

# IEEE Guide for Loading Dry-Type Distribution and Power Transformers

IEEE Power and Energy Society

Sponsored by the  
Transformers Committee



**IEEE Std C57.96™-2013**

(Revision of  
IEEE Std C57.96-1999)

# **IEEE Guide for Loading Dry-Type Distribution and Power Transformers**

Sponsor

**Transformers Committee**  
of the  
**IEEE Power and Energy Society**

Approved 11 December 2013

**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** General recommendations for the loading of dry-type distribution and power transformers installed in ventilated, non-ventilated, and sealed type enclosures are included in this standard.

**Keywords:** ambient temperature, constant load, hottest-spot temperature, IEEE C57.96™, loading capability, loading transformer, rated output, resin-encapsulated, solid-cast transformer, time constant, transient loading

---

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5997, USA

Copyright © 2014 by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Published 27 January 2014. Printed in the United States of America.

IEEE is a registered trademark in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, owned by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated.

PDF: ISBN 978-0-7381-8831-7 STD98484  
Print: ISBN 978-0-7381-8832-4 STDPD98484

*IEEE prohibits discrimination, harassment, and bullying.*

For more information, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/whatis/policies/p9-26.html>.

*No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, in an electronic retrieval system or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.*

## **Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Standards Documents**

IEEE documents are made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers, or a reference to this page, appear in all standards and may be found under the heading “Important Notice” or “Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Standards Documents.”

### **Notice and Disclaimer of Liability Concerning the Use of IEEE Standards Documents**

IEEE Standards documents (standards, recommended practices, and guides), both full-use and trial-use, are developed within IEEE Societies and the Standards Coordinating Committees of the IEEE Standards Association (“IEEE-SA”) Standards Board. IEEE (“the Institute”) develops its standards through a consensus development process, approved by the American National Standards Institute (“ANSI”), which brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve the final product. Volunteers are not necessarily members of the Institute and participate without compensation from IEEE. While IEEE administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the consensus development process, IEEE does not independently evaluate, test, or verify the accuracy of any of the information or the soundness of any judgments contained in its standards.

IEEE does not warrant or represent the accuracy or content of the material contained in its standards, and expressly disclaims all warranties (express, implied and statutory) not included in this or any other document relating to the standard, including, but not limited to, the warranties of: merchantability; fitness for a particular purpose; non-infringement; and quality, accuracy, effectiveness, currency, or completeness of material. In addition, IEEE disclaims any and all conditions relating to: results; and workmanlike effort. IEEE standards documents are supplied “AS IS” and “WITH ALL FAULTS.”

Use of an IEEE standard is wholly voluntary. The existence of an IEEE standard does not imply that there are no other ways to produce, test, measure, purchase, market, or provide other goods and services related to the scope of the IEEE standard. Furthermore, the viewpoint expressed at the time a standard is approved and issued is subject to change brought about through developments in the state of the art and comments received from users of the standard.

In publishing and making its standards available, IEEE is not suggesting or rendering professional or other services for, or on behalf of, any person or entity nor is IEEE undertaking to perform any duty owed by any other person or entity to another. Any person utilizing any IEEE Standards document, should rely upon his or her own independent judgment in the exercise of reasonable care in any given circumstances or, as appropriate, seek the advice of a competent professional in determining the appropriateness of a given IEEE standard.

IN NO EVENT SHALL IEEE BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE PUBLICATION, USE OF, OR RELIANCE UPON ANY STANDARD, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGE WAS FORESEEABLE.

### **Translations**

The IEEE consensus development process involves the review of documents in English only. In the event that an IEEE standard is translated, only the English version published by IEEE should be considered the approved IEEE standard.

## **Official statements**

A statement, written or oral, that is not processed in accordance with the IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual shall not be considered or inferred to be the official position of IEEE or any of its committees and shall not be considered to be, or be relied upon as, a formal position of IEEE. At lectures, symposia, seminars, or educational courses, an individual presenting information on IEEE standards shall make it clear that his or her views should be considered the personal views of that individual rather than the formal position of IEEE.

## **Comments on standards**

Comments for revision of IEEE Standards documents are welcome from any interested party, regardless of membership affiliation with IEEE. However, IEEE does not provide consulting information or advice pertaining to IEEE Standards documents. Suggestions for changes in documents should be in the form of a proposed change of text, together with appropriate supporting comments. Since IEEE standards represent a consensus of concerned interests, it is important that any responses to comments and questions also receive the concurrence of a balance of interests. For this reason, IEEE and the members of its societies and Standards Coordinating Committees are not able to provide an instant response to comments or questions except in those cases where the matter has previously been addressed. For the same reason, IEEE does not respond to interpretation requests. Any person who would like to participate in revisions to an IEEE standard is welcome to join the relevant IEEE working group.

Comments on standards should be submitted to the following address:

Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board  
445 Hoes Lane  
Piscataway, NJ 08854 USA

## **Laws and regulations**

Users of IEEE Standards documents should consult all applicable laws and regulations. Compliance with the provisions of any IEEE Standards document does not imply compliance to any applicable regulatory requirements. Implementers of the standard are responsible for observing or referring to the applicable regulatory requirements. IEEE does not, by the publication of its standards, intend to urge action that is not in compliance with applicable laws, and these documents may not be construed as doing so.

## **Copyrights**

IEEE draft and approved standards are copyrighted by IEEE under U.S. and international copyright laws. They are made available by IEEE and are adopted for a wide variety of both public and private uses. These include both use, by reference, in laws and regulations, and use in private self-regulation, standardization, and the promotion of engineering practices and methods. By making these documents available for use and adoption by public authorities and private users, IEEE does not waive any rights in copyright to the documents.

## **Photocopies**

Subject to payment of the appropriate fee, IEEE will grant users a limited, non-exclusive license to photocopy portions of any individual standard for company or organizational internal use or individual, non-commercial use only. To arrange for payment of licensing fees, please contact Copyright Clearance Center, Customer Service, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 USA; +1 978 750 8400. Permission to photocopy portions of any individual standard for educational classroom use can also be obtained through the Copyright Clearance Center.

## Updating of IEEE Standards documents

Users of IEEE Standards documents should be aware that these documents may be superseded at any time by the issuance of new editions or may be amended from time to time through the issuance of amendments, corrigenda, or errata. An official IEEE document at any point in time consists of the current edition of the document together with any amendments, corrigenda, or errata then in effect.

Every IEEE standard is subjected to review at least every ten years. When a document is more than ten years old and has not undergone a revision process, it is reasonable to conclude that its contents, although still of some value, do not wholly reflect the present state of the art. Users are cautioned to check to determine that they have the latest edition of any IEEE standard.

In order to determine whether a given document is the current edition and whether it has been amended through the issuance of amendments, corrigenda, or errata, visit the IEEE-SA Website at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/standards.jsp> or contact IEEE at the address listed previously. For more information about the IEEE-SA or IEEE's standards development process, visit the IEEE-SA Website at <http://standards.ieee.org>.

## Errata

Errata, if any, for all IEEE standards can be accessed on the IEEE-SA [Website at the following URL: http://standards.ieee.org/findstds/errata/index.html](http://standards.ieee.org/findstds/errata/index.html). Users are encouraged to check this URL for errata periodically.

## Patents

Attention is called to the possibility that implementation of this standard may require use of subject matter covered by patent rights. By publication of this standard, no position is taken by the IEEE with respect to the existence or validity of any patent rights in connection therewith. If a patent holder or patent applicant has filed a statement of assurance via an Accepted Letter of Assurance, then the statement is listed on the IEEE-SA Website at <http://standards.ieee.org/about/sasb/patcom/patents.html>. Letters of Assurance may indicate whether the Submitter is willing or unwilling to grant licenses under patent rights without compensation or under reasonable rates, with reasonable terms and conditions that are demonstrably free of any unfair discrimination to applicants desiring to obtain such licenses.

Essential Patent Claims may exist for which a Letter of Assurance has not been received. The IEEE is not responsible for identifying Essential Patent Claims for which a license may be required, for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of Patents Claims, or determining whether any licensing terms or conditions provided in connection with submission of a Letter of Assurance, if any, or in any licensing agreements are reasonable or non-discriminatory. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, is entirely their own responsibility. Further information may be obtained from the IEEE Standards Association.

## Participants

At the time this IEEE guide was completed, the Dry-Type Distribution and Power Transformer Loading Working Group had the following membership:

### **Richard P. Marek, *Chair***

James Antweiler  
Robert Ballard  
Carl Bush  
Terry Drees  
Derek Foster  
Juan Gutierrez  
Timothy Holdway  
Mike Iman  
John John

Charles Johnson  
Aleksandr Levin  
Donald MacMillan  
Rogelio Martinez  
Aniruddha Narawane  
Martin Navarro  
Dhiru Patel  
Paulette Powell

Lewis Powell  
Mangesh Rajadhyaksha  
Anil Sawant  
Sanjib Som  
David Stankes  
Kerwin Stretch  
Vijay Tendulkar  
Robert Thompson  
Albert Walls

The following members of the individual balloting committee voted on this guide. Balloters may have voted for approval, disapproval, or abstention.

James Antweiler  
Robert Ballard  
Peter Balma  
Jeffrey Benach  
Wallace Binder  
Thomas Bishop  
Thomas Blackburn  
Carl Bush  
William Byrd  
Thomas Callsen  
Paul Cardinal  
John Crouse  
Glenn Davis  
Ray Davis  
Gary Donner  
Henry Earle  
Dan Evans  
Rabiz Foda  
Joseph Foldi  
Marcel Fortin  
Derek Foster  
Doaa Galal  
Jalal Gohari  
Randall Groves  
Bal Gupta  
Ajit Gwal  
Charles Haahr  
David Harris

Roger Hayes  
Gary Heuston  
Timothy Holdway  
Jill Holmes  
Philip Hopkinson  
John Houdek  
John John  
Charles Johnson  
Laszlo Kadar  
Sheldon Kennedy  
Yuri Khersonsky  
Jim Kulchisky  
Saumen Kundu  
John Lackey  
Chung-Yiu Lam  
Stephen Lambert  
Aleksandr Levin  
Thomas Lundquist  
Richard P. Marek  
Omar Mazzoni  
Daniel Mulkey  
Jerry Murphy  
K. R. M. Nair  
Martin Navarro  
Arthur Neubauer  
Michael Newman  
Raymond Nicholas  
Joe Nims

Lorraine Padden  
Bansi Patel  
Wesley Patterson  
Paulette Powell  
Brian Penny  
Alvaro Portillo  
Iulian Profir  
Michael Roberts  
Charles Rogers  
Oleg Roizman  
John Rossetti  
Thomas Rozek  
Bartien Sayogo  
James Smith  
Jerry Smith  
David Stankes  
Gary Stoedter  
Radoslaw Szweczyk  
David Tepen  
Robert Thompson  
John Vergis  
Jane Verner  
Tony Weekes  
Kenneth White  
Roger Wicks  
James Wilson  
Jian Yu  
Kipp Yule

When the IEEE-SA Standards Board approved this guide on 11 December 2013, it had the following membership:

**John Kulick, *Chair***  
**David J. Law, *Vice Chair***  
**Richard H. Hulett, *Past Chair***  
**Konstantinos Karachalios, *Secretary***

Masayuki Ariyoshi  
Peter Balma  
Farooq Bari  
Ted Burse  
Stephen Dukes  
Jean-Philippe Faure  
Alexander Gelman

Mark Halpin  
Gary Hoffman  
Paul Houzé  
Jim Hughes  
Michael Janezic  
Joseph L. Koepfinger\*  
Oleg Logvinov  
Ron Petersen

Gary Robinson  
Jon Walter Rosdahl  
Adrian Stephens  
Peter Sutherland  
Yatin Trivedi  
Phil Winston  
Yu Yuan

\*Member Emeritus

Also included are the following nonvoting IEEE-SA Standards Board liaisons:

Richard DeBlasio, *DOE Representative*  
Michael Janezic, *NIST Representative*

Patrick Gibbons  
*IEEE Standards Program Manager, Document Development*

Erin Spiewak  
*IEEE Standards Program Manager, Technical Program Development*

## Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std C57.96-2013, IEEE Guide for Loading Dry-Type Distribution and Power Transformers.

This guide covers the loading of dry-type distribution and power transformers and has been developed to cover modern dry-type transformers through 10 000 kVA. The insulation systems referred to in this document meet the thermal evaluation criteria established by the now withdrawn IEEE Std C57.12.56<sup>TM</sup>-1986<sup>a</sup> or the replacement document, IEEE Std C57.12.60<sup>TM</sup>.

Work completed by the IEEE Insulation Life Subcommittee, comprising life test on transformer models, is the basis for the insulation life versus temperature relationship, designated as minimum life expectancy in IEEE Std C57.12.56-1986 and IEEE C57.12.60, which in turn are based on the Arrhenius reaction rate theory. To avoid ambiguity, this guide will use the term “life expectancy” to indicate the life to be expected at a given temperature. The “normal life expectancy” at rated hottest-spot temperature in a 30 °C ambient is expected to be 20 years. For calculation purposes, 180 000 h is used as the expected lifetime.

This revision of the guide combined the content for all dry-type transformers, including those with solid-cast and/or resin-encapsulated epoxy windings into the main body of the document. In addition, the computer programs in Annex B have been updated to include all transformer types, and detailed examples of loading and aging have been provided in Annex C. Moreover, the document has been updated to reflect the current IEEE Style Guide format.

---

<sup>a</sup> Information on references can be found in Clause 2.

## Contents

1. Overview .....	1
1.1 Scope .....	1
1.2 Purpose .....	1
2. Normative references.....	1
3. Definitions .....	2
4. Overview .....	2
4.1 General information.....	2
4.2 Transformer life expectancy .....	3
4.3 Transformer rated output .....	3
4.4 Aging of insulation .....	4
4.5 Ambient temperature .....	4
5. Loading equations .....	5
5.1 Continuous loading.....	5
5.2 Transient loading .....	6
5.3 Time constants.....	7
5.4 Calculation of loading capability.....	8
6. Loading based on life expectancy .....	12
6.1 Basic conditions.....	12
6.2 Factors affecting transformer life .....	12
6.3 Lifetime .....	13
6.4 Example deriving lifetime calculation constants .....	14
6.5 Method of converting actual load cycle to equivalent constant load .....	15
6.6 Temperature limits for loading above rating .....	17
6.7 Daily load calculations .....	18
6.8 Other limitations .....	19
Annex A (informative) Bibliography .....	20
Annex B (informative) Computer programs.....	21
B.1 Short time loading based on nameplate rating .....	21
B.2 Loading above rating to give normal life expectancy during a one-day period .....	23
Annex C (informative) Example calculations .....	27
C.1 Overloads at constant temperature .....	27
C.2 Short time overload for a step change in load.....	28
C.3 Life analysis with variable loads.....	31



# IEEE Guide for Loading Dry-Type Distribution and Power Transformers

*IMPORTANT NOTICE: IEEE Standards documents are not intended to ensure safety, security, health, or environmental protection, or ensure against interference with or from other devices or networks. Implementers of IEEE Standards documents are responsible for determining and complying with all appropriate safety, security, environmental, health, and interference protection practices and all applicable laws and regulations.*

*This IEEE document is made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers appear in all publications containing this document and may be found under the heading “Important Notice” or “Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Documents.” They can also be obtained on request from IEEE or viewed at <http://standards.ieee.org/IPR/disclaimers.html>.*

## 1. Overview

### 1.1 Scope

This guide covers general recommendations for the loading of dry-type distribution and power transformers installed in ventilated, non-ventilated, and sealed type enclosures.

### 1.2 Purpose

This document provides users with guidelines and limitations for loading dry-type transformers according to nameplate rating. Guidance is also provided for assessing the risks and consequences of loading above nameplate rating.

## 2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document (i.e., they must be understood and used, so each referenced document is cited in text and its relationship to this document is explained). For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments or corrigenda) applies.