



# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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**Safety of machinery - Electro-sensitive protective equipment -  
Part 3: Particular requirements for active opto-electronic protective devices  
responsive to diffuse reflection (AOPDDR)**

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## **Safety of machinery - Electro-sensitive protective equipment - Part 3: Particular requirements for active opto-electronic protective devices responsive to diffuse reflection (AOPDDR)**

### **FOREWORD**

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IEC 61496-3 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 44: Safety of machinery – Electrotechnical aspects. It is an International Standard.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third 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) some requirement clauses and test procedures have been adapted or removed because they have been consolidated in IEC 61496-1:2020 (e.g. 5.4.6.2 Light sources and Clause A.9);
- b) change of the minimum probability of detection and fault detection requirements for Type 2 AOPDDR;
- c) using the AOPDDR as a trip device is described as an optional function in Clause A.13.

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|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Draft        | Report on voting |
| 44/1061/FDIS | 44/1065/RVD      |

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

This document is to be used in conjunction with IEC 61496-1:2020.

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

A list of all parts in the IEC 61496 series, published under the general title *Safety of machinery – Electro-sensitive protective equipment*, can be found on the IEC website.

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).

This document supplements or modifies the corresponding clauses in IEC 61496-1:2020 to specify particular requirements for the design, construction and testing of electro-sensitive protective equipment (ESPE) for the safeguarding of machinery, employing active opto-electronic protective devices responsive to diffuse reflection (AOPDDR) for the sensing function.

Where a particular clause or subclause of IEC 61496-1:2020 is not mentioned in this document, that clause or subclause applies as far as is reasonable. Where this document states "addition" or "replacement", the relevant text of IEC 61496-1:2020 is adapted accordingly.

Clauses and subclauses which are additional to those of IEC 61496-1:2020 are numbered sequentially, following on the last available number in IEC 61496-1:2020. Terminological entries (in Clause 3) which are additional to those in IEC 61496-1:2020 are numbered starting from 3.301. Additional annexes are lettered from AA onwards.

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, or
- revised.

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Electro-sensitive protective equipment (ESPE) is applied to machinery that presents a risk of personal injury. It provides protection by causing the machine to revert to a safe condition before a person can be placed in a hazardous situation.

This document supplements or modifies the corresponding clauses in IEC 61496-1:2020 to specify particular requirements for the design, construction and testing of electro-sensitive protective equipment (ESPE) for the safeguarding of machinery, employing active opto-electronic protective devices responsive to diffuse reflection (AOPDDRs) for the sensing function.

Each type of machine presents its own particular hazards, and it is not the purpose of this document to recommend the manner of application of the ESPE to any particular machine. The application of the ESPE is a matter for agreement between the equipment supplier, the machine user and the enforcing authority. In this context, attention is drawn to the relevant guidance established internationally, for example, in IEC 62046 and ISO 12100.

The group responsible for drafting this document was concerned that, due to the complexity of the technology, there are many issues that are highly dependent on analysis and expertise in specific test and measurement techniques. In order to provide a high level of confidence, independent review by relevant experts is recommended. If this high level of confidence cannot be established, these devices would not be suitable for use in safety related applications.

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This document specifies additional requirements for the design, construction and testing of non-contact electro-sensitive protective equipment (ESPE) designed specifically to detect persons or parts of persons as part of a safety-related system, employing active opto-electronic protective devices responsive to diffuse reflection (AOPDDRs) for the sensing function. Special attention is directed to requirements which ensure that an appropriate safety-related performance is achieved. An ESPE can include optional safety-related functions, the requirements for which are given both in Annex A of this document and in Annex A of IEC 61496-1:2020.

NOTE "Non-contact" means that physical contact is not required for sensing.

This document does not specify the dimensions or configurations of the detection zone and its disposition in relation to hazardous parts for any particular application, nor what constitutes a hazardous state of any machine. It is restricted to the functioning of the ESPE and how it interfaces with the machine.

AOPDDRs are devices that have either

- one or more detection zone(s) specified in two dimensions (AOPDDR-2D), or
- one or more detection zone(s) specified in three dimensions (AOPDDR-3D)

wherein radiation in the near infrared range is emitted by an emitting element(s). When the emitted radiation impinges on an object (for example, a person or part of a person), a portion of the emitted radiation is reflected to a receiving element(s) by diffuse reflection. This reflection is used to determine the position of the object.

Opto-electronic devices that perform only a single one-dimensional spot-like distance measurement, for example, optical proximity switches, are not covered by this document.

This document is limited to ESPE that do not require human intervention for detection. It is limited to ESPE that detect objects entering into or being present in a detection zone(s).

This document does not address those aspects required for complex classification or differentiation of the object detected.

This document does not address requirements and tests for outdoor application.

Excluded from this document are AOPDDRs employing radiation with the peak of wavelength outside the range 820 nm to 1 100 nm, and those employing radiation other than that generated by the AOPDDR itself. For sensing devices that employ radiation of wavelengths outside this range, this document can be used as a guide. This document is relevant for AOPDDRs having a minimum detectable object size in the range from 30 mm to 200 mm.

This document can be relevant to applications other than those for the protection of persons, for example, for the protection of machinery or products from mechanical damage. In those applications, different requirements can be appropriate, for example when the materials that are recognized by the sensing function have different properties from those of persons and their clothing.

This document does not deal with electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) emission requirements.

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IEC 61496-1:2020, Clause 2 is applicable except as follows.

*Addition:*

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

IEC 60068-2-75:2014, *Environmental testing - Part 2-75: Tests - Test Eh: Hammer tests*

IEC 60825-1:2014, *Safety of laser products - Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements*

IEC 61496-1:2020, *Safety of machinery - Electro-sensitive protective equipment - Part 1: General requirements and tests*

IEC 62471:2006, *Photobiological safety of lamps and lamp systems*

IEC TS 62998-1:2019, *Safety of machinery - Safety-related sensors used for the protection of persons*

IEC TS 62998-3:2023, *Safety of machinery - Safety-related sensors used for the protection of persons - Part 3: Sensor technologies and algorithms*

ISO 13855:2024, *Safety of machinery - Positioning of safeguards with respect to the approach of the human body*

ISO 20471:2013, *High visibility clothing - Test methods and requirements*