

Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification —

Part 4: System selection and design

ICS 27.160; 27.180

National foreword

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According to the replies received by the end of the review period, the responsible BSI Committee will decide whether to support the conversion into an international standard, to extend the life of the Technical Specification for another 3 years or to withdraw it. Comments should be sent in writing to the Secretary of BSI Technical Committee GEL/82, Solar photovoltaic energy systems, at British Standards House, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, giving the document reference and clause number and proposing, where possible, an appropriate revision of the text.

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

Cross-references

The British Standards which implement international publications referred to in this document may be found in the *BSI Catalogue* under the section entitled “International Standards Correspondence Index”, or by using the “Search” facility of the *BSI Electronic Catalogue* or of British Standards Online.

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

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**Recommendations for small renewable energy
and hybrid systems for rural electrification –**

**Part 4:
System selection and design**



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	8
4 Functional requirements of production and distribution subsystems	9
4.1 Preliminaries	9
4.2 Overall needs to be satisfied	9
4.2.1 The main factors to be considered	9
4.2.2 Needs and characteristics to be considered	10
4.3 Introduction to subsystems	13
4.4 Functional description of a production subsystem	13
4.4.1 General	13
4.4.2 Detailed functions to be achieved by a production subsystem	14
4.4.3 Detailed performances criteria to be achieved by a production subsystem	15
4.5 Functional description of a distribution subsystem	15
4.5.1 Detailed functions to be achieved by a distribution subsystem (or rural micro-grid)	15
4.5.2 Detailed performances criteria to be achieved by a distribution subsystem	16
4.6 Functional description of a demand subsystem	17
4.7 Constraints to be complied with by production distribution and demand subsystems	17
5 Energy management rules	18
5.1 General	18
5.2 Functional description for an energy management of an isolated system	19
5.3 Demand side management	20
6 Expected results from the sizing process	20
6.1 Introduction	20
6.2 Participants in the sizing process	21
6.3 Elements for comparing various design proposals	21
6.4 Frameworks for proposal	21
6.4.1 General	21
6.4.2 General commitments to supply	22
6.4.3 Assumptions and classification of input	23
6.4.4 Technical characteristics for the main equipment proposed	27
6.4.5 Characteristics for a photovoltaic array	28
6.4.6 Characteristics for wind turbines	29
6.4.7 Characteristics for the generator set	30
6.4.8 Characteristics for micro hydro turbines	31
6.4.9 Characteristics for biomass generators	32
6.4.10 Characteristics for power converters	33
6.4.11 Characteristics for the load manager/meter	34
6.4.12 Characteristics for system controllers	35
6.4.13 Characteristics for batteries	35
6.4.14 Characteristics for links and wiring	36
6.4.15 Energy outputs	36

6.4.16	Presentation of the costs.....	37
6.4.17	Design warranty.....	37
6.4.18	Steps to reduce the impact of climatic hazards on system performance	37
6.4.19	Presentation of the environmental and social impact.....	38
6.4.20	Presentation of the socio economic impact assessment	38
6.5	Proposal for a sizing process	38
6.6	Impact of design assumptions on system sizing and cost.....	38
6.7	Guarantee of results	40
7	Data acquisition rules for system management.....	40
7.1	Introduction	40
7.2	General.....	41
7.3	Levels of data acquisition and data necessity.....	41
7.3.1	General	41
7.3.2	Information to provide to the "Energy manager" and relevant data to be collected	41
7.3.3	Information to provide to the "operator" and relevant data to be collected.....	44
7.3.4	Information to provide to the "user" and relevant data to be collected	44
7.3.5	Summary of the information required	45
7.3.6	Scientific data collection.....	46
7.4	Data to be collected.....	46
7.5	Operating conditions, electrical and engineering requirements for data acquisition.....	47
Annex A (informative)	Example for detailed performance criteria and levels for a production subsystem.....	48
Annex B (informative)	Example for detailed performance criteria and levels for a distribution subsystem	49
Annex C (informative)	Example framework for proposal specification	50
	Characteristics for wind turbines	52
	Characteristics for the generator set (refer to Table 13).....	53
	Characteristics for micro hydro turbine (refer to Table 14)	53
	Characteristics for biomass generators (refer to Table 15).....	53
	Characteristics for power converters (refer to Table 16).....	54
	Characteristics for load manager/meter (refer to Table 17)	55
	Characteristics for system controllers (refer to Table 18).....	55
	Characteristics for battery (refer to Table 19)	55
Annex D (informative)	Equation for costs calculations.....	57
D.1	Yearly cash flow	57
D.2	Calculation of total life cycle cost	57
D.3	Calculation of the levelized cost of energy.....	58
D.4	Annualized maintenance, operating, and replacement expense.....	58
D.5	Further economic calculations applicable to energy businesses	59
Annex E (informative)	Proposal for a sizing process	61
E.1	General.....	61
E.2	Comments on the proposed sizing process.....	62
E.2.1	General	62
E.2.2	Step 01: Definition of power requirements to be fulfilled	62
E.2.3	Step 02: Conversion of available weather data into relevant data	63

E.2.4	Step 03: Statement of economic data to be accounted for	64
E.2.5	Step 04: Inventory of the constraints to account for	65
E.2.6	Step 05: Management assumptions	65
E.2.7	Step 06: Technical choices	67
E.2.8	Step 07: Calculations	67
E.2.9	Step 08: Analysis of the results	68
E.2.10	Step 09: Examination of the opportunity of other choices	68
E.2.11	Step 10: Change in technical choices	68
E.2.12	Step 11: Definition of desired equipment characteristics	68
E.2.13	Step 12: Identification of existing/available equipment complying with the characteristics	68
E.2.14	Step 13: New calculations	68
E.2.15	Step 14: Analysis of the results	69
E.2.16	Step 15: Examining the opportunity of other choices	69
E.2.17	Step 16: New choices of equipment	69
E.2.18	Step 17: Technical characteristics for the finally chosen equipment	69
E.2.19	Step 18: Forwarding the results to the project implementer	69
E.2.20	Step 19: Modification of the input data	69
Figure 1 – Factors involved in the design of a system		10
Figure 2 – Functional diagram of a radial structure for rural micro-grid		17
Figure 3 – Functional impact of energy management and safety		19
Figure E.1 – Sizing process flow chart		61
Table 1 – Participants in the sizing process		21
Table 2 – Perspectives to be considered (see symbols in IEC 62257-2, Table 4)		22
Table 3 – Commitments indicators		23
Table 4 – Knowledge of site		24
Table 5 – Knowledge of consumption data		25
Table 6 – Knowledge of resources: data accuracy levels		25
Table 7 – Knowledge of resources: data retained for considered site		27
Table 8 – Knowledge of resources: range of data history		27
Table 9 – Characteristics for photovoltaic modules		28
Table 10 – Characteristics for modules supporting structure		28
Table 11 – Characteristics for the wind turbine		29
Table 12 – Characteristics for wind turbine structure		29
Table 13 – Characteristics for the generator set		30
Table 14 – Characteristics for micro hydro turbines		31
Table 15 – Characteristics for biomass generators		32
Table 16 – Characteristics for power converters		33
Table 17 – Characteristics for load manager/meter		34
Table 18 – Characteristics for system controllers		35
Table 19 – Characteristics for batteries		35
Table 20 – Characteristics for links and wiring		36
Table 21 – Energy output from renewable energies		36
Table 22 – Energy output from fossil energies		36
Table 23 – Energy output from storage		36

Table 24 – Incidence of energy management assumptions on system sizing	39
Table 25 – Incidence of cost management assumptions on system dimensions	40
Table 26 – Information required by the energy manager and data to collect.....	42
Table 27 – Information required by the operator and data to collect	44
Table 28 – Information required by the user and data to collect.....	45
Table 29 – Summary of the needed information	45
Table 30 – Minimum set of data to be collected	46
Table 31 – Relationship between required information and system architecture	47
Table E.1 – Description of utilities to be power supplied	62
Table E.2 – Consumption characteristics	63
Table E.3 – Meteorological data used for sizing.....	64
Table E.4 – Proposals for types of cost to be accounted for	64
Table E.5 – Site constraints inventory	65
Table E.6 – Impact of energy management assumptions on plant sizing.....	66
Table E.7 – Impact of cost management assumptions on plant sizing.....	66

INTRODUCTION

The IEC 62257 series of documents intends to provide to different players involved in rural electrification projects (such as project implementers, project contractors, project supervisors, installers, etc.) documents for the setting up of renewable energy and hybrid systems with a.c. nominal voltage below 500 V d.c. nominal voltage below 750 V and nominal power below 100 kVA.

These documents are recommendations:

- to choose the right system for the right place,
- to design the system,
- to operate and maintain the system.

These documents are focused only on rural electrification concentrating on but not specific to developing countries. They shall not be considered as all inclusive to rural electrification. The documents try to promote the use of Renewable energies in rural electrification; they do not deal with clean mechanisms developments at this time (CO₂ emission, carbon credit, etc.). Further developments in this field could be introduced in future steps.

This consistent set of documents is best considered as a whole with different parts corresponding to items for safety, sustainability of systems and at the lowest life cycle cost as possible. One of the main objectives is to provide the minimum sufficient requirements, relevant to the field of application that is: small renewable energy and hybrid off-grid systems.

The purpose of this part of IEC 62257 is to provide a method to assist project contractors and project developers to select and design the electrification system for isolated sites while matching the identified needs, such as those described in IEC 62257-2.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SMALL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND HYBRID SYSTEMS FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION –

Part 4: System selection and design

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62257 provides a method for describing the results to be achieved by the electrification system independently of the technical solutions that could be implemented.

IEC 62257-2 assessed the needs of the users and the different power system architectures which can be used for meeting these needs.

In relation to the needs of the different participants to the project, functional requirements that shall be achieved by the production and distribution subsystems are listed.

In Clause 5, energy management rules to be considered are described. These are key issues as they have a great influence on the sizing of the electrification system.

In Clause 6, the information that shall be provided by the system sizing process to allow the participants to select the equipment or component able to fulfill the functional requirements are listed.

To allow and facilitate the management of the micro-power plant and the maintenance of the whole electrification system, some information shall be collected and monitored. Clause 7 is dedicated to defining the parameters and specifying rules for data acquisition.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For updated references, the last edition of the referenced document (including any amendment) applies.

IEC 62257-1, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 1: General introduction to rural electrification*

IEC 62257-2, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 2: From requirements to a range of electrification systems*

IEC 62257-3, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 3: Project development and management*

IEC 62257-4, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 4: System selection and design*

IEC 62257-5, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 5: Protection against electrical hazards*

IEC 62257-6, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 6: Acceptance, operation, maintenance and replacement*

IEC 62257-7, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 7: Technical specifications: generators* ¹

IEC 62257-8, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 8: Technical specifications: batteries and converters* ²

IEC 62257-9, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 9: Technical specifications: integrated systems* ²

IEC 62257-10, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 10: Technical specifications: energy manager* ²

IEC 62257-11, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 11: Technical specifications: considerations for grid connection* ²

IEC 62257-12, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 12: Appliances* ²

IEC 62257-13, *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification – Part 13: Other topics* ²

3 Terms and definitions

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

3.1

REN

renewable energy

3.2

hybrid system

multi-sources system with at least two different kind of technologies

3.3

dispatchable power system

a source, generator, system is dispatchable if delivered power is available at any specified time

EXAMPLE: a genset is a dispatchable system, REN generator is usually a non dispatchable power system.

3.4

non dispatchable power system

a non dispatchable system is resource dependent; power might not be available at a specified time

3.5

storage

storage of energy produced by one of the generator of the system and which can be reconverted through the system to electricity

¹ Under consideration.

3.6

rural micro-power plant

power plant that produces less than 50 kVA through the use of a single resource or hybrid system

3.7

rural micro-grid

grid that transfers a capacity level less than 50 kVA and powered by a micro-power plant

3.8

Individual Electrification System

IES

micro-power plant system that supplies electricity to one consumption point usually with a single energy resource point

3.9

Collective Electrification System

CES

micro-power plant and micro-grid that supplies electricity to multiple consumption points using a single or multiple energy resource points

3.10

isolated site

electric characteristic to define a specific location not currently connected to a national/regional grid

3.11

remote site/area

geographic characteristic to define a specific location far from developed infrastructures, specifically energy distribution

4 Functional requirements of production and distribution subsystems

4.1 Preliminaries

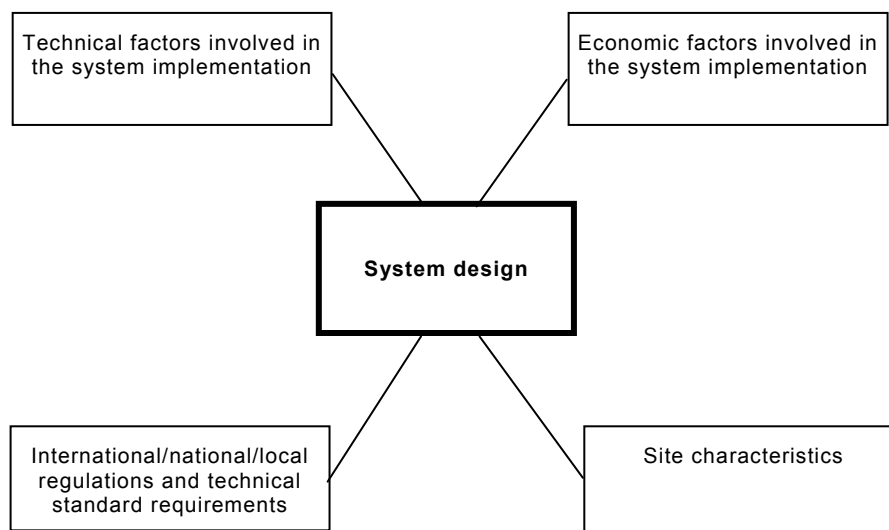
The purpose of Clause 4 is to provide a method for describing the results to be achieved by electrification systems for isolated sites as defined in IEC 62257-2. It describes the characteristics expected from these installations based on production of electricity from renewable and/or fossil energy sources.

This stage of defining the expected results of production precedes the technical dimensioning and details engineering stages.

4.2 Overall needs to be satisfied

4.2.1 The main factors to be considered

The Figure 1 illustrates the main factors influencing the design of the micro-power plant.



IEC 1050/05

Figure 1 – Factors involved in the design of a system**4.2.2 Needs and characteristics to be considered**

For each of the factors depicted in Figure 1, detailed needs or characteristics to be considered shall be identified. These needs and characteristics are defined in the following four tables.

1) Technical factors: needs or characteristics to be considered

Nature of participant	Needs or characteristics
Project developer/owner	Compliance with the general specification and relevant standards. Efficient use of energy (demand side management).
Project implementer/subcontractor	Easiest possible implementation: limited constraints in term of transportation means and lifting apparatus. Technology compatible with limited skills of local manpower. Limited installation work duration on field. Standardized equipment.
Operator	Simple operational rules to cope with possible limited skills of local operating agents. Simple mounting tools. Reliable equipment. Simple management rules. Clear and unambiguous contractual rules not liable to lead to situations of dispute or litigation. Relevant technical choices/customer management. Limited spare parts variety.
Maintenance contractor	Reliable and easy-to replace on site equipment. Limited spare parts variety.
Different users/loads	Types of energy services (see IEC 62257-2, Annex B).

2) Economic factors: needs and characteristics to be considered

Nature of participant	Needs or characteristics
Project developer/owner	Balance between initial capital costs and operational costs to make the project profitable and sustainable.
Project implementer	Balance between equipment cost (purchase and installation) and specified level of reliability.
Subcontractor	To make a correct living while fulfilling the project implementer's requirements.
Operator	Operational costs as low as possible.
Maintenance contractor	To have an economically viable activity while fulfilling the operator's requirements.
The different users/loads	Available services promised (lighting, TV, etc.) at the contractual level of quality, for the agreed price.

3) Site characteristics

General characteristics of site	Detailed characteristics	Comments
Geographical environment	Weather statistics (T°, humidity, wind, precipitation,...)	General information about the standard conditions at the site.
	Climate and severe weather or other local hazards	The characteristics of the climate at the site will affect the design of the system and the nature of its constituent equipment. One may mention: temperature differences; hygrometry differences; rainfall and snowfall; superimposed loads on structures (caused by wind, cyclones, frost, etc.); pollution (sand, salt, dust, other pollutant wastes).
	Energy resources	Definition of local energy resources. See Table 4 for further details.
	Means of access to and around the site	General access to the site, bridges road conditions and ease of access around the site (streets, rivers, etc.) will affect the difficulty in crossing obstacles and anticipating changes in the micro distribution network, etc.
	Nature of soil (geological environment)	This affects the type of structure (overhead or buried power lines) to be set up and the execution of certain installations (for example grounding system depending on the resistivity characteristics of the ground and system foundations).
	Geographical distribution of the user points	This is a major factor in the cost of the distribution infrastructures. The scatter or concentration of the user points, their probable evolution (near or remote) time-wise and space-wise, will affect choices concerning the topology of the distribution network.
Human environment	Distance to/between homes /loads – production system	
	Type of homes /loads	
	Acceptable noise level	
	Acceptable waste disposal level	
	Type of building to house the rural micro-power plant	
Biological environment	Fauna	
	Flora	
	Type of tree cover	

General characteristics of site	Detailed characteristics	Comments
Technical environment	Type of grid in place, if any (overhead, buried)	
	Civil engineering	
	Quality of existing building	This may be either an ally or an enemy as regards to certain solutions for providing supports for conductors (the physical quality of the building, its height, etc.)
	Possible local maintenance at site	
	Available telecommunication facilities	
	Equipment restrictions	
	Local technical skills level	
	Soil resistivity	
Sociological environment	Energy needs of customers	How much energy will consumers need and be willing to pay for.
	Energy consumption habits	Load profiles for the community.
	Type of clientele	Distribution by a grid will take place on the basis of: Sociological criteria (rules of society, living habits. Economic criteria (combining the grid and the rural micro-power plant shall cost less than the sum of isolated individual production/distribution facilities whilst providing the same service. Technical criteria (a guaranteed level of service, security, etc.).
Economic environment	Cost of fuel delivered to site	
	Cost of technical services	
	Economic environments in place	
	Solvability of customers	
	Tariff basis for service	

4) Regulations and requirements to be considered

Regulatory area		References
Procurement quality		(to be filled for each project)
Electrical safety		
Distribution conditions		
Buildings	Generation/distribution	
Fuel storage		
Fuel transport		
Local environmental impact		
Classified site		
Miscellaneous decrees		
Possibility of recycling equipment		
Production/distribution specification		
Import duties		
Regulatory authorities		
Local labor requirements		

4.3 Introduction to subsystems

An electrification system shall be considered as a system

Ensuring a power supply service (production subsystem)

and

Providing an electric power distribution service (distribution subsystem)

and

Providing a service to the user (demand subsystem)

whilst at the same time

Complying with constraints (acting on all subsystems)

Individual Electrification Systems (IES) for single users/loads incorporate two subsystems:

- an electrical power **production** subsystem,
- a **demand** subsystem for utilizing this electrical power.

Collective Electrification Systems (CES) for multiple users incorporate three subsystems:

- an electrical power **production** subsystem (rural micro-power plant);
- a **distribution** grid for sharing this power to individual users (rural micro-grid);
- a **demand** subsystem including home wiring and user's electrical appliances for all individual users.

These subsystems may correspond to systems operated and maintained by different persons or bodies. In certain cases, the entire system may be owned, operated and used by the same person.

4.4 Functional description of a production subsystem

4.4.1 General

The function of a production subsystem is to supply electric power and energy to an individual customer or a combination of permanent customers. This generating subsystem shall be capable of fulfilling its mission, despite contingencies of availability of the renewable and/or fossil energy sources supplying it and by managing the consumption patterns of the customers.

The technical objectives assigned to such an installation can be summarised in the following essential points:

- to produce and store the energy in a cost effective manner,
- if “REN” sources are used:
 - to give precedence to use of REN where they are locally available,
 - to store energy from the REN sources whenever they are available,
 - to use the back-up energy sources (generator sets) to meet the specified level of service when REN are not available or sufficient.

4.4.2 Detailed functions to be achieved by a production subsystem

From a functional view point, a production subsystem is a system capable of:

Ensuring a power supply service

Consisting of:

1) Generating electric power

The different sources and architectures are described in IEC 62257-2.

This function embodies everything needed to produce electric power corresponding to the necessary characteristics of voltage, frequency, harmonics, power and consumption of the customers, according to the needed quality of service (IEC 62257-2).

This function covers:

- energy conversion from primary energies;
- energy storage (when applicable);
- electric conversion from d.c. to a.c. (if necessary);
- energy measurement.

Given proper supply and maintenance of the system, it can be designed to meet all of the loads and electrical needs required by the community in an affordable manor.

2) Providing electric power to the distribution subsystem

Following the production of energy, this function ensures that the energy is provided to the interface with the collective or individual distribution system with respect to the contractual requirements.

3) Managing energy

In principle, the quantity of energy that can be consumed by the users is not unlimited owing to the very existence and contingencies of availability of primary energy (solar radiation, fuel, etc.) and the storage capacities of this energy.

Accordingly, it is important to manage the use of resources provided in order:

- to optimise the use of the available energy,
- to preserve the energy stored in the best way (minimum losses),
- to control energy flows available to the best interest of the customers (immediate energy needs) and equipment (long service life of the installation),
- to minimise the use of fossil resources, when applicable.

This requires:

- management of the energy production/storage;
- management of the energy storage/distribution;
- management of the energy production/distribution;
- management of the genset operation “on/off” (when applicable).

4) Providing information on the operating condition of the installation

The installation is required to provide the users and operators with the information they need to control energy production and consumption in their own interests, and where applicable, that of the community.

4.4.3 Detailed performances criteria to be achieved by a production subsystem

Each criteria shall be developed in order to express the quantitative objectives to be obtained for the sites studied.

The information should be presented in accordance with the general model given in Annex A.

4.5 Functional description of a distribution subsystem

4.5.1 Detailed functions to be achieved by a distribution subsystem (or rural micro-grid)

Providing an electric power distribution service

consisting of:

1) Connecting the rural micro-power plant to the application points

This function groups together everything needed to ensure that the terminal application points are supplied from the rural micro-power plant energy supply point, whilst adapting to the energy requirements of the different types of customer (individuals, economic activities, local collective authorities, public lighting, etc.).

Methods should be put in place to account for and monitor rural micro-grid distribution losses.

2) Not degrading the level of quality

The availability and supply quality objectives shall be taken in to consideration when designing the rural micro-grid.

3) Including protection to the micro-power plant as needed to insure safe operation

Protection should be added to:

- Protect the micro-power plant from a harmful short circuit or other electrical impacts to the extent possible.
- Localize the impact of short circuits or system overloads so that the whole micro-power plant and all other clients are not interrupted.

4) Executing the decisions of the rural micro-grid manager (load-shedding)

This function describes what the rural micro-grid shall do to comply with the management rules adopted when the rural micro-grid management system also includes an automatic function, in order to guarantee that energy is provided to the users. This shall be completed while insuring the long service of the production subsystem equipment.

The design of the rural micro-grid shall permit modification of its configuration according to decisions based on information given by the energy management system.

That means:

- allow any agreed changes;
- switch on/off circuits connected to the genset (when applicable);
- switch off circuits according to priority rules;
- provide information to the operator.

5) Managing compliance with the user's contract

It shall be possible to apply commercial rules in conjunction with the technical service of making electricity available (connect/disconnect the users under contractual rules).

The use of advanced monitoring and accounting devices can greatly assist in forcing the compliance of contract.

4.5.2 Detailed performances criteria to be achieved by a distribution subsystem

It is impossible here to recommend any general quantitative objectives (performance levels).

The essential task will hence be to define qualitative objectives (performance criteria) in a functional specification before determining the technical dimensions of the system.

Each criteria shall be developed to express the results to be obtained for the system type studied.

A typical tool for describing functional characteristics of a rural micro-grid is indicated in Annex B in the form of functions/performance sheet concerning how to connect the rural micro-power plant to the application points.

Each rural micro-grid entails aspects specific to the site concerned.

Depending on the characteristics of the needs to be satisfied, the architecture of a rural micro-grid will be constructed on the basis of the following criteria:

- The number of energy delivery points;
The number of principal and secondary trunk feeders determined in the light of the distribution of the users at the site, the maximum dimensions of the lines, and system losses.
- The possibility of having a certain number of opening points available, enabling all or part of the rural micro-power plant rural micro-grid to be isolated.

As for dimensioning, this will be determined on the basis of such characteristics as:

- The quality level (IEC 62257-2) of energy to be distributed;
- The apparent predictable maximum power of the receivers to be supplied at each delivery point (peak power);
- The service quality agreed with the users, in particular the maximum voltage drop, which should not exceed a certain value between the interface with the rural micro-power plant and the customers;
- The mechanical constraints in the environment concerned.

Figure 2 as an illustration, is a functional diagram of a radial structure for a rural micro-grid.

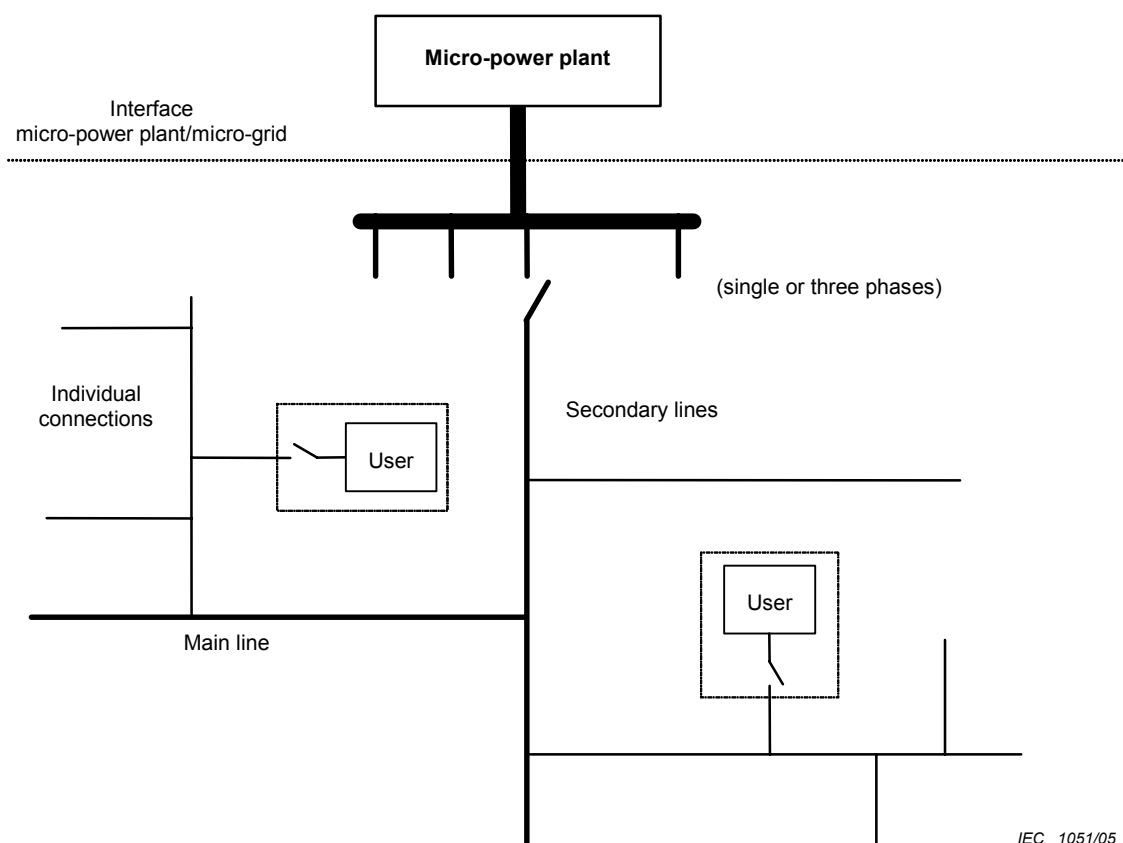


Figure 2 – Functional diagram of a radial structure for rural micro-grid

4.6 Functional description of a demand subsystem

Detailed functions to be achieved by a demand subsystem (or rural micro-grid):

Providing an electric power to applications

Consisting of:

1) Interfacing with the distribution system

This function groups everything needed to ensure that the user installation is supplied from the distribution system, including functions relevant with the contractual commitment such as payment or metering system.

2) Distributing energy to the appliances

Here are included all the electric functions able to provide, switch on/off electricity from the distribution system interface to the final user's application.

NOTE In some projects, this function could include the supply of the appliances (such as lamps for example).

4.7 Constraints to be complied with by production distribution and demand subsystems

1) Matching the characteristics of the site

This function signifies all constraints, such as geographical, technical, economic or sociological, as well as human factors specific to the site that the design and performance of the facilities to be set up will have to satisfy.

2) Ensuring protection of persons and assets

The equipment shall be designed to control risks to individuals, operators or third parties. In addition, they shall be protected from the faults that may occur on the different parts of the installation.

3) Minimizing special maintenance to make energy available

That means:

- making easy installation;
- facilitating operating conditions;
- facilitating maintenance;
- facilitating dismantling;
- facilitating expansion.

For reasons of cost, it is imperative that the installation can continue to operate without requiring frequent intervention by specialists.

4) Complying with regulations

This function groups together all the technical and legal constraints to which the installation shall comply to be usable.

5) Complying with the operator and user duties

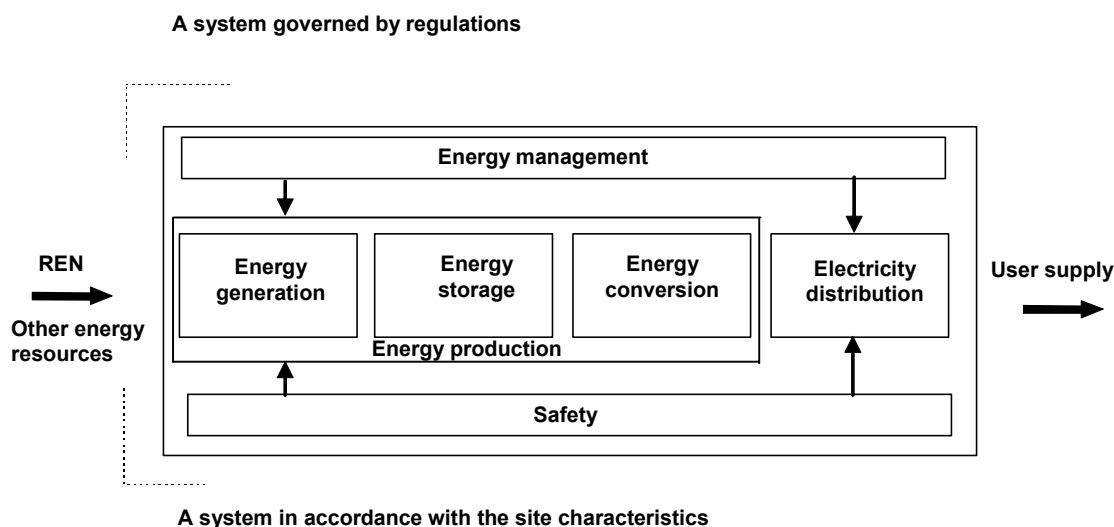
This specification stipulates the rights and obligations of the operator and users. It is generally drawn up by the national and/or regional institutional authority.

5 Energy management rules**5.1 General**

In “REN” powered systems, the availability of resource can vary considerably. Energy management is particularly vital in providing the service promised to the user under the best possible conditions without jeopardising the operating life of the equipment.

This Clause 5 describes the impact of energy management assumptions and the technical choices that they imply on system sizing.

Figure 3 illustrates the role of energy management and safety as transverse functions in the operation of the system.



IEC 1052/05

Figure 3 – Functional impact of energy management and safety

5.2 Functional description for an energy management of an isolated system

To manage energy in REN systems, a number of functions shall be considered, as described below:

1) Adequate management of resources and needs

To manage energy in an isolated system, consideration shall be given to the overall production from renewable energy sources and energy consumption, ensuring that the resources match the demand for energy, then taking the appropriate action. This management is necessary in order to comply as closely as possible with the commitments of the entity providing the services (the project developer and operator). This task should be completed in the best interest of the user.

2) Giving precedence to the use of renewable energies

Energy management in an isolated system is to give precedence to generation from renewable energies in order to reduce consumption of fossil energy and lower system operating cost.

3) Maximising service life and performance of equipment

Managing energy in an isolated system also involves ensuring a long service life for the equipment. This entails giving precedence to equipment protection in relation to supply, so that the capital investment is used correctly throughout the service life for which the equipment has been designed.

4) Managing the storage system

Quality of battery management has a very high impact on battery life, on the system's level of performance, and life cycle cost.

5) Managing the available quantity of energy

Managing energy in an isolated REN system consists in:

- maximising the use of the available REN, which is generally limited,
- optimising the sharing of the available quantity of electrical energy produced from the REN, amongst the different users or appliances.

In a single-user system, over-consumption will interrupt supply. The user quickly learns how to use the energy of the system correctly.

In a multi-user system (for example, a rural micro-power plant associated to a rural micro-grid), steps shall be taken to preserve the store of energy to the benefit of the greatest number and avoid jeopardising the common installation. Clearly, several solutions are possible, for example:

- The grid is live only during a certain time periods and the power of each user is limited; in this case, it is the time the network is live that limits the quantity of energy distributed.
- the grid is live for a considerable period during the day, resulting in better service quality, but requiring both the power available to each user and the quantity of energy the user can consume to be limited during a certain period of time. Depending on the dimensions of the installation, this quantity of energy can be managed over one or several days.
- An appropriate tariff structure is implemented to limit energy consumption or allow for the expansion of the system from revenues of large energy consumers. A step or graduated tariff is recommended to provide low cost power to small customers but charge higher consumers for further system expansion.

In systems comprising electrochemical storage, energy management also entails taking the necessary steps to replenish the energy stored. In systems powered by running exposure to renewable energy resources, sometimes referred to as direct drive devices, storage is generally in the form of the energy product, water in pumping application or ice in ice production systems.

6) Managing the quality of the electricity produced

The final factor in energy management is that of controlling the quality of the electricity delivered to the user. The following are the criteria defining this quality:

- voltage level and its variation range,
- d.c. voltage ripple,
- a.c. frequency and its voltage variation range,
- harmonic ratio for an a.c. voltage, which depends directly on the quality of the inverter (pseudo-sine wave or sine wave) or generator used and shall be appropriate for the devices used. Accordingly, the designer of the system shall check this condition.

Clause 6 describes the impact of the energy management assumptions on system sizing.

5.3 Demand side management

According to the limited quantity of energy produced by any micro-power system generating electricity from REN, it is mandatory to use high efficiency, low consumption appliances and make use of all energy demand control resources readily available.

6 Expected results from the sizing process

6.1 Introduction

Clause 6 presents recommendations relative to the information to be provided in a sizing data report.

While each designer may freely choose the specific method used for sizing a system, the objective is to define a framework of assumptions within which sizing can be described, including the type of documentation to be forwarded to the Project developer.