



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Wind energy generation systems – Part 28: Through-life management and life extension of wind power assets

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 27.180

ISBN 978-2-8327-0295-6

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	6
INTRODUCTION.....	8
1 Scope.....	10
2 Normative references	10
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms	11
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	11
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	16
4 User guidance: Concept of through-life management and lifetime extension	18
4.1 Overview.....	18
4.2 Data management.....	24
4.3 Reading guideline	24
5 Data management, requirements and uncertainty	28
5.1 Preamble	28
5.2 Data management.....	28
5.3 Data and information definition	29
5.4 Data / information sources	30
5.4.1 Design information.....	30
5.4.2 Meteorological data	31
5.4.3 Wind data from nacelle	31
5.4.4 Extreme site conditions.....	32
5.4.5 SCADA data	32
5.4.6 Instrumentation.....	33
5.4.7 Operational experience.....	33
5.4.8 Maintenance and field history	33
5.4.9 Inspection history	33
5.5 Data requirements for components in the primary load path.....	34
5.6 Data uncertainty.....	35
5.7 Classification of uncertainty	36
5.8 Data requirements for new wind farms	36
6 Risk management process.....	36
6.1 General approach	36
6.2 Scope of risk assessment	38
6.3 Life extension risk assessment	39
7 Wind farm operation, maintenance and inspections	39
7.1 Name plate and design class requirements	39
7.2 Replacement of structural or major components.....	40
7.3 Operation and maintenance	40
7.4 Physical inspections	42
7.5 Scheduling of physical inspections.....	42
7.5.1 General	42
7.5.2 Early life inspections (15 % to 25 % through operational life).....	43
7.5.3 Mid-life inspections (45 % to 55 % through operational life)	43
7.5.4 Life extension preparation inspections (70 % to 80 % through operational life).....	43
8 Condition and structural health monitoring.....	44
8.1 Purpose	44

8.2	CMD minimum necessary requirement	46
8.2.1	General	46
8.2.2	Vibration monitoring system (VMS)	46
8.2.3	Temperature monitoring	46
8.2.4	Oil and grease wear particle analysis	47
8.2.5	Site (wind) condition monitoring	48
8.3	Structural health and load monitoring	48
8.4	Data acquisition	48
8.5	Integration to asset management	49
8.5.1	General	49
8.5.2	Documentation	49
8.5.3	Business procedures	49
9	Health and safety information	50
10	Analytical assessment of turbine lifetime	50
10.1	Overview	50
10.2	Methods to determine loads	50
10.2.1	General	50
10.2.2	Relative assessment	51
10.2.3	Absolute assessment	51
10.3	Model data, input data and their uncertainties	52
Annex A (informative)	Health and safety – inspection and performance criteria	54
A.1	General	54
A.2	Content and format of any reports issued	56
A.3	Operation and maintenance data	57
Annex B (informative)	Data requirements for primary load path	58
B.1	Input data requirements	58
B.2	Condition monitoring data requirements	65
Annex C (informative)	Physical inspections – best practice for documentation of results, findings and insights	72
C.1	Physical inspections	72
C.2	Inspection scope	74
C.3	Highly recommended inspections	74
C.3.1	Tower	74
C.3.2	Blades	75
C.3.3	Pitch bearings	75
C.3.4	Yaw ring and bearing	75
C.3.5	Foundation	76
C.3.6	Transition piece (offshore)	76
C.3.7	Nacelle frame / bedplate	77
C.3.8	Hub	77
C.3.9	Bolted connections	78
C.3.10	Safety systems	78
C.3.11	Main bearing	79
C.3.12	Main shaft	79
C.4	Recommended inspections	79
C.4.1	Gearbox inspections	79
C.4.2	Generator inspection	79
C.4.3	Yaw drives	80

C.4.4	Nacelle condition	80
C.5	Scheduled service (change or prolong existing schedule service)	80
C.6	Additional inspections and testing	80
C.7	Inspection reporting	80
Annex D (informative)	Analytical assessment of turbine lifetime – relative approach with accuracy assessment	83
D.1	General.....	83
D.2	Sources of uncertainties	83
D.3	Input data uncertainty	83
D.4	Model sensitivity to input data	84
D.5	Model uncertainties.....	84
D.6	Uncertainty assessment by accuracy assessment numbers (AAN)	84
D.6.1	General	84
D.6.2	Example for the determination of AAN	87
D.7	Probabilistic assessment of remaining lifetime	89
Annex E (informative)	Minimal CMDs for rolling element bearings and hydraulic systems	90
E.1	Preamble	90
E.2	Bearing failure modes	91
E.3	The pragmatic approach	91
E.4	VMS.....	92
E.5	Temperatures	93
E.6	Grease cleanliness	93
E.7	Oil lubricant cleanliness (acceptable values over whole lifetime).....	95
Annex F (informative)	Example of a methodology for assessment of risk	97
F.1	Overview.....	97
F.2	Application of failure modes and effects analysis	97
F.3	Using the potential failure (P-F) interval to assess detectability.....	99
F.4	Summary	100
Annex G (informative)	Through-life management and remaining useful life	101
G.1	Through-life management	101
G.2	Life extension	102
G.3	Remaining useful life	104
Bibliography	107
Figure 1	– Updated assessments and estimates of component safety and remaining life	19
Figure 2	– Illustration of how the level of confidence can be improved by applying IEC TS 61400-28 (for example, relating to the estimated RUL)	20
Figure 3	– The 3 typical phases of operation of a wind turbine	21
Figure 4	– Effect on asset life due to improved strategies and increased levels of confidence	22
Figure 5	– Process of through-life management and lifetime extension – Data management is the backbone of the process.....	25
Figure 6	– Increase level of confidence, gradually by applying the methods	27
Figure 7	– Iterative sequence in general risk assessment procedures	37
Figure 8	– Condition and structural health monitoring management process	45
Figure D.1	– AAN levels.....	85

Figure D.2 – Load increase factors γ depending weighted model uncertainty and weighted data uncertainty	86
Figure E.1 – Example of reduction in life with filter rating (note L50 is shown here for illustrative purposes, whereas L10 life is used for wind turbine applications).....	96
Figure F.1 – Illustrative example showing the increase of RPN in later life due to increasing occurrence	98
Figure F.2 – Illustrative example of the management RPN by improving detectability in later life	99
Figure G.1 – Through-life management of a wind turbine	101
Figure G.2 – Through-life management of a wind farm	101
Figure G.3 – Life extension scenarios	103
Figure G.4 – Single component with no failures	104
Figure G.5 – Single component with symptom.....	105
Figure G.6 – Multiple components with symptoms	106
Table 1 – Comparison between definitions of remaining life used in this document	17
Table 2 – Classification of uncertainty.....	36
Table 3 – Key properties of failure mode and components of a risk priority number	38
Table 4 – Example of distinctions between data, information, advice and decision	46
Table B.1 – Input data requirements	59
Table B.2 – Condition monitoring data requirements	66
Table B.3 – Condition monitoring requirements for main bearings.....	67
Table B.4 – Condition monitoring requirements for gearbox	68
Table B.5 – Data requirements for yaw mechanism.....	69
Table B.6 – Data requirements for tower	70
Table B.7 – Data requirements for foundation	70
Table B.8 – Data requirements from measurements and characterisation of site conditions	71
Table C.1 – Required physical inspections.....	72
Table C.2 – Reporting inspection findings	81
Table D.1 – Relationship between COV of data and uncertainty category	83
Table D.2 – Weighted uncertainty	85
Table D.3 – Assessment of weighted data uncertainty	87
Table D.4 – Assessment of weighted data model uncertainty	88

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

WIND ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS –

**Part 28: Through-life management and
life extension of wind power assets**

FOREWORD

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IEC TS 61400-28 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 88: Wind energy generation systems. It is a Technical Specification.

The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
88/955/DTS	88/1053/RVDTS

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 Technical Specification 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. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61400 series, published under the general title *Wind energy generation systems*, 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 webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Technical Specification (TS) is to define a common basis for the management of physical and digital assets associated with wind farms throughout the operating life. The objective is to ensure the integrity of the structure whilst operating, both within the design life and beyond. The focus of the guidance in this document is safety, defined as ensuring the structural integrity of the components in the primary load path of a given turbine or site and the continued function of critical systems. It is anticipated the reader will make an assessment of risks and uncertainties, aligned with safety, technical and commercial requirements of the particular project, in order to determine the level of detail justified for any assessments undertaken.

This document has been published to enable wind farm operators to manage the production of electricity from wind turbines for the longest possible safe time, delaying the unnecessary social and environmental costs of premature decommissioning. Defined here are the procedures for amassing the minimum body of evidence to justify continued operation.

It is highlighted that the cumulative uncertainty, as defined in ISO/IEC guide 98-3 and estimated using methods defined in this document, including uncertainties in calculations, are used to estimate the variability of the results. It is described how this variability is to be stated alongside any estimates of remaining life of components.

Regarding risks to personnel or third parties, no attempt is made to incorporate the many individual interpretations by regulatory authorities in different regions or jurisdictions.

The earlier in the wind farm operational life the guidance in this document is implemented the better, but suitable procedures can be developed and followed, by any stakeholder, at any point in the life of a wind farm. The guidance should be applied to each mode of failure for each component in the primary load path and associated critical systems. Estimates of life can be made, relating to the most significant mode of failure and taking full account of specific conditions at the site and operational practices. Phases of operation, at which this guidance can be applied, include amongst others the following:

- reviews of site-specific assessed life prior to construction,
- site specific expected life at end-of-warranty,
- points of re-financing and sale,
- proposed extended operation beyond the site-specific assessed life.

The guidance can be used by designers, manufacturers, developers, operators or third parties and can be used as part of due diligence. Application by stakeholders of practices and techniques specified in this document can be used to minimise costs of operation and maximise safe, useful, productive life. In particular, recommendations are given and approaches described for the assessment of the following examples of situations:

- historical duty, usage and working life consumed,
- current component health, and
- expected future remaining life.

These could be used to assess the condition and productivity of individual turbines, safety systems and the primary structure at specific turbine locations within a wind farm or comprehensively for all locations of a site. The principles defined, practical guidance and theoretical techniques described could be used to update the expected useful life of the assets. Additionally, assessments of expected technical availability, reliability and safe operation beyond the end of the design life could also be made.

IEC 61400-1, IEC 61400-2, IEC 61400-3-1 and IEC 61400-3-2, contain minimal requirements for design, ensuring structural integrity of wind turbines, under standardized classes of meteorological conditions and operational practices. Also included are many other contextual conditions affecting loading and expected life. IECRE OD-502 describes the certification of a wind farm project. If the wind farm is certified, loads analysis will be used to estimate site specific life prior to construction. IEC TS 61400-28 is the only document amongst the IEC 61400 series which describes the following:

- method for updating the lifetime (estimated prior to construction) for a specific site,
- which is being operated under specific site conditions and management procedures,
- which shows symptoms of degradation, having experienced specific modifications, faults or failures, taking into account evidence of turbine reliability, changes of operational status, including starts, stops, errors, warnings, curtailment, sector management and grid outages.

It is recommended to re-assess the lifetime on this basis at regular periods during the life of the wind farm. In particular, it should be assessed whether or not it would be safe to continue operation of the wind farm, beyond the expected lifetime or beyond that stated in the type certificate, if available for the wind turbine. Turbines could prove to be safe and suitable to produce additional electricity, either during or beyond the site-specific lifetime. It is important to note that these are estimates of remaining lifetime, whether based on observations, measurements, statistical methods or simulations. The actual lifetime, with respect to the most significant mode of failure, can be longer or shorter.

It could be appropriate to adjust the values of factors of safety or uncertainties, which were applied prior to construction at the design stage, associated with key parameters required to estimate integrity and life. Evidence to support any such adjusted values is provided, whether through applying best practices of wind farm operation, collecting information about the conditions at each turbine, the production, the maintenance tasks undertaken, the condition of critical components, the modes of failure and their consequences.

This document may be used to define the technical inputs to any economic assessments, developed by stakeholders to value assets throughout their lifetime, but does not describe any particular economic models.

The focus of this document is on components in the primary load path and the safety system. For loading and structural integrity, accumulation of fatigue damage is described. Regarding ultimate limit states, however, comprehensive guidance is not given about methods to reassess and update the statistics of extreme conditions, faults and failures which contribute to the ultimate limit state. Detailed analyses of the reliability of components outside the primary load path are not described here, even though these aspects could contribute to the objectives of this document. It is left to the reader to extend the methods described in this document if relevant to topics relating to component reliability, with reference to IEC TS 61400-26-4.

WIND ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS –

Part 28: Through-life management and life extension of wind power assets

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61400, which is a Technical Specification, sets out minimum requirements for actions, investigations and assessments to ensure the continued structural integrity of wind farm assets, particularly wind turbines, aimed at verifying that they remain safe for personnel to operate. The document describes how to maintain those assets and collect suitable evidence to demonstrate to third parties that risks are minimised, particularly where risks are related to collateral damage or injury, such as could be suffered by personnel or structures neighbouring the wind farm.

Covered in this document are assessments of current condition and remaining useful life, resulting in the technical basis for justifying extended operation beyond the design life (defined in 3.1.3) and also beyond the site specific assessed lifetime, whichever is shorter, for structural or major components and systems contributing to primary layer of the safety system. Guidance is also given on how best to manage a wind farm throughout the operational life.

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 60300-3-11:2009, *Dependability management – Application guide – Reliability centred maintenance*

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

IEC 61400-1:2019, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 1: Design requirements*

IEC 61400-2, *Wind turbines – Part 2: Small wind turbines*

IEC 61400-3-1:2019, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 3-1: Design requirements for fixed offshore wind turbines*

IEC 61400-3-2, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 3-2: Design requirements for floating offshore wind turbines*

IEC 61400-6, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 6: Tower and foundation design requirements*

IEC 61400-12-1, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 12-1: Power performance measurements of electricity producing wind turbines*

IEC 61400-12-2, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 12-2: Power performance measurements of electricity producing wind turbines based on nacelle anemometry*

IEC 61400-13, *Wind turbines – Part 13: Measurement of mechanical loads*

IEC 61400-25-1:2017, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 25-1: Communications for monitoring and control of wind power plants – Overall description of principles and models*

IEC 61400-25-2:2015, *Wind turbines – Part 25-2: Communications for monitoring and control of wind power plants – Information models*

IEC 61400-26-1, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 26-1: Availability for wind energy generation systems*

IEC TS 61400-26-4, *Wind energy generation systems – Part 26-4: Reliability of wind energy generation systems*

IEC 61511 (all parts), *Functional safety – Safety instrumented systems for the process industry sector*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 *Uncertainty of measurement – Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

ISO 13381-1:2015, *Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machines – Prognostics – Part 1: General guidelines*

ISO 13822, *Bases of design for structures – Assessment of existing structures*

ISO 2394:2015, *General principles on reliability for structures*

EN 1990, *Basis of structural design*

WMO-TD No 1186, *Guidelines on Climate Data and Homogenization*