

Australian Standard[®]

Telecontrol equipment and systems

**Part 3: Interfaces
(electrical characteristics)**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT/24, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 5 January 1998 and published on 5 April 1998.

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 97134.

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First published as AS 60870.3—1998.

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140

ISBN 0 7327 1851 5

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT/24, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition.

The Standard is identical with and has been reproduced from IEC 60870-3:1989, *Telecontrol equipment and systems, Part 3: Interfaces (electrical characteristics)*.

IEC has decided to apply a new numbering system, the 60000 series, to all its existing and future publications, including amendments to existing Standards. As a consequence, IEC has modified the bibliographic references in its databases to accord with the new numbering system. All IEC publications issued since the beginning of 1997 will carry references in terms of the 60000 series numbering. Publications printed earlier than 1997 will continue to carry the old series of numbers. For example, a reference to the IEC 60870 series of Standards will be to IEC 870 if the current edition of the Standard was printed prior to 1997.

This Standard is identical with a pre-1997 document therefore it uses the old series of numbers.

The objective of this Standard is to provide manufacturers and users of telecontrol equipment and systems with a specification of the electrical interface characteristics in order to achieve interworking at the interface between equipment used in Australia.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

TELECONTROL EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS

Part 3: Interfaces (electrical characteristics)

1 Scope

This series of standards applies to telecontrol equipment and systems with coded bit serial data transmission for monitoring and controlling geographically widespread processes.

2 Object

This part defines electrical interface characteristics (e.g. signals, impedances, etc.) which have to be met at the shared boundaries (see figure 1) between:

- telecontrol equipment and external equipment connected to:
 - process equipment (e.g. sensors, actuators);
 - operator's equipment;
- telecontrol equipment and transmission line (channel) where "data circuit terminating equipment" (i.e. DCE-MODEM) is packaged as an integral part of the telecontrol equipment, or telecontrol equipment and "data circuit terminating equipment", where the latter is not packaged as an integral part of the telecontrol equipment;
- different parts of the equipment within the telecontrol system and other data processing equipment.

The interfaces shall be defined independently from the functional layout of the system or its subsystems.

Information in this part refers only to operating conditions.

The following subjects are outside the object of this part:

- interface between external power source and the telecontrol equipment;
- logical interfaces and interface protocols;
- interface testing conditions and procedures.

3 Types of information

Two basic types of information are presented to the interfaces: digital and analog. Both types are conveyed over the interfaces by means of signals which are in parallel, serial or stand alone form.

Examples of the relationship between these signals and types of information are given in table 1.

Each of these signals can be used as either an input or an output. An input is a signal representing information generated outside the specific equipment involving the interface being considered. Otherwise, it is an output.

3.1 *Digital information*

Digital information is used for characterizing states which vary in discrete modes. The information may pass the interface in parallel or serial form.

3.1.1 *Types of digital information (examples)*

3.1.1.1 *Single-point information*

A single-point information (see IEC 371-02-07*) emanates from a one bit binary information source, for example from an alarm contact with two determined states. This information is presented to the interface by a stand alone binary signal.

3.1.1.2 *Double-point information*

Two bit information sources such as circuit breakers or isolator contacts represent double-point information (see IEC 371-02-08). They are presented to the interface by a pair of binary signals.

Two states, represented by the bit pairs 01 and 10 characterize two determined states (OFF/ON and ON/OFF), while the bit pairs 00 and 11 characterize two indeterminate states (OFF/OFF and ON/ON) which indicate either an intermediate state (see IEC 371-02-09), a faulty state (see IEC 371-02-10) or a failure in the circuitry.

3.1.1.3 *Multipoint information - coded information*

Digital information sources which require coded information (e.g. transformer tap positions, meter readings and set point commands).

The information can be transferred by associated signals in parallel or serial form.

3.1.2 *Representation of digital information*

Digital information is represented by individual binary signals with two distinct exclusive levels.

* International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) [IEC 50(371)].

3.1.2.1 *Signal levels*

The signal level can assume different ranges (figure 2):

- range (1): nominal range.

The normal operating condition of the equipment;

- range (2): intermediate range.

A transitory area between the upper and lower limits of the nominal range (1). If the signal persists for longer than a predetermined time in this area, a failure condition is said to exist;

- range (3): fault state range.

Anomalous operating conditions which may cause malfunction of the equipment. If the signal level exceeds upper or lower damaging limits, a persistent malfunction could be caused.

In order to ensure correct equipment interfacing, the nominal range of the outputs should be smaller than the nominal range of the inputs.

3.1.2.2 *Signal duration*

The duration of binary signals can be divided into two categories:

- a) When the binary information source controls the duration of the associated two discrete nominal signal levels:

For example: generator in operation = signal level H (high);
generator out of operation = signal level L (low).

- b) When a status change in the binary information source triggers a pulse signal:

The pulse signal assumes one of the two nominal levels for a predetermined time. It is used to characterize incremental or transient types of information sources.

For example: acquisition of fleeting information (see IEC 371-02-11) or incremental information (see IEC 371-02-06) or output of pulse command (see IEC 371-03-04).

3.1.3 *Dynamic characteristics of signals*

These are defined in terms of duration, recovery time and transition time (figure 3).

3.1.4 *Specifications*

Specifications for binary signals are given in clauses 4 to 7. The main items are:

- nominal levels (voltage or current);
- location and impedance of generating circuit (in or out of the equipment);

- shape of pulse (level, transition time, duration, polarity, residual ripple);
- type of galvanic isolation and interference voltages limits (normal mode, common mode).

3.2 *Analog information*

3.2.1 *Representation of analog information*

An analog signal is associated with a quantity which may vary between predetermined values.

For example: The signal range 0 mA to 10 mA may represent a variable source information within the range 0 kV to 130 kV.

3.2.2 *Single/double polarity*

Two types of analog signals are to be considered:

- unipolar:

A variable quantity with one polarity only (e.g. a voltage).

The signal magnitude assumes one polarity only (e.g. 0 mA to 5 mA or 4 mA to 20 mA);

- bipolar:

A variable quantity which can assume either positive or negative polarity (e.g. load flow).

The signal magnitude can assume either positive or negative polarity (e.g. -5 mA to +5 mA).

3.2.3 *Signal levels*

The magnitude of an analog signal can assume two ranges (figure 4):

- range (1): nominal range.

Normal operating conditions of the equipment, including the eventual operational overload;

- range (2): malfunction range.

Anomalous operating conditions which may cause a malfunction of the equipment. If the signal level exceeds upper and lower damaging limits, a persistent malfunction could be caused.

3.2.4 *Specifications*

Specifications for analog signals are given in clauses 4 to 7. The main items are:

- range limits (voltage or current);

- load impedances (maximum for current, minimum for voltage);
- type of galvanic isolation and interference voltages limits (normal mode, common mode).

Neither accuracy nor signal bandwidth (e.g. rate of change) are specified, since they are performance characteristics (IEC 870-4 [in preparation]).

4 Interface between telecontrol equipment and process equipment

This interface is the boundary line where information passes between telecontrol equipment and process equipment in the controlled station (figure 1).

The information is exchanged by means of binary or analog signals.

The information transferred from the process equipment to the telecontrol equipment represents the “input”. The information transferred in the opposite direction represents the “output”.

Four categories of signals require to be considered:

- binary input signals;
- binary output signals;
- analog input signals;
- analog output signals.

4.1 General characteristics

The following information refers to inputs as well as outputs.

Nominal voltage and current classes for binary signals are shown in tables 2, 3 and 4.

Nominal values of currents and voltages for analog signals are shown in table 5.

Interference voltages limits and insulation requirements for binary and analog signals are given in tables 6 and 7.

These voltages indicate the limits within which the equipment:

- a) will continue to operate correctly (operating limits);
- b) will not be damaged (damaging limits).

When inputs and outputs are not insulated from ground, only normal mode voltages shall be used.