



BSI Standards Publication

Managing fire risk related to photovoltaic (PV) systems on buildings

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 REPORT



Managing fire risk related to photovoltaic (PV) systems on buildings

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 27.160

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Risk evaluation	7
4.1 General.....	7
4.2 Site selection	7
4.3 Aspects for building risk evaluation	7
4.3.1 Roofing materials.....	7
4.3.2 Building construction	8
4.3.3 Building contents	8
4.3.4 Use of building.....	9
4.3.5 Building type considerations regarding financial risks	9
4.4 Measures for supporting firefighter and rescue service operations	9
4.4.1 General	9
4.4.2 Response times of emergency responders and available apparatus.....	10
4.4.3 Geometry, height, accessibility of building	10
4.4.4 Coordination with fire alarm systems	11
4.5 Other organizational aspects.....	11
4.5.1 Briefing fire services in on-site specific aspects	11
4.5.2 Harmonize measures with fire protection measures of building	12
4.5.3 Harmonize measures with owner, user and building and inventory insurance.....	12
5 Technical PV system design measures for fire prevention	12
5.1 General.....	12
5.2 Initial PV system design considerations to minimize risk	12
5.2.1 General	12
5.2.2 Ventilation	12
5.2.3 Accumulation of flammable material.....	13
5.2.4 Cabling	13
5.3 Arc-fault detection.....	13
5.4 Earth-fault detection.....	14
5.5 Automatic shutdown after first fault	14
5.6 Coverboard	14
6 Technical PV system design measures for supporting firefighter and rescue service operations	15
6.1 General.....	15
6.2 Initial PV system design considerations to minimize risk	15
6.2.1 General	15
6.2.2 DC cable lengths and routing.....	15
6.2.3 DC cabling marking	15
6.2.4 Access pathways and escape routes	15
6.2.5 Caution board.....	15
6.3 Generator/string-level shutdown	15
6.4 Module-level control, ELV-systems, distributed array protection.....	16
6.5 Cable routing measures	17

6.6	Fire-resistant cable raceways.....	17
7	Installation and commissioning	17
7.1	General.....	17
7.2	Important installation requirements impacting risk	17
7.3	Commissioning procedures	18
7.4	Documentation – clear installation, owners, fire services and maintenance manuals for PV equipment	18
8	Operation and maintenance.....	18
8.1	General.....	18
8.2	Inspection of electric system	18
8.3	Inspection of mounting structure and building influence	19
8.4	Inspection of pathways	19
8.5	Cleaning	19
8.6	Thermography.....	19
8.7	Recommendations for empty buildings or systems not under supervision.....	19
9	Corrective measures after fire	19
9.1	General.....	19
9.2	Measures to avoid safety risks or further damage	19
9.3	Safety inspection	20
9.4	Measures to bring PV system into a safe state.....	20
Annex A (informative)	Analysis from fire incidents in PV systems.....	21
A.1	General.....	21
A.2	Component where fire started	22
A.3	Cause of incident.....	23
A.4	When did incidents occur?	25
	Bibliography.....	26
	Figure 1 – Cable routing related to pathways	11
	Figure A.1 – Number of identified incidents and severity of effect on surroundings for a total of about 400 fire reports	21
	Figure A.2 – Distribution of fire reports depending on mounting type.....	21
	Figure A.3 – For cases of damaged buildings only: distribution of fire reports depending on mounting type	22
	Figure A.4 – Counts of system section where fire started	22
	Figure A.5 – Counts of component where fire started.....	23
	Figure A.6 – Distribution of identified causes of fire incidents	23
	Figure A.7 – Number of incidents over operation system age.....	25
	Table A.1 – Number of incidents with a certain damage	21

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**MANAGING FIRE RISK RELATED TO PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV)
SYSTEMS ON BUILDINGS**

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IEC TR 63226, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

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

Draft TR	Report on voting
82/1500/DTR	82/1553A/RVDTR

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

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

PV systems provide electric energy in an environmentally beneficial way. They work silently, without pollution or other emissions and can be mounted nearly anywhere in close proximity to where people use electricity including living, working and sleeping facilities. However, since they contain electrical equipment, they share a similar risk of causing damage on both the DC side and on the AC side of an installation as any electric or electronic equipment.

This document is about fire prevention measures and additional measures for supporting firefighters. In general, PV systems are considered safe when relevant product and installation standards are applied. But even for PV systems installed according to relevant safety standards, there is a remaining risk that a fire is caused by the PV system. Additional measures are considered to further improve the situation at special locations, independent of whether the PV or an external event is the source of a fire. Also the restrictions to firefighters facing damaged PV systems in case of fire are considered in general.

At some locations or buildings there are greater needs due to higher risks. For such locations additional requirements often apply. This is why building and fire codes often vary based upon risks to safety. Also in the installation standards there are additional requirements for fire safety, for example IEC 60364-4-42 or IEC 60364-5-51. In case of higher risks regarding fire, people's safety, and financial risks, additional measures are reasonable depending on the building itself. This document is designed to assist PV designers and insurance companies to select suitable measures to address the on-site specific needs of special locations. This document contains measures for reducing risks in general and depending on the on-site conditions.

General information is provided to further reduce fire risks of PV systems. Also, information is given how to handle PV systems after a fire.

MANAGING FIRE RISK RELATED TO PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS ON BUILDINGS

1 Scope

This document, which is a Technical Report, is intended for use as guidance for reducing fire risks in general and for site-specific needs for buildings with PV systems. In addition to the general recommendations, technical, installation, and maintenance measures can be selected to reach the intended safety level of the PV system and building, depending on the results of a risk assessment. This document contains general information about building related risks and includes measures for reducing those risks. These measures are not general requirements or recommendations. They are explained as a guide for selecting suitable measures depending on the on-site needs.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

4 Risk evaluation

4.1 General

It is recommended to perform a risk evaluation, to identify, if additional measures are needed and which measures are reasonable in order to reach the intended safety level. Such a site-specific evaluation can help the needs of all stakeholders to be covered without putting unnecessary requirements on all PV systems.

4.2 Site selection

The selection of the site can have a major impact on the recommended measures. The designer should evaluate if the proposed building or part of the building is the best choice for a PV installation. Shifting to another part of the building, to another building or to a ground installation can be a reasonable step to avoid additional measures.

The fire zones and the position of fire protection walls should be evaluated. The PV array should not provide a fire path (bridge) between adjacent fire zones.

4.3 Aspects for building risk evaluation

4.3.1 Roofing materials

Roofing materials have an impact on how much damage an exterior fire will cause to a building. In some countries, for example USA, building codes require fire ratings of roofing systems