AC-3e;
- r) determination of the critical load current for photovoltaic applications (M.8.7).

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

Draft	Report on voting
121A/571/FDIS	121A/580/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.

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/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

A list of all parts of the IEC 60947 series can be found, under the general title *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear*, on the IEC website.

This document shall be read in conjunction with IEC 60947-1:2020, *Low voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 1: General rules*. The provisions of the general rules are applicable to this document, where specifically called for.

The provisions of the general rules dealt with IEC 60947-1 are applicable to this part of IEC 60947 series where specifically called for. Clauses and subclauses, tables, figures and annexes of the general rules thus applicable are identified by reference to IEC 60947-1:2020. For example, 5.3.4.1 of IEC 60947-1:2020, Table 4 of IEC 60947-1:2020, or Annex A of IEC 60947-1:2020.

This is a preview of IEC 60947-4-1 Ed. 5.0 b:2023. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

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

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

The content of the corrigendum 1 (2026-03) has been included in this copy.

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## LOW-VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR –

### Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60947 is applicable to the following equipment:

- electromechanical contactors and starters including motor protective switching devices (MPSD and IMPSD);
- actuators of contactor relays;
- contacts dedicated exclusively to the coil circuit of the contactor or the contactor relay;
- dedicated accessories (e.g. dedicated wiring, dedicated latch accessory);

intended to be connected to distribution circuits, motors circuits and other load circuits, the rated voltage of which does not exceed 1 000 V AC or 1 500 V DC.

This document does not apply to:

- starters for DC motors;
- auxiliary contacts of contactors and contacts of contactor relays. These are covered by IEC 60947-5-1;
- the short-circuit protective device integrated within starters, other than MPSDs. This is covered by IEC 60947-2 and IEC 60947-3;
- motor overload protection function performed by control units for built-in thermal protection (PTC). They are covered by IEC 60947-8;
- the use of the equipment with additional measures within explosive atmospheres. These are given in IEC 60079 series;

The objective of this document is to state:

- the characteristics and composition of the equipment (Clause 5);
- the conditions applicable to the equipment with reference to:
  - its operation (5.2.5) and protection functions (5.2.6, 5.7, 5.8),
  - its intended environments (6.5, 8.3.1) and applications (5.4, Annex C, Annex D, Annex G, Annex H, Annex I, Annex M, Annex O) including safety applications (Annex F, Annex K, Annex L),
  - its construction and performance (Clause 8) including requirements to reduce risks of electric shock, thermal hazard, energy hazard, fire hazard and mechanical hazard, reasonably foreseeable misuse, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues, software errors and security issues;
- the tests intended for confirming that these conditions have been met, and the methods to be adopted for these tests (Clause 9);
- the information to be included with the equipment or in the product documentation (Clause 6).

## 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 60034-1:2022, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 1: Rating and performance*

IEC 60034-12:2016, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 12: Starting performance of single-speed three-phase cage induction motors*

IEC 60034-30-1:2014, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 30-1: Efficiency classes of line operated AC motors (IE code)*

IEC 60068-2-14:2023, *Environmental testing – Part 2-14: Tests – Test N: Change of temperature*

IEC 60079-14, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 14: Electrical installations design, selection and erection*

IEC 60085:2007, *Electrical insulation – Thermal evaluation and designation*

IEC 60364-1:2005, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 1: Fundamental principles, assessment of general characteristics, definitions*

IEC 60715:2017, *Dimensions of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Standardized mounting on rails for mechanical support of switchgear, controlgear and accessories*

IEC 60730-1, *Automatic electrical controls – Part 1: General requirements*

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IEC 60947-5-1:2016, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 5-1: Control circuit devices and switching elements – Electromechanical control circuit devices*

IEC 61051-2, *Varistors for use in electronic equipment – Part 2: Sectional specification for surge suppression varistors*

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IEC 61439 (all parts), *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies*

IEC 61643-331, *Components for low-voltage surge protection – Part 331: Performance requirements and test methods for metal oxide varistors (MOV)*

IEC 61800-5-1:2022, *Adjustable speed electrical power drive systems – Part 5-1: Safety requirements – Electrical, thermal and energy*

IEC 61810-1, *Electromechanical elementary relays – Part 1: General and safety requirements*

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IEC 60050-151, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 151: Electrical and magnetic devices*

IEC 60050-195, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 195: Earthing and protection against electric shock*

IEC 60050-421, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 421: Power transformers and reactors*

IEC 60050-441, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 441: Switchgear, controlgear and fuses*

IEC 60050-442, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 442: Electrical accessories*

IEC 60050-826, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 826: Electrical installations*

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IEC 60072-1:2022, *Rotating electrical machines – Dimensions and output series – Part 1: Frame numbers 56 to 400 and flange numbers 55 to 1080*

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IEC 60079-7, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 7: Equipment protection by increased safety "e"*

IEC 60079-29-3:2014, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 29-3: Gas detectors – Guidance on functional safety of fixed gas detection systems*

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IEC 60269-2:2013, *Low-voltage fuses – Part 2: Supplementary requirements for fuses for use by authorized persons (fuses mainly for industrial application) – Examples of standardized systems of fuses A to K*

IEC 60364-7-712, *Low voltage electrical installations – Part 7-712: Requirements for special installations or locations – Solar photovoltaic (PV) power supply systems*

IEC 60384-17:2019, *Fixed capacitors for use in electronic equipment – Part 17: Sectional specification – Fixed metallized polypropylene film dielectric AC and pulse capacitors*

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*, available at <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>

IEC 60664-1:2020, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage supply systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC 60721-3-3, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 3-3: Classification of groups of environmental parameters and their severities – Stationary use at weatherprotected locations*

IEC 60812:2018, *Failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA and FMECA)*

IEC 60947-3:2020, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 3: Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse-combination units*

IEC 60947-4-2, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 4-2: Contactors and motor-starters – Semiconductor motor controllers, starters and soft-starters*

IEC 60947-6-2, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 6-2: Multiple function equipment – Control and protective switching devices (or equipment) (CPS)*

IEC 60947-8, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 8: Control units for built-in thermal protection (PTC) for rotating electrical machines*

IEC 60990:2016, *Methods of measurement of touch current and protective conductor current*

IEC 61000-6-5, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6-5: Generic standards – Immunity for equipment used in power station and substation environment*

IEC 61032, *Protection of persons and equipment by enclosures – Probes for verification*

IEC 61508-2, *Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems – Part 2: Requirements for electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems (see <http://www.iec.ch/functionalsafety>)*

IEC 61508-3, *Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems – Part 3: Software requirements (see <http://www.iec.ch/functionalsafety>)*

IEC 61508-4:2010, *Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems – Part 4: Definitions and abbreviations (see <http://www.iec.ch/functionalsafety>)*

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IEC Guide 104:2019, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

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CLC/TR 45550:2020, *Definitions related to material efficiency*

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UL 508:2021, *Industrial control equipment*

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<sup>3</sup> Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: IEC FDIS 63404:2023.

<sup>4</sup> This publication was withdrawn and replaced with IEC/IEEE 82079-1:2019.

This is a preview of IEC 60947-4-1 Ed. 5.0 b:2023. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

UL 60947-1, *Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear – Part 1: General rules*

UL 60947-4-1, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 4-1: Contactors and motor-starters – Electromechanical contactors and motor-starters*

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