IEC 60227-1

Edition 3.0 2007-10

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V –
Part 1: General requirements

Conducteurs et câbles isolés au polychlorure de vinyle, de tension nominale au plus égale à 450/750 V –
Partie 1: Exigences générales

IEC 60227-1:2007

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD 4

1 General 6
1.1 Scope 6
1.2 Normative references 6
2 Definitions 7
2.1 Definitions relating to insulating and sheathing materials 7
2.1.1 Polyvinyl chloride compound (PVC) 7
2.1.2 Type of compound 7
2.2 Definitions relating to the tests 7
2.2.1 Type tests (symbol *T*) 7
2.2.2 Sample tests (symbol *S*) 7
2.3 Rated voltage 7
3 Marking 8
3.1 Indication of origin and cable identification 8
3.1.1 Continuity of marks 8
3.2 Durability 8
3.3 Legibility 8
4 Core identification 9
4.1 Core identification by colours 9
4.1.1 General requirements 9
4.1.2 Colour scheme 9
4.1.3 Colour combination green-and-yellow 9
4.2 Core identification by numbers 9
4.2.1 General requirements 9
4.2.2 Preferred arrangement of marking 10
4.2.3 Durability 10
5 General requirements for the construction of cables 10
5.1 Conductors 10
5.1.1 Material 10
5.1.2 Construction 10
5.1.3 Check on construction 11
5.1.4 Electrical resistance 11
5.2 Insulation 11
5.2.1 Material 11
5.2.2 Application to the conductor 11
5.2.3 Thickness 11
5.2.4 Mechanical properties before and after ageing 11
5.3 Filler 13
5.3.1 Material 13
5.3.2 Application 14
5.4 Extruded inner covering 14
5.4.1 Material 14
5.4.2 Application 14
5.4.3 Thickness 14
5.5 Sheath 14
5.5.1 Material 14

AVA Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEC 60227-1 2007

5.5.2 Application 14
5.5.3 Thickness 15
5.5.4 Mechanical properties before and after ageing 15
5.6 Tests on completed cables 17
5.6.1 Electrical properties 17
5.6.2 Overall dimensions 18
5.6.3 Mechanical strength of flexible cables 19
5.6.4 Flame retardance 19
6 Guide to use of the cables 19

Annex A (normative) Code designation 20

Table 1 – Requirements for the non-electrical tests for polyvinyl chloride (PVC) insulation 12
Table 2 – Requirements for the non-electrical test for polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sheaths 16
Table 3 – Requirements for electrical tests for PVC insulated cables 18

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POLYVINYL CHLORIDE INSULATED CABLES OF RATED VOLTAGES UP TO AND INCLUDING 450/750 V –

Part 1: General requirements

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International Standard IEC 60227-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

This third edition of IEC 60227-1 cancels and replaces the second edition, published in 1993, amendment 1 (1995) and amendment 2 (1997) The document 20/903/FDIS, circulated to the National Committees as amendment 3, led to the publication of this new edition.

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The text of this standard is based on the second edition, its amendments 1 and 2, and the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
20/903/FDIS	20/910/RVD

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

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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POLYVINYL CHLORIDE INSULATED CABLES OF RATED VOLTAGES UP TO AND INCLUDING 450/750 V –

Part 1: General requirements

1 General

1.1 Scope

This part of International Standard IEC 60227 applies to rigid and flexible cables with insulation, and sheath if any, based on polyvinyl chloride, of rated voltages U_0/U up to and including 450/750 V used in power installations of nominal voltage not exceeding 450/750 V a.c.

NOTE For some types of flexible cables the term cord is used.

The particular types of cables are specified in IEC 60227-3, IEC 60227-4, etc. The code designations of these types of cables are given in Annex A.

The test methods specified in Parts 1, 3, 4, etc. are given in IEC 60227-2, IEC 60332-1-2 and in the relevant parts of IEC 60811.

1.2 Normative references

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.

IEC 60173, *Colours of the cores of flexible cables and cords*

IEC 60227-2, *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltage up to and including 450/750 V – Part 2: Test methods*

IEC 60227-3, *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltage up to and including 450/750 V – Part 3: Non-sheathed cables for fixed wiring*

IEC 60227-4, *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltage up to and including 450/750 V – Part 4: Sheathed cables for fixed wiring*

IEC 60227-5, *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V – Part 5: Flexible cables (cords)*

IEC 60228, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for 1 kW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60811-1-1, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables and optical cables – Part 1: Methods for general application –Measuring of thickness and overall dimensions – Tests for determining the mechanical properties*

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IEC 60811-1-2, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section Two: Thermal ageing methods*

IEC 60811-1-4, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Part 1: Methods for general application – Section Four: Tests at low temperature*

IEC 60811-3-1, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Part 3: Methods specific to PVC compounds – Section One: Pressure test at high temperature – Tests for resistance to cracking*

IEC 60811-3-2, *Common test methods for insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Part 3: Methods specific to PVC compounds – Section Two: Loss of mass test – Thermal stability tests*

IEC 62440, *Electric cables – Guide to use for cables with a rated voltage not exceeding 450/750V*[1]

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions shall apply.

2.1 Definitions relating to insulating and sheathing materials

2.1.1 Polyvinyl chloride compound (PVC)

Combination of materials suitably selected, proportioned and treated, of which the characteristic constituent is the plastomer polyvinyl chloride or one of its copolymers. The same term also designates compounds containing both polyvinyl chloride and certain of its polymers.

2.1.2 Type of compound

The category in which a compound is placed according to its properties, as determined by specific tests. The type designation is not directly related to the composition of the compound.

2.2 Definitions relating to the tests

2.2.1 Type tests (symbol *T*)

Tests required to be made before supplying a type of cable covered by this standard on a general commercial basis in order to demonstrate satisfactory performance characteristics to meet the intended application. These tests are of such a nature that, after they have been made, they need not be repeated unless changes are made in the cable materials or design which might change the performance characteristics.

2.2.2 Sample tests (symbol *S*)

Tests made on samples of completed cable or components taken from a completed cable, adequate to verify that the finished product meets the design specifications.

2.3 Rated voltage

The rated voltage of a cable is the reference voltage for which the cable is designed and which serves to define the electrical tests.

[1] In preparation.

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The rated voltage is expressed by the combination of two values U_0/U, expressed in volts:

U_0 being the r.m.s. value between any insulated conductor and "earth" (metal covering of the cable or the surrounding medium);

U being the r.m.s. value between any two-phase conductors of a multicore cable or of a system of single-core cables.

In an alternating current system, the rated voltage of a cable shall be at least equal to the nominal voltage of the system for which it is intended.

This condition applies both to the value U_0 and to the value U.

In a direct current system, the nominal voltage of the system shall be not higher than 1,5 times the rated voltage of the cable.

NOTE The operating voltage of a system may permanently exceed the nominal voltage of such a system by 10 %. A cable can be used at a 10 % higher operating voltage than its rated voltage if the latter is at least equal to the nominal voltage of the system.

3 Marking

3.1 Indication of origin and cable identification

Cables shall be provided with an indication of the manufacturer, which shall be either an identification thread or a repetitive marking of the manufacturer's name or trade-mark.

Cables for use at a conductor temperature exceeding 70 °C shall also be marked either with the code designation or with the maximum conductor temperature.

Marking may be by printing or by reproduction in relief on or in the insulation or sheath.

3.1.1 Continuity of marks

Each specified mark shall be regarded as continuous if the distance between the end of the mark and the beginning of the next identical mark does not exceed

– 550 mm if the marking is on the outer sheath of the cable;
– 275 mm if the marking is
  a) on the insulation of an unsheathed cable;
  b) on the insulation of a sheathed cable;
  c) on a tape within a sheathed cable.

3.2 Durability

Printed markings shall be durable. Compliance with this requirement shall be checked by the test given in 1.8 of IEC 60227-2.

3.3 Legibility

All markings shall be legible.

The colours of the identification threads shall be easy to recognize or easily made recognizable, if necessary, by cleaning with petrol or other suitable solvent.

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4 Core identification

Each core shall be identified as follows:

– in cables having up to and including five cores by colour, see 4.1;
– in cables having more than five cores by number, see 4.2.

NOTE The colour scheme, and in particular the scheme for rigid multicore cables, is under consideration.

4.1 Core identification by colours

4.1.1 General requirements

Identification of the cores of a cable shall be achieved by the use of coloured insulation or other suitable method.

Each core of a cable shall have only one colour, except the core identified by a combination of the colours green-and-yellow.

The colours green and yellow,when not in combination, shall not be used for any multicore cable.

NOTE The colours red and white should preferably be avoided.

4.1.2 Colour scheme

The preferred colour scheme for flexible cables and single-core cables is:

– single-core cable:	no preferred colour scheme;
– two-core cable:	no preferred colour scheme;
– three-core cable:	either green-and-yellow, blue, brown, or, brown, black, grey
– four-core cable:	either green-and-yellow, brown, black, grey, or blue, brown, black, grey
– five-core cable:	either green-and-yellow, blue, brown, black, grey, or blue, brown, black, grey, black.

The colours shall be clearly identifiable and durable. Durability shall be checked by the test given in 1.8 of IEC 60227-2.

4.1.3 Colour combination green-and-yellow

The distribution of the colours for the core coloured green-and-yellow shall comply with the following condition (which is in accordance with IEC 60173): for every 15 mm length of core, one of these colours shall cover at least 30 % and not more than 70 % of the surface of the core, the other colour covering the remainder.

NOTE Information on the use of the colours green-and-yellow and blue.

It is understood that the colours green and yellow, when they are combined as specified above, are recognized exclusively as a means of identification of the core intended for use as earth connection or similar protection, and that the colour blue is intended for the identification of the core intended to be connected to neutral. If, however, there is no neutral, blue can be used to identify any core except the earthing or protective conductor.

4.2 Core identification by numbers

4.2.1 General requirements

The insulation of the cores shall be of the same colour and numbered sequentially, except for the core coloured green-and-yellow, if one is included.

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The green-and-yellow core, if any, shall comply with the requirement of 4.1.3 and shall be in the outer layer.

The numbering shall start by number 1 in the inner layer.

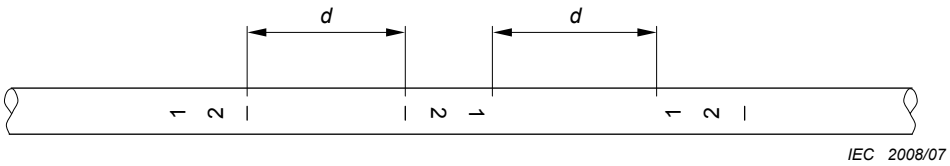
The numbers shall be printed in arabic numerals on the outer surfaces of the cores. All the numbers shall be of the same colour, which shall contrast with the colour of the insulation. The numerals shall be legible.

4.2.2 Preferred arrangement of marking

The numbers shall be repeated, at regular intervals along the core, consecutive numbers being inverted in relation to each other.

When the number is a single numeral, a dash shall be placed underneath it. If the number consists of two numerals, these shall be disposed one below the other and a dash placed below the lower numeral. The spacing *d* between consecutive numbers shall not exceed 50 mm.

The arrangement of the marks is shown in the figure below.



4.2.3 Durability

Printed numerals shall be durable. Compliance with this requirement shall be checked by the test given in 1.8 of IEC 60227-2.

5 General requirements for the construction of cables

5.1 Conductors

5.1.1 Material

The conductors shall consist of annealed copper, except for the wires of tinsel cords, for which a copper alloy may be used. The wires may be plain or tinned.

5.1.2 Construction

The maximum diameters of the wires of flexible conductors – other than the conductors of tinsel cords – and the minimum number of the wires of rigid conductors shall be in accordance with IEC 60228.

The classes of the conductors relevant to the various types of cables are given in the particular specifications (see IEC 60227-3, IEC 60227-4, etc.).

Conductors of cables for fixed installations shall be circular solid, circular stranded or compacted circular stranded conductors.

For tinsel cords each conductor shall comprise a number of strands or groups of strands, twisted together, each strand being composed of one or more flattened wires of copper or copper alloy, helically wound on a thread of cotton, polyamide or similar material.

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5.1.3 Check on construction

Compliance with the requirements of 5.1.1 and 5.1.2, including the requirements of IEC 60228, shall be checked by inspection and by measurement.

5.1.4 Electrical resistance

For cables – other than tinsel cords – the resistance of each conductor at 20 °C shall be in accordance with the requirements of IEC 60228 for the given class of the conductor.

Compliance shall be checked by the test given in 2.1 of IEC 60227-2.

5.2 Insulation

5.2.1 Material

The insulation shall be polyvinyl chloride compound of the type specified for each type of cable in the particular specifications (see IEC 60227-3, IEC 60227-4, etc.).

Type PVC/C in the case of cables for fixed installation.

Type PVC/D in the case of flexible cables.

Type PVC/E in the case of heat-resistant cables for internal wiring.

The test requirements for these compounds are specified in Table 1.

The maximum operating temperatures for cables insulated with any of the above types of compound and covered by the particular specifications (see IEC 60227-3, IEC 60227-4, etc.) are given in those publications.

5.2.2 Application to the conductor

The insulation shall be so applied that it fits closely on the conductor, but for cables other than tinsel cords, it shall be possible to remove it without damage to the insulation itself, to the conductor or to the tin coating if any. Compliance shall be checked by inspection and by manual test.

5.2.3 Thickness

The mean value of the thickness of insulation shall be not less than the specified value for each type and size of cable shown in the tables of the particular specifications (IEC 60227-3, IEC 60227-4, etc.).

However, the thickness at any place may be less than the specified value provided that the difference does not exceed 0,1 mm + 10 % of the specified value.

Compliance shall be checked by the test given in 1.9 of IEC 60227-2.

5.2.4 Mechanical properties before and after ageing

The insulation shall have adequate mechanical strength and elasticity within the temperature limits to which it may be exposed in normal use.

Compliance shall be checked by carrying out the tests specified in Table 1.

The applicable test methods and the results to be obtained are specified in Table 1.

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Table 1 – Requirements for the non-electrical tests for polyvinyl chloride (PVC) insulation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Reference No.	**Test**	**Unit**	**Type of component**			**Test method described in**	
			PVC/C	**PVC/D**	**PVC/E**	**IEC**	**subclause**
1	*Tensile strength and elongation at break*					60811-1-1	9.1
1.1	Properties in the state as delivered						
1.1.1	Values to be obtained for the tensile strength: – median, min.	N/mm²	12,5	10,0	15,0		
1.1.2	Values to be obtained for the elongation at break: – median, min.	%	125	150	150		
1.2	Properties after ageing in air oven					60811-1-2 and 60811-1-1	8.1.3.1 and 9.1
1.2.1	Ageing conditions: – temperature – duration of treatment	 °C h	 80 ± 2 7 × 24	 80 ± 2 7 × 24	 135 ± 2 10 × 24		
1.2.2	Values to be obtained for the tensile strength: – median, min. – variation [1], max.	 N/mm² %	 12,5 ±20	 10,0 ±20	 15,0 ±25		
1.2.3	Values to be obtained for the elongation at break: – median, min. – variation [1], max.	 % %	 125 ±20	 150 ±20	 150 ±25		
2	*Loss of mass test*					60811-3-2	8.1
2.1	Ageing conditions: – temperature – duration of treatment	 °C h	 80 ± 2 7 × 24	 80 ± 2 7 × 24	 115 ± 2 10 × 24		
2.2	Values to be obtained for the loss of mass, max.	mg/cm²	2,0	2,0	2,0		
3	*Compatibility test* [2]						
3.1	Ageing conditions	°C h	80 ± 2 7 × 24	80 ± 2 7 × 24	100 ± 2 10 × 24	60811-1-2	8.1.4
3.2	Mechanical properties after ageing Values to be obtained		As in references Nos. 1.2.2 and 1.2.3				
4	*Heat shock test*					60811-3-1	9.1
4.1	Test conditions: – temperature – duration of treatment	 °C h	 150 ± 2 1	 150 ± 2 1	 150 ± 2 1		
4.2	Results to be obtained		Absence of cracks				

[1] Variation: difference between the median value after ageing and the median value without ageing, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

[2] If applicable, see 5.3.1.

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