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High-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems — Guidance to the specification and design evaluation of AC filters

Part 5: AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for HVDC systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

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High-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems – Guidance to the specification and design evaluation of AC filters –
Part 5: AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for HVDC systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD 8
INTRODUCTION 10
1 Scope 12
2 Normative references 12
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms 12
3.1 Terms and definitions 12
3.2 Abbreviated terms 13
4 Basic aspects of VSC HVDC harmonics 14
4.1 General 14
4.2 Differences between VSC and LCC harmonic behaviour 15
4.3 Issues relating to VSC harmonics 16
4.4 Range of frequencies considered 17
4.5 Equivalent circuit of the converter for harmonic analysis 18
4.6 Dual impact of a VSC converter on harmonic distortion at PCC 19
4.6.1 General 19
4.6.2 Converter generated harmonics 19
4.6.3 Pre-existing harmonics 20
4.6.4 Combining the effects of converter-generated and pre-existing harmonics 21
5 Harmonic generation 22
5.1 General 22
5.2 Factors influencing harmonic generation 23
5.2.1 General 23
5.2.2 Converter topology 23
5.2.3 Control 25
5.2.4 Power electronics hardware 27
5.3 Harmonic generation 29
5.3.1 General 29
5.3.2 Harmonic generation from VSC using switch type valves 29
5.3.3 Harmonic generation from VSC using controllable voltage source type valves 38
5.4 Interharmonics 44
5.5 Impact of non-ideal conditions on harmonic generation 47
6 VSC HVDC as a harmonic impedance 48
6.1 General 48
6.2 Passive impedance 49
6.3 Active impedance 49
6.3.1 General 49
6.3.2 Ideal VSC behaviour 49
6.3.3 Impact of practical control system features 50
6.3.4 Example of impact of control 51
6.4 Impact on amplification of pre-existing harmonics 52
7 Adverse effects of VSC HVDC harmonics 53
7.1 General 53
7.2 Telephone interference 54
7.2.1 General 54
7.2.2 Extended higher frequency range of VSC harmonics 54

7.2.3 Interharmonics 54
7.2.4 AC cable connecting HVDC station to the PCC 55
7.3 PLC, metering and ripple control 55
7.3.1 General 55
7.3.2 Extended higher frequency range of VSC harmonics 56
7.3.3 Interharmonics 56
7.4 Railway signal interference 57
7.5 Digital telecommunications systems 57
8 Harmonic limits 58
8.1 General 58
8.2 Deleterious effects of excessively low limits 58
8.3 Standards and practice 59
8.4 Perception of VSC in setting limits 60
8.5 Emission and amplification limits 60
8.6 Relevance of standards for VSC 61
8.7 Existing standards 61
8.8 Higher frequency harmonics 62
8.8.1 General 62
8.8.2 IEEE Std 519-2014 [7] 63
8.8.3 Shortcomings in the context of VSC 64
8.9 Even order harmonic limits 64
8.10 Interharmonics 64
8.10.1 General 64
8.10.2 Treatment of interharmonics in existing standards 65
8.10.3 Discussion and recommendations 66
8.11 Interharmonics discretization and grouping methodologies 67
8.11.1 Suggested method 67
8.11.2 Power quality indices for interharmonic grouping 70
8.11.3 Network impedance loci for interharmonic grouping 71
8.12 Assessment as a harmonic voltage or current source 72
8.13 Assessment of THD, TIF, THFF, IT 73
8.14 Measurement and verification of harmonic compliance 74
8.15 Recommendations 75
9 Harmonic mitigation techniques 76
9.1 General 76
9.2 Passive filtering 76
9.3 Active damping and active filtering by converter control 78
9.4 Optimization between passive and active mitigation 79
9.5 Specific mitigation issues and techniques 79
9.5.1 Unbalanced phase reactances or voltages 79
9.5.2 Power oscillations due to AC supply voltage unbalance 83
9.5.3 Harmonic cross-modulation between AC and DC sides 85
9.5.4 Cross-modulation of DC side fundamental frequency current 87
10 Modelling 88
10.1 Provision of models 88
10.2 Time and frequency domain 88
10.3 Modelling of the converter control for harmonic and resonance studies 89
10.4 Converter linearization by analytical approach 90
10.4.1 General 90

10.4.2 VSC-MMC linearized model ... 90
10.4.3 Input impedance ... 90
10.4.4 Advantages of analytical method ... 91
10.4.5 Drawbacks of analytical method ... 91
10.5 Deriving the converter impedance by numerical approach ... 91
10.5.1 Methodology ... 91
10.5.2 Advantages of numerical method ... 93
10.5.3 Drawbacks of numerical method ... 94
10.6 Choice between analytical and numerical methods ... 94
10.7 Model validation ... 94
10.8 Network impedance modelling ... 95
11 Harmonic stability ... 97
11.1 General ... 97
11.2 Literature review ... 98
11.3 Definitions ... 99
11.4 Theory ... 100
11.4.1 General ... 100
11.4.2 Passive harmonic resonance ... 100
11.4.3 Active behaviour of converters ... 102
11.4.4 Active impedance of a VSC with a generic current control ... 102
11.4.5 Harmonic instability ... 103
11.5 Analysis methods ... 106
11.5.1 General ... 106
11.5.2 Network impedance scans ... 106
11.5.3 Passivity analysis ... 107
11.5.4 Impedance-based stability analysis ... 110
11.5.5 Modal analysis in rotating reference frame ... 114
11.5.6 Electro-magnetic-transient simulation ... 116
11.5.7 Recommendations ... 117
11.6 System-wide studies ... 117
11.7 Real experiences of harmonic stability in the context of HVDC systems ... 118
11.7.1 General ... 118
11.7.2 Case A: High power rating VSC HVDC system ... 118
11.7.3 Case B: Offshore wind farm ... 120
11.7.4 Case C: Back-to-back converter in a 500 kV network ... 122
12 Conclusion ... 124
Bibliography ... 126

Figure 1 – Frequency range of VSC waveform ... 17
Figure 2 – Harmonic representation of a VSC station for harmonics analysis ... 18
Figure 3 – Harmonic contribution by the converter ... 20
Figure 4 – Amplification of the background harmonics ... 20
Figure 5 – Two-level converter ... 24
Figure 6 – Three-level converter ... 24
Figure 7 – Modular multi-level converter (MMC) ... 24
Figure 8 – Cascaded two-level converter (CTL) ... 24
Figure 9 – HVDC VSC converter control structure ... 25

Figure 10 – Interlocking example 28
Figure 11 – Semiconductor voltage drop 29
Figure 12 – References and carrier for a two level converter using PWM with pulse number of 9 30
Figure 13 – Reference, carrier and the resulting phase voltage for one phase of a two level converter using PWM with pulse number of 9 30
Figure 14 – Harmonic spectrum, phase to ground, of a two level converter using PWM with pulse number of 39 31
Figure 15 – Harmonic spectrum, phase to ground, of a two level converter using PWM with pulse number 39 after removal of the zero sequence orders 31
Figure 16 – Extended harmonic spectrum of a two level converter using PWM with pulse number 39 after removal of the zero sequence orders 32
Figure 17 – Fundamental and phase voltage for one phase of a two-level converter using OPWM 33
Figure 18 – Harmonic spectrum, phase to ground, of a two-level converter using OPWM 33
Figure 19 – Harmonic spectrum, phase to ground, of a two level converter using OPWM after removal of the zero sequence 34
Figure 20 – Extended harmonic spectrum, phase to ground, of a two-level converter using OPWM after removal of the zero sequence 34
Figure 21 – References and carriers for a three level converter with pulse number of 9 35
Figure 22 – Reference, carriers and the resulting phase voltage for one phase of a three level converter with pulse number of 9 36
Figure 23 – Harmonic spectrum, phase-ground, of a three level converter,pulse number of 39 36
Figure 24 – Harmonic spectrum, phase to ground, of a three level converter with pulse number of 39 after removal of the zero sequence 37
Figure 25 – Extended harmonic spectrum, phase to ground, of a three level converter with pulse number of 39 after removal of the zero sequence 37
Figure 26 – Voltage source representation of the MMC 38
Figure 27 – Valve voltage generation 40
Figure 28 – Harmonic spectrum for one arm of the MMC converter 40
Figure 29 – Harmonic spectrum for one arm of the MMC converter (extended frequency range) 41
Figure 30 – Reference and carriers for three adjacent cells 42
Figure 31 – Zoomed – reference and carriers for three adjacent cells and resulting voltage 43
Figure 32 – Reference and voltage for one arm 43
Figure 33 – Harmonic spectrum for one arm of a CTL converter 44
Figure 34 – Harmonic spectrum for one arm of a CTL converter – extended frequency range 44
Figure 35 – Voltage synthesization with optimum time step of the valve control operation 45
Figure 36 – Voltage synthesization with an alternative time step of the valve control operation 46
Figure 37 – Illustrative impact of sorting and selection algorithms on interharmonic generation 46
Figure 38 – Active and passive impedance elements 49
Figure 39 – Control of AC voltage or current 50

Figure 40 – Illustrative impact of the I-control inner control loop time response (to 5 % relative error) on the positive sequence converter impedance ... 52
Figure 41 – Proposed grouping methodology ... 68
Figure 42 – Comparison with grouping methodology of IEC 61000-4-7 [3] ... 68
Figure 43 – Centred harmonic subgroup ... 69
Figure 44 – Harmonic group ... 70
Figure 45 – Harmonic impedance frequency ranges for LCC ... 71
Figure 46 – Harmonic impedance frequency ranges for VSC with proposed methodology ... 72
Figure 47 – Harmonic impedance frequency ranges for VSC with IEC 61000-4-7 grouping methodology ... 72
Figure 48 – AC filter located at primary (network) side of converter transformer ... 77
Figure 49 – AC filter located at the secondary (converter) side of converter transformer ... 77
Figure 50 – Example of a converter station scheme with asymmetrical phase reactances ... 80
Figure 51 – Example of converter plant and control scheme ... 80
Figure 52 – Current control scheme ... 81
Figure 53 – Time-domain response of positive and negative sequence voltages and currents and active power when the converter does not compensate for effect of phase reactance unbalances ... 82
Figure 54 – Time-domain response of positive and negative sequence voltages and currents and the active power when the converter controls phase currents to be balanced ... 83
Figure 55 – Power oscillations between AC and DC sides due to unbalanced AC conditions when the converter does not control the fluctuations of energy between arms and the grid currents ... 84
Figure 56 – Influence of distortions at the AC and DC side voltages and the propagation through the control ... 86
Figure 57 – 6th harmonic content in DC side voltage of MMC ... 86
Figure 58 – Resulting AC side voltage with modification of control at t = 4 s ... 87
Figure 59 – VSC HVDC transmission system ... 90
Figure 60 – VSC station model using the small-signal approach ... 90
Figure 61 – Model evolution in decreasing complexity ... 92
Figure 62 – Switching function model of MMC arm ... 92
Figure 63 – Time domain to frequency domain stratagem ... 92
Figure 64 – Example of a circuit to linearize a network and a VSC including controllers ... 93
Figure 65 – Dynamic interactions between components and study framework ... 98
Figure 66 – RLC circuit and time-domain response to a step disturbance ... 100
Figure 67 – Connection of the converter station to a passive network ... 101
Figure 68 – Bode plot of the converter, network and equivalent impedances ... 101
Figure 69 – Dynamic scheme of the current controller and phase reactor ... 102
Figure 70 – Bode plot of the converter passive and active impedance ... 103
Figure 71 – Example of a network composed of a VSC and a frequency-dependent AC system for the study of control interactions ... 104
Figure 72 – Dynamic interaction between the active VSC impedance and the network passive impedance ... 104

Figure 73 – Bode plot of the VSC and network impedance, including active converter effects ... 105
Figure 74 – Results of EMT simulation study of the investigated system ... 106
Figure 75 – Example output of passivity analysis ... 109
Figure 76 – Comparison of passivity analysis of converter system without (blue line) and with (red line) harmonic damper ... 110
Figure 77 – Simple network, consisting of source and load ... 111
Figure 78 – Loop gain of the simple network ... 111
Figure 79 – Bode diagram of the frequency dependent impedance of a converter and the grid ... 112
Figure 80 – Small-signal representation of two interconnected AC systems ... 113
Figure 81 – Sample impedance stability results ... 114
Figure 82 – Sample modal analysis results ... 116
Figure 83 – Circuit configuration of the negative resistance test case ... 119
Figure 84 – Frequency response of Network 1 and the converter station ... 119
Figure 85 – Phase angle from Figure 84 zoomed in the y axis ... 120
Figure 86 – AC voltage at PCC1 and zoomed extract ... 120
Figure 87 – Schematic view of the main components of the case B grid connection system ... 121
Figure 88 – Example of frequency scan at the offshore substation in case B ... 122
Figure 89 – Illustrations of the system in case C ... 123
Figure 90 – Bode diagram of converter and grid impedances in case C and time-domain simulation with the control implemented in the EMT tool ... 123

Table 1 – Indicative summation exponents ... 21
Table 2 – Indicative planning levels for harmonic voltages (in percent of the fundamental voltage) in MV, HV and EHV power systems ... 61
Table 3 – Current limits for system rated > 161 kV ... 63
Table 4 – Summary of IEC TR 61000-3-6 [5] recommended voltage planning levels ... 65
Table 5 – Phase margins at intersections ... 112

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HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS – GUIDANCE TO THE SPECIFICATION AND DESIGN EVALUATION OF AC FILTERS –

Part 5: AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for HVDC systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

FOREWORD

IEC TR 62001-5 has been prepared by subcommittee 22F: Power electronics for electrical transmission and distribution systems, of IEC technical committee 22: Power electronic systems and equipment. It is a Technical Report.

The text of this document is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
22F/616/DTR	22F/621B/RVDTR

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 document is English.

A list of all parts in the IEC 62001 series, published under the general title *High-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems – Guidance to the specification and design evaluation of AC filters*, can be found on the IEC website.

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/standardsdev/publications.

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

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INTRODUCTION

The IEC TR 62001 series is structured in five parts:

IEC TR 62001-1 – Overview

This part concerns specifications of AC filters for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems with line-commutated converters, permissible distortion limits, harmonic generation, filter arrangements, filter performance calculation, filter switching and reactive power management and customer specified parameters and requirements.

IEC TR 62001-2 – Performance

This part deals with current-based interference criteria, field measurements and verification.

IEC TR 62001-3 – Modelling

This part addresses the harmonic interaction across converters, pre-existing harmonics, AC network impedance modelling, simulation of AC filter performance.

IEC TR 62001-4 – Equipment

This part concerns steady-state and transient ratings of AC filters and their components, power losses, audible noise, design issues and special applications, filter protection, seismic requirements, equipment design and test parameters.

IEC TR 62001-5 – AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

This part concerns specific issues of AC filter design related to VSC HVDC systems. The rapid proliferation, increasing power, and technical advances of voltage source converter (VSC) HVDC technology in recent years has had a revolutionary impact on large-scale electrical power transmission. In the sphere of harmonics and filtering, the introduction of VSC technology has been highly significant. The harmonic signature of these converters is not only smaller in magnitude than equivalent line commutated converter (LCC) HVDC schemes, but also radically different in nature. Due to the switching and control methods which may be used for VSC, the generation of non-integer harmonics (interharmonics) may be an inherent characteristic of the conversion process. The frequency range of interest has also extended upwards.

The existing national and international regulations and recommendations governing harmonics were originally written considering the types of converters and associated harmonics relevant at the time of their production. With the arrival of new conversion technologies, the guidelines available are proving inadequate to deal with new harmonic profiles. Individual regulatory bodies are hastening to adapt their practices to the new technology and this document aims to aid them by providing a firm basis of appropriate technical knowledge.

The implications of VSC transmission for harmonic generation are perhaps not widely enough understood throughout the industry in terms of the frequencies and magnitudes produced and the necessity (or otherwise) of having dedicated filters. The modelling of a VSC as a harmonic voltage source rather than a current source may also not be fully appreciated in its implications for regulatory methodologies. The generation of interharmonics due to the control techniques used by some VSC HVDC converters also has profound implications.

A further topic of interest is the effect of VSC installations on pre-existing (background) harmonics. Some designs of VSC now produce a waveform so clean that it is quasi-sinusoidal and in many applications harmonic filters may not be required for mitigation of the harmonics generated by the converter. However, the converter will have a harmonic impedance as seen from the network, and it is important to be able to assess this harmonic impedance and calculate its impact in terms of possible amplification (or damping) of the pre-existing network harmonics. In some instances, this amplification of pre-existing harmonics may be the only reason for having to install filtering for a HVDC VSC.

The above aspects mainly refer to steady-state power quality issues. A separate topic is the interaction of the VSC HVDC control system with physical resonances in the connected power system. Electric power grid development is tending towards an increasing installation of underground and submarine cables, especially in the context of dispersed renewable generation. In addition, the phase-out of conventional generation together with the increasing installation of new generation sources coupled via converters and the changing characteristics of network loads will result in a reduction of harmonic damping in the system. Some converter control loops can have a bandwidth of several hundred hertz, and thus are able to interact with grid resonances. As a consequence, oscillations related to system harmonic resonances might appear and new mitigation techniques and assessment methods may become a challenge. Depending on system damping, such oscillations may be damped, sustained in steady-state or increase until some form of tripping or shutdown occurs. This phenomenon has become widely known as "harmonic stability" and although the suitability of this name may be questioned, it has been adopted in this document.

HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS – GUIDANCE TO THE SPECIFICATION AND DESIGN EVALUATION OF AC FILTERS –

Part 5: AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for HVDC systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

1 Scope

This part of IEC TR 62001, which is a Technical Report, provides guidance on the state-of-the art of VSC technology in relation to harmonics and predicted future developments, on the harmonic profile of present and predicted future VSC architectures and how they are characterised and modelled – as voltage sources, current sources, or otherwise. It also assesses the harmonic impedance of VSC and the possible impact on pre-existing background harmonics emanating from loads or generation units in the supply network and considers how VSC harmonics are assessed under current IEC standards and national regulations, and identify areas where improvements could be made, research can be needed, or other bodies consulted, for example when considering interharmonics. This document can be a reference source on the subject, which will also contain recommendations for use by those charged with modifying existing standards to adapt to VSC HVDC systems.

Issues relating to harmonics on the DC side of the converters, including DC grids, are deliberately not covered in this document, but are addressed by a separate CIGRE Technical Brochure [1][1].

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 TR 62543, *High-voltage direct current (HVDC) power transmission using voltage sourced converters (VSC)*

IEC 62747, *Terminology for voltage-sourced converters (VSC) for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems*

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 62543 and IEC 62747 apply.

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

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

[1] Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.