



BSI Standards Publication

## Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage – Environmental aspects

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## National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

# SPECIFICATION TECHNIQUE



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**Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage –  
Environmental aspects**

**Appareillages et ensembles d'appareillages basse tension –  
Aspects environnementaux**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
ELECTROTECHNIQUE  
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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms .....	9
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	9
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	15
4 Environmental aspects of switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies.....	15
4.1 Product description and classification .....	15
4.2 Environmental aspects.....	17
5 Environmentally conscious design .....	18
5.1 General.....	18
5.2 "Cradle to grave" approach .....	19
5.3 Inputs .....	20
5.4 Outputs.....	21
5.5 Qualitative and quantitative assessments.....	21
6 PSR for life cycle assessments.....	21
6.1 General.....	21
6.2 LCA functional unit.....	22
6.2.1 General .....	22
6.2.2 LCA FU for low-voltage SG&CG .....	22
6.2.3 LCA FU for low-voltage SG&CG assemblies .....	26
6.3 Basic cut-off rules .....	26
6.3.1 Cut-off rules for low-voltage SG&CG .....	26
6.3.2 Cut-off rules for low-voltage SG&CG assemblies .....	27
6.4 System boundaries .....	27
7 Material declaration .....	27
7.1 General.....	27
7.2 Additional reporting requirements .....	28
7.3 Information provision .....	28
8 EOL information .....	28
8.1 General.....	28
8.2 End of life treatment scenario .....	29
8.3 Calculation of recoverability and recyclability rate .....	30
8.4 Calculation workflow of recoverability and recyclability rates.....	31
8.5 Information provision .....	31
Annex A (informative) Environmental aspects in environmentally conscious design .....	32
A.1 General.....	32
A.2 Inputs and outputs to be considered .....	32
A.2.1 General .....	32
A.2.2 Inputs .....	32
A.2.3 Outputs.....	32
A.3 Tools for including environmental impacts in product design and development .....	33
Annex B (normative) PSR parameters and default scenarios for LCA.....	34

B.1	Common aspects .....	34
B.1.1	General .....	34
B.1.2	Manufacturing.....	34
B.1.3	Distribution .....	34
B.1.4	Installation and de-installation .....	34
B.1.5	Use.....	34
B.1.6	End of life .....	35
B.2	PSR parameters and default scenarios for low-voltage SG&CG .....	35
B.2.1	General .....	35
B.2.2	Use scenarios for switchgear and controlgear.....	35
B.3	PSR parameters and default scenarios for assemblies.....	37
B.3.1	General .....	37
B.3.2	Manufacturing phase of assemblies.....	37
B.3.3	Use phase of assemblies.....	37
Annex C (normative)	LCA of low-voltage SC&CG and their assemblies through use of standard impact indicators .....	39
C.1	General.....	39
C.2	Calculation rules .....	39
C.3	Explanations for large mean deviations in standard life-cycle indicators.....	40
C.4	Standard life-cycle impact indicators for low-voltage SG&CG.....	40
C.5	Recommendations for use of LCA impact indicators.....	41
Annex D (informative)	Example of material declaration .....	42
Annex E (informative)	Brief introduction to life cycle assessment.....	47
E.1	General.....	47
E.2	Definition of the goal and scope of the LCA .....	47
E.3	Inventory analysis.....	47
E.4	Impact assessment.....	48
E.5	Interpretation .....	48
Bibliography	.....	49
Figure 1	– Overview of the defined product families of low-voltage SG&CG .....	16
Figure 2	– ECD considering upstream and downstream product information .....	17
Figure 3	– Conceptual relationship between provisions in product standards and the environmental impacts associated with the product during its life cycle.....	20
Figure D.1	– Main and business information (graphical representation of the XML code).....	43
Figure D.2	– Product information (graphical representation of the XML code) .....	44
Figure D.3	– Declarable substances information (graphical representation of the XML code).....	45
Figure D.4	– Material classes information (graphical representation of the XML code) .....	46
Table 1	– Overview of the standard structure, the content and the corresponding clauses .....	17
Table 2	– LCA FU for low-voltage SG&CG .....	22
Table 3	– Further explanation of the generic EOL treatment scenario .....	29
Table B.1	– Default use scenarios for switchgear and controlgear <sup>a</sup> .....	36
Table B.2	– Use scenarios for calculating impacts of assemblies .....	37
Table B.3	– Default load conditions for typical circuits in assemblies .....	37

Table C.1 – Standard life-cycle impact indicators for low-voltage SG&CG .....	40
Table D.1 – Main and business information (tabular form).....	42
Table D.2 – Product information (tabular form).....	43
Table D.3 – Declarable substances information (tabular form) .....	44
Table D.4 – Material classes information (tabular form) .....	46

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR AND  
THEIR ASSEMBLIES FOR LOW VOLTAGE –****Environmental aspects**

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IEC TS 63058 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 121: Switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies for low voltage. It is a Technical Specification.

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

Draft TS	Report on voting
121/54/DTS	121/58A/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](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications](http://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications).

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## INTRODUCTION

Increasingly, there is a focus on preserving the natural environment for the good of future generations. For this to be achieved, efficient use of energy and materials throughout the life cycle of every product and process to conserve world's finite natural resources is essential. In addition, release of substances and materials that might be harmful for the environment or induce climatic changes are to be avoided or minimized. From conception to end of life of a product, the environmental impact of all the relevant processes should be considered, including how materials are disposed of or recovered for future use.

In order to contribute to conserving natural resources, manufacturers of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies should ensure an environmentally conscious design (ECD) involving:

- phasing-out or minimizing use of hazardous substances or materials;
- efficient use of energy and materials in the manufacture of products;
- ensuring the lowest practical energy consumption by the products while they are in use;
- at the end of product life, the possibility, as far as practical, of recycling materials for future use, and sorting hazardous components requiring a specific treatment.

Declarations and ECD are increasingly required and in some instances mandated. These can take several forms, for example, Type II or Type III environmental declaration, material declaration (MD). In some business, Green Public Procurement (GPP) is applicable and/or ECD is part of the ISO 14001 certification. Some countries and regions are also actively pushing for environmental conservation, for example, the European Union through its Ecodesign Directive and China through Ecodesign Initiative. Systematic demands for ECD will be required by most, if not all customers, in the medium term.

Assessing the environmental impact of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies is part of an ECD process. ECD requires the identification, measurement and reporting of particular impacts. IEC 62430 describes the basic principles of ECD, with the goal of reducing the potential environmental impacts of products.

Generally, the environmental impact of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies is very low compared with that of the overall system into which they are incorporated and the processes to which they contribute. The lifetime impact of processes such as the air-conditioning of a building, the manufacture of steel or shipping far exceed that of the manufacture and use of any associated low-voltage switchgear and controlgear.

Even though low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies have a relatively minor impact on the environment, there is a market need for appropriate methods for managing these environmental matters. A simplified means of estimating the environmental impacts is required together with readily available data to make the stakeholder's, for example contractor's, installer's and end user's, task of assessing environmental impacts at system level easier.

Specific rules for assessing the environmental impacts and providing appropriate data for low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies are among the purposes of this document. These rules establish a common evaluation scheme of their environmental impacts in terms of characterized impact indicators (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents, ozone depletion) over their whole life cycle.

# SWITCHGEAR AND CONTROLGEAR AND THEIR ASSEMBLIES FOR LOW VOLTAGE –

## Environmental aspects

### 1 Scope

This document, which is a Technical Specification, provides guidance to manufacturers of low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies in evaluating and improving the environmental impact of their products, and in enabling effective communication using common references for environmental information throughout the supply chain.

This document provides:

- guidance on the process and general aspects to implement environmentally-conscious product design principles, as given in IEC 62430, essential for low-voltage switchgear and controlgear and their assemblies;
- the Product Specific Rules (PSR) for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA);

NOTE 1 The general methods and the process to execute the LCA are in accordance with ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 but not addressed in this document.

NOTE 2 PSR and LCA can be used for quantitative ECD and also apply for some environmental declarations, for example Type III.

- standard environmental impact data derived from case studies and a means of using them;
- common rules for communicating information about the presence of regulated substances and the materials contained in the product, according to IEC 62474;
- guidance on communicating information about the end of life treatment of the product.

NOTE 4 This document is intended to replace Annex O and Annex W of IEC 60947-1:2020.

### 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 60050-904, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 904: Environmental standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems* (available at [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org))

IEC 61439-1:2020, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies – Part 1: General rules*

IEC 62430:2019, *Environmentally conscious design (ECD) – Principles, requirements and guidance*

IEC 62474:2018, *Material declaration for products of and for the electrotechnical industry*

IEC 62474-DB<sup>1</sup>, *Material declaration for products of and for the electrotechnical industry* (available at <http://std.iec.ch/iec62474>)

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<sup>1</sup> "DB" refers to the IEC on-line database.