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Cathodic protection of offshore wind structures

Protection cathodique des structures éoliennes en mer



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Foreword

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Introduction

Cathodic protection (CP), possibly together with protective coating, is applied to protect the immersed external surfaces of offshore wind farm structures and appurtenances from corrosion due to seawater or seabed environments.

CP, possibly together with protective coating, can be applied to protect the internal flooded and seabed and sediment exposed surfaces from corrosion.

The general principles of CP in seawater are detailed in ISO 12473.

CP involves the supply of sufficient direct current to the surfaces of the structure in order to reduce the steel to electrolyte potential to values where corrosion is considered insignificant or acceptably low.

CP is designed to protect the submerged and buried areas of the structure from corrosion. The parts that are not permanently immersed will not be permanently protected by the CP system.

This document introduces guidance for the use of available metocean data to

- assess the CP demand of immersed and frequently wetted areas
- determine seawater flow velocities to assess the CP design parameters

This is in addition to the primary use of the metocean data in structural design.

This document does not require the CP designer to be expert in metocean data; it gives guidance on data which should be available from metocean specialists and which is required in the CP design process.