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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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**Protection against lightning –  
Part 4: Electrical and electronic systems within structures**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION .....	7
1 Scope.....	9
2 Normative references.....	9
3 Terms and definitions.....	10
4 Design and installation of SPM.....	13
4.1 General.....	13
4.2 Design of SPM.....	16
4.3 Lightning protection zones (LPZ) .....	17
4.4 Basic SPM .....	20
5 Earthing and bonding.....	21
5.1 General.....	21
5.2 Earth-termination system .....	22
5.3 Bonding network .....	24
5.4 Bonding bars .....	28
5.5 Bonding at the boundary of an LPZ .....	29
5.6 Material and dimensions of bonding components.....	29
6 Magnetic shielding and line routing.....	30
6.1 Spatial shielding .....	30
6.2 Shielding of internal lines.....	30
6.3 Routing of internal lines .....	30
6.4 Shielding of external lines .....	31
6.5 Material and dimensions of magnetic shields .....	31
7 Coordinated SPD system.....	31
8 Isolating interfaces .....	32
9 SPM management .....	32
9.1 General.....	32
9.2 SPM management plan.....	32
9.3 Inspection of SPM.....	33
9.3.1 Inspection procedure .....	34
9.3.2 Inspection documentation .....	34
9.4 Maintenance.....	35
Annex A (informative) Basis of electromagnetic environment evaluation in an LPZ .....	36
Annex B (informative) Implementation of SPM for an existing structure .....	60
Annex C (informative) Selection and installation of a coordinated SPD system.....	76
Annex D (informative) Factors to be considered in the selection of SPDs .....	82
Bibliography.....	87
Figure 1 – General principle for the division into different LPZ.....	13
Figure 2 – Examples of possible SPM (LEMP protection measures).....	15
Figure 3 – Examples for interconnected LPZ .....	19
Figure 4 – Examples for extended lightning protection zones .....	20
Figure 5 – Example of a three-dimensional earthing system consisting of the bonding network interconnected with the earth-termination system .....	22
Figure 6 – Meshed earth-termination system of a plant.....	23

Figure 7 – Utilization of reinforcing rods of a structure for equipotential bonding .....	25
Figure 8 – Equipotential bonding in a structure with steel reinforcement.....	26
Figure 9 – Integration of conductive parts of internal systems into the bonding network .....	27
Figure 10 – Combinations of integration methods of conductive parts of internal systems into the bonding network .....	28
Figure A.1 – LEMP situation due to lightning strike .....	37
Figure A.2 – Simulation of the rise of magnetic field by damped oscillations .....	40
Figure A.3 – Large volume shield built by metal reinforcement and metal frames .....	41
Figure A.4 – Volume for electrical and electronic systems inside an inner LPZ n.....	42
Figure A.5 – Reducing induction effects by line routing and shielding measures.....	43
Figure A.6 – Example of SPM for an office building.....	45
Figure A.7 – Evaluation of the magnetic field values in case of a direct lightning strike .....	46
Figure A.8 – Evaluation of the magnetic field values in case of a nearby lightning strike .....	48
Figure A.9 – Distance $s_a$ depending on rolling sphere radius and structure dimensions .....	50
Figure A.10 – Types of grid-like large volume shields .....	52
Figure A.11 – Magnetic field strength $H_{1/MAX}$ inside a grid-like shield type 1.....	53
Figure A.12 – Magnetic field strength $H_{1/MAX}$ inside a grid-like shield type 1 according to mesh width.....	53
Figure A.13 – Low-level test to evaluate the magnetic field inside a shielded structure .....	55
Figure A.14 – Voltages and currents induced into a loop formed by lines.....	56
Figure B.1 – SPM design steps for an existing structure .....	63
Figure B.2 – Possibilities to establish LPZs in existing structures .....	67
Figure B.3 – Reduction of loop area using shielded cables close to a metal plate.....	69
Figure B.4 – Example of a metal plate for additional shielding.....	70
Figure B.5 – Protection of aerials and other external equipment.....	71
Figure B.6 – Inherent shielding provided by bonded ladders and pipes.....	72
Figure B.7 – Ideal positions for lines on a mast (cross-section of steel lattice mast) .....	72
Figure B.8 – Upgrading of the SPM in existing structures.....	74
Figure C.1 – Surge voltage between live conductor and bonding bar.....	79
Figure D.1 – Installation example of test Class I, Class II and Class III SPDs .....	83
Figure D.2 – Basic example for different sources of damage to a structure and lightning current distribution within a system.....	84
Figure D.3 – Basic example of balanced current distribution .....	85
Table 1 – Minimum cross-sections for bonding components .....	30
Table 2 – SPM management plan for new buildings and for extensive changes in construction or use of buildings.....	33
Table A.1 – Parameters relevant to source of harm and equipment.....	38
Table A.2 – Examples for $I_{0/MAX} = 100$ kA and $w_m = 2$ m .....	48
Table A.3 – Magnetic attenuation of grid-like spatial shields for a plane wave.....	49
Table A.4 – Rolling sphere radius corresponding to maximum lightning current.....	51
Table A.5 – Examples for $I_{0/MAX} = 100$ kA and $w_m = 2$ m corresponding to $SF = 12,6$ dB .....	51
Table B.1 – Structural characteristics and surroundings .....	60
Table B.2 – Installation characteristics.....	61
Table B.3 – Equipment characteristics .....	61

Table B.4 – Other questions to be considered for the protection concept.....	61
Table D.1 – Preferred values of $I_{imp}$ .....	82

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**PROTECTION AGAINST LIGHTNING –****Part 4: Electrical and electronic systems within structures**

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62305-4 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 81: Lightning protection.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published in 2006, and constitutes a technical revision.

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

- 1) Isolating interfaces capable of reducing conducted surges on lines entering the structure are introduced.
- 2) Minimum cross-sections for bonding components are slightly modified.
- 3) First negative impulse current is introduced for calculation purposes as electromagnetic source of harm to the internal systems.
- 4) Selection of SPD with regard to voltage protection level is improved to take into account oscillation and induction phenomena in the circuit downstream of SPD.
- 5) Annex C dealing with SPD coordination is withdrawn and referred back to SC 37A.

- 6) A new informative Annex D is introduced giving information on factors to be considered in the selection of SPDs.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
81/373/FDIS	81/383/RVD

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

This publication has been drafted, as closely as possible, in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 62305 series, under the general title *Protection against lightning*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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

A bilingual version of this standard may be issued at a later date.

## INTRODUCTION

Lightning as a source of harm is a very high energy phenomenon. Lightning flashes release many hundreds of mega-joules of energy. When compared with the milli-joules of energy that may be sufficient to cause damage to sensitive electronic equipment in electrical and electronic systems within a structure, it is clear that additional protection measures will be necessary to protect some of this equipment.

The need for this International Standard has arisen due to the increasing cost of failures of electrical and electronic systems, caused by electromagnetic effects of lightning. Of particular importance are electronic systems used in data processing and storage as well as process control and safety for plants of considerable capital cost, size and complexity (for which plant outages are very undesirable for cost and safety reasons).

Lightning can cause different types of damage in a structure, as defined in IEC 62305-1:

- D1 injury to living beings by electric shock;
- D2 physical damage (fire, explosion, mechanical destruction, chemical release) due to lightning current effects, including sparking;
- D3 failure of internal systems due to LEMP.

IEC 62305-3 deals with the protection measures to reduce the risk of physical damage and life hazard, but does not cover the protection of electrical and electronic systems.

This Part 4 of IEC 62305 therefore provides information on protection measures to reduce the risk of permanent failures of electrical and electronic systems within structures.

Permanent failure of electrical and electronic systems can be caused by the lightning electromagnetic impulse (LEMP) via:

- a) conducted and induced surges transmitted to equipment via connecting wiring;
- b) the effects of radiated electromagnetic fields directly into equipment itself.

Surges to the structure can originate from sources external to the structure or from within the structure itself:

- surges which originate externally from the structure are created by lightning flashes striking incoming lines or the nearby ground, and are transmitted to electrical and electronic systems within the structure via these lines;
- surges which originate internally within the structure are created by lightning flashes striking the structure itself or the nearby ground.

NOTE 1 Surges can also originate internally within the structure, from switching effects, e.g. switching of inductive loads.

The coupling can arise from different mechanisms:

- resistive coupling (e.g. the earth impedance of the earth-termination system or the cable shield resistance);
- magnetic field coupling (e.g. caused by wiring loops in the electrical and electronic system or by inductance of bonding conductors);
- electric field coupling (e.g. caused by rod antenna reception).

NOTE 2 The effects of electric field coupling are generally very small when compared to the magnetic field coupling and can be disregarded.

Radiated electromagnetic fields can be generated via

- the direct lightning current flowing in the lightning channel,
- the partial lightning current flowing in conductors (e.g. in the down-conductors of an external LPS in accordance with IEC 62305-3 or in an external spatial shield in accordance with this standard).



## PROTECTION AGAINST LIGHTNING –

### Part 4: Electrical and electronic systems within structures

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 62305 provides information for the design, installation, inspection, maintenance and testing of electrical and electronic system protection (SPM) to reduce the risk of permanent failures due to lightning electromagnetic impulse (LEMP) within a structure.

This standard does not cover protection against electromagnetic interference due to lightning, which may cause malfunctioning of internal systems. However, the information reported in Annex A can also be used to evaluate such disturbances. Protection measures against electromagnetic interference are covered in IEC 60364-4-44 <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>1</sup> and in the IEC 61000 series <sup>[2]</sup>.

This standard provides guidelines for cooperation between the designer of the electrical and electronic system, and the designer of the protection measures, in an attempt to achieve optimum protection effectiveness.

This standard does not deal with detailed design of the electrical and electronic systems themselves.

#### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60364-5-53:2001, *Electrical installations of buildings – Part 5-53: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Isolation, switching and control*

IEC 60664-1:2007, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC 61000-4-5:2005, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-5: Testing and measurement techniques – Surge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-9:1993, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-9: Testing and measurement techniques – Pulse magnetic field immunity test – Basic EMC Publication*

IEC 61000-4-10:1993, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-10: Testing and measurement techniques – Damped oscillatory magnetic field immunity test – Basic EMC Publication*

IEC 61643-1:2005, *Low-voltage surge protective devices – Part 1: Surge protective devices connected to low-voltage power distribution systems – Requirements and tests*

IEC 61643-12:2008, *Low-voltage surge protective devices – Part 12: Surge protective devices connected to low-voltage power distribution systems – Selection and application principles*

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<sup>1</sup> Figures in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

IEC 61643-21, *Low voltage surge protective devices – Part 21: Surge protective devices connected to telecommunications and signalling networks – Performance requirements and testing methods*

IEC 61643-22, *Low voltage surge protective devices – Part 22: Surge protective devices connected to telecommunications and signalling networks – Selection and application principles*

IEC 62305-1:2010, *Protection against lightning – Part 1: General principles*

IEC 62305-2:2010, *Protection against lightning – Part 2: Risk management*

IEC 62305-3:2010, *Protection against lightning – Part 3: Physical damage to structures and life hazard*