

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Electrical accessories – Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for
household and similar installations –
Part 3: Circuit-breakers for DC operation**



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Electrical accessories – Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations – Part 3: Circuit-breakers for DC operation

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	9
1 Scope	11
2 Normative references	12
3 Terms and definitions	12
3.1 Devices	13
3.2 General terms	13
3.3 Constructional elements	15
3.4 Conditions of operation	18
3.5 Characteristic quantities	19
3.6 Definitions related to insulation co-ordination	23
4 Classification	25
4.1 General	25
4.2 According to the number of poles	25
4.3 According to the current direction through the poles	25
4.4 According to the protection against external influences	26
4.5 According to the method of mounting	26
4.6 According to the methods of connection	26
4.6.1 According to the fixation system	26
4.6.2 According to the type of terminals	26
4.7 According to the instantaneous tripping current (see 3.5.18)	26
5 Characteristics of circuit-breakers	26
5.1 List of characteristics	26
5.2 Rated quantities	27
5.2.1 Rated voltages	27
5.2.2 Rated direct current (I_n)	27
5.2.3 Rated short-circuit capacity (I_{cn})	27
5.2.4 Rated making and breaking capacity of an individual pole (I_{cn1})	27
5.3 Standard and preferred values	28
5.3.1 Preferred values of rated voltage	28
5.3.2 Preferred values of rated current	28
5.3.3 Values of rated short-circuit capacity	28
5.3.4 Standard ranges of instantaneous tripping	29
5.3.5 Standard value of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})	29
6 Marking and other product information	29
7 Standard conditions for operation in service	31
7.1 General	31
7.2 Ambient air temperature range	31
7.3 Altitude	31
7.4 Atmospheric conditions	31
7.5 Conditions of installation	31
7.6 Pollution degree	31
8 Requirements for construction and operation	31
8.1 Mechanical design	31
8.1.1 General	31
8.1.2 Mechanism	32

8.1.3	Clearances and creepage distances (see Annex A)	33
8.1.4	Screws, current-carrying parts and connections	35
8.1.5	Terminals for external conductors	36
8.1.6	Non-interchangeability	38
8.1.7	Mechanical mounting of plug-in type circuit-breakers	39
8.2	Protection against electric shock	39
8.3	Dielectric properties and isolating capability	40
8.3.1	General	40
8.3.2	Dielectric properties	40
8.3.3	Isolating capability	40
8.3.4	Dielectric strength at rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})	40
8.4	Temperature rise	40
8.4.1	Temperature rise limits	40
8.4.2	Ambient air temperature	41
8.5	Uninterrupted duty	41
8.6	Automatic operation	41
8.6.1	Standard time-current zone	41
8.6.2	Conventional quantities	42
8.6.3	Tripping characteristic	42
8.7	Mechanical and electrical endurance	43
8.8	Performance at short-circuit currents and at small DC currents	43
8.9	Resistance to mechanical shock and impact	43
8.10	Resistance to heat	43
8.11	Resistance to abnormal heat and to fire	43
8.12	Resistance to rusting	43
8.13	Behaviour in case of making inrush current	43
8.14	Power loss	44
8.15	Requirement of small DC currents	44
9	Tests	44
9.1	Type tests and test sequences	44
9.2	Test conditions	45
9.3	Test of indelibility of marking	46
9.4	Test of reliability of screws, current-carrying parts and connections	47
9.5	Tests of reliability of screw-type terminals for external copper conductors	48
9.6	Test of protection against electric shock	49
9.7	Test of dielectric properties	50
9.7.1	Resistance to humidity	50
9.7.2	Insulation resistance of the main circuit	50
9.7.3	Dielectric strength of the main circuit	51
9.7.4	Insulation resistance and dielectric strength of auxiliary circuits	52
9.7.5	Verification of impulse withstand voltages (across clearances and across solid insulation) and of leakage current across open contacts	53
9.8	Test of temperature rise and measurement of power loss	55
9.8.1	Ambient air temperature	55
9.8.2	Test procedure	55
9.8.3	Measurement of the temperature of parts	55
9.8.4	Temperature rise of a part	56
9.8.5	Measurement of power loss	56
9.9	28-day test	56

9.10	Test of tripping characteristic	56
9.10.1	General	56
9.10.2	Test of time-current characteristic.....	56
9.10.3	Test of instantaneous tripping, of correct opening of the contacts and of the trip-free function	57
9.10.4	Test of effect of single-pole loading on the tripping characteristic of multipole circuit-breakers.....	58
9.10.5	Test of effect of ambient temperature on the tripping characteristic	58
9.11	Verification of mechanical and electrical endurance	58
9.11.1	General test conditions	58
9.11.2	Test procedure	59
9.11.3	Condition of the circuit-breaker after test	59
9.12	Short-circuit tests.....	60
9.12.1	General	60
9.12.2	Values of test quantities	60
9.12.3	Tolerances on test quantities	61
9.12.4	Test circuit for short-circuit performance.....	61
9.12.5	Time constant of the test circuits	62
9.12.6	Measurement and verification of I^2t and of the peak current (I_p).....	62
9.12.7	Calibration of the test circuit	62
9.12.8	Interpretation of records	62
9.12.9	Condition of the circuit-breaker for test	63
9.12.10	Behaviour of the circuit-breaker during short-circuit tests.....	64
9.12.11	Test procedure	64
9.12.12	Verification of the circuit breaker after short circuit tests.....	67
9.13	Mechanical stresses	68
9.13.1	Mechanical shock	68
9.13.2	Resistance to mechanical stresses and impact	68
9.14	Test of resistance to heat.....	71
9.15	Resistance to abnormal heat and to fire	72
9.16	Test of resistance to rusting.....	73
9.17	Verification of the behaviour in case of making inrush current.....	73
9.17.1	General	73
9.17.2	Values of the test quantities.....	74
9.17.3	Limit deviations of the test quantities	74
9.17.4	Test circuit for the determination of the withstand capacity against making currents	74
~~9.17.5~~	~~Testing for determination of the withstand capacity against making currents~~	~~74~~
Annex A (normative)	Determination of clearances and creepage distances	88
A.1	General.....	88
A.2	Orientation and location of a creepage distance.....	88
A.3	Creepage distances where more than one material is used.....	88
A.4	Creepage distances split by floating conductive part.....	88
A.5	Measurement of creepage distances and clearances	88
Annex B (normative)	Test sequences and number of samples necessary to prove compliance with this document	93
B.1	Test sequences	93
B.2	Number of samples to be submitted for full test procedure and acceptance criteria	

B.3	Number of samples to be submitted for simplified test procedure	95
Annex C (informative) Co-ordination under short-circuit conditions between a circuit-breaker and another short-circuit protective device (SCPD) associated in the same circuit.....		98
C.1	General.....	98
C.2	Purpose	98
C.3	General requirements for the co-ordination of a circuit-breaker with another SCPD	99
C.3.1	General consideration.....	99
C.3.2	Take-over current	99
C.3.3	Behaviour of C_1 in association with another SCPD	99
C.4	Type and characteristics of the associated SCPD	99
C.5	Verification of selectivity	100
C.6	Verification of back-up protection	100
C.6.1	Determination of the take-over current.....	100
C.6.2	Verification of back-up protection.....	100
C.6.3	Tests for verification of back-up protection	101
C.6.4	Results to be obtained	102
Annex D (informative) Examples of terminals.....		106
Annex E (informative) Correspondence between IEC and AWG copper conductors.....		109
Annex F (normative) Arrangement for short-circuit test		110
Annex G (normative) Routine tests		113
G.1	General.....	113
G.2	Tripping tests	113
G.3	Verification of clearances between open contacts	113
Annex H (normative) Particular requirements for circuit-breakers with screwless type terminals for external copper conductors.....		114
H.1	Scope	114
H.2	Normative references.....	114
H.3	Terms and definitions.....	114
H.4	Classification	115
H.5	Characteristics of circuit-breakers.....	115
H.6	Marking and other product information	115
H.7	Standard conditions for operation in service.....	115
H.8	Requirements for construction and operation	116
H.8.1	Connection or disconnection of conductors.....	116
H.8.2	Dimensions of connectable conductors	116
H.8.3	Connectable cross-sectional areas	117
H.8.4	Insertion and disconnection of conductors	117
H.8.5	Design and construction of terminals	117
H.8.6	Resistance to ageing	117
H.9	Tests	117
H.9.1	Test of reliability of screwless terminals.....	117
H.9.2	Tests of reliability of terminals for external conductors: mechanical strength	118
H.9.3	Cycling test.....	119
H.10	Reference documents	121
Annex I (normative) Particular requirements for circuit-breakers with flat quick-connect terminations		122

I.1	Scope	122
I.2	Normative references.....	122
I.3	Terms and definitions.....	122
I.4	Classification	123
I.5	Characteristics of circuit-breakers.....	123
I.6	Marking and other product information	123
I.7	Standard conditions for operation in service.....	123
I.8	Requirements for construction and operation	123
I.8.1	Clearances and creepage distances (see Annex A)	123
I.8.2	Terminals for external conductors	124
I.9	Tests	124
I.9.1	Mechanical overload-force.....	124
Annex J (normative) Specific requirements for circuit-breakers with screw-type terminals for external untreated aluminium conductors and with aluminium screw-type terminals for use with copper or with aluminium conductors		129
J.1	Scope	129
J.2	Normative references.....	129
J.3	Terms and definitions.....	129
J.4	Classification	130
J.5	Characteristics of circuit-breakers.....	130
J.6	Marking and other product information	130
J.7	Standard conditions for operation in service.....	130
J.8	Constructional requirements	131
J.9	Tests	131
J.9.1	Test conditions	133
J.9.2	Current cycling test.....	133
J.10	Reference documents	138
Bibliography.....		139
Figure 1 – Thread forming tapping screw		76
Figure 2 – Thread cutting tapping screw		76
Figure 3 – Single-pole circuit-breaker or pole of multiple circuit breaker.....		76
Figure 4 – Two-pole circuit-breaker with two protected poles		76
Figure 5 – Three-pole circuit-breaker with two protected poles and non-polarized protected M pole		77
Figure 6 – Calibration of the test circuit in case of direct currents		77
Figure 7 –Mechanical shock test apparatus (see 9.13.1).....		78
Figure 8 – Standard test finger (see 9.6).....		79
Figure 9 – Mechanical impact test apparatus (see 9.13.2).....		80
Figure 10 – Striking element for pendulum for mechanical impact test apparatus (see 9.13.2).....		81
Figure 11 – Mounting support for mechanical impact test (see 9.13.2)		82
Figure 12 – Example of mounting for a rear fixed circuit-breaker for mechanical impact test (see 9.13.2)		83
Figure 13 – Example of mounting of a panel board type circuit-breaker for mechanical impact test (see 9.13.2)		84
Figure 14 – Application of force for mechanical test on a rail-mounted circuit-breaker (see 9.13.2.4)		85

Figure 15 – Ball-pressure test apparatus.....	85
Figure 16 – Example of application of force for mechanical test on two-pole plug-in circuit-breaker, the holding in position of which depends solely on the plug-in connections (see 9.13.2.5).....	86
Figure 17 – Diagrammatic representation (see 9.15).....	87
Figure 18 – Impedance Z_1 for test circuit in Figures 3, 4 and 5 for the simulation of making currents	87
Figure A.1 – Examples of methods of measuring creepage distances and clearances.....	92
Figure C.1 – Overcurrent co-ordination between a circuit-breaker and a fuse or back-up protection by a fuse – Operating characteristics	103
Figure C.2 – Total selectivity between two circuit-breakers	104
Figure C.3 – Back-up protection by a circuit-breaker – Operating characteristics	105
Figure D.1 – Examples of pillar terminals	106
Figure D.2 – Examples of screw terminals and stud terminals	107
Figure D.3 – Examples of saddle terminals	108
Figure D.4 – Examples of lug terminals.....	108
Figure F.1 – Test arrangement.....	111
Figure F.2 – Grid circuit	112
Figure F.3 – Grid circuit	112
Figure H.1 – Connecting samples	119
Figure H.2 – Examples of screwless-type terminals	121
Figure I.1 – Example of position of the thermocouple for measurement of the temperature rise	125
Figure I.2 – Dimensions of male tabs	126
Figure I.3 – Dimensions of round dimple detents (see Figure I.2).....	127
Figure I.4 – Dimensions of rectangular dimple detents (see Figure I.2)	127
Figure I.5 – Dimensions of hole detents	127
Figure I.6 – Dimensions of female connectors.....	128
Figure J.1 – General arrangement for the test.....	137
Figure J.2	137
Figure J.3	138
Figure J.4	138
Figure J.5	138
Figure J.6	138
Table 1 – Preferred values of rated voltage and corresponding supply systems	28
Table 2 – Ranges of instantaneous tripping	29
Table 3 – Minimum clearances and creepage distances.....	34
Table 4 – Connectable cross-sections of copper conductors for screw-type terminals	37
Table 5 – Temperature rise values	40
Table 6 – Time-current operating characteristics.....	41
Table 7 – Maximum power loss per pole	44
Table 8 – List of type tests.....	45
Table 9 – Cross-sectional areas (S) of test copper conductors corresponding to the rated currents	46

Table 10 – Screw thread diameters and applied torques	47
Table 11 – Pulling forces	48
Table 12 – Test voltage of auxiliary circuits	52
Table 13 – Test voltage for verification of impulse withstand voltage	54
Table 14 – Test voltage for verifying the suitability for isolation, referred to the rated impulse withstand voltage of the circuit breakers and the altitude where the test is carried out	55
Table 15 – Applicability of tests	60
Table 16 – Ratio k between service short-circuit capacity (I_{CS}) and rated short-circuit capacity (I_{CN}).....	66
Table B.1 – Test sequences.....	93
Table B.2 – Number of samples for full test procedure	95
Table B.3 – Reduction of samples for series of circuit-breakers having different numbers of poles	96
Table B.4 – Test sequences for a series of circuit-breakers being of different instantaneous tripping classifications	97
Table H.1 – Connectable conductors	116
Table H.2 – Cross-sections of copper conductors connectable to screwless-type terminals.....	117
Table H.3 – Pull forces	118
Table I.1 – Informative table on colour code of female connectors in relationship with the cross section of the conductor.....	123
Table I.2 – Overload test forces	124
Table I.3 – Dimensions of tabs.....	125
Table I.4 – Dimensions of female connectors	128
Table J.1 – Marking for terminals	130
Table J.2 – Connectable cross-sections of aluminium conductors for screw-type terminals.....	131
Table J.3 – List of tests according to the material of conductors and terminals.....	132
Table J.4 – Connectable conductors and their theoretical diameters	132
Table J.5 – Cross sections (S) of aluminium test conductors corresponding to the rated currents	133
Table J.6 – Test conductor length	134
Table J.7 – Equalizer and busbar dimensions	134
Table J.8 – Test current as a function of rated current	136
Table J.9 – Example of calculation for determining the average temperature deviation D	136

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES – CIRCUIT-BREAKERS FOR OVERCURRENT PROTECTION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS –

Part 3: Circuit-breakers for DC operation

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IEC 60898-3 edition 1.1 contains the first edition (2019-04) [documents 23E/1122/FDIS and 23E/1126/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2022-02) [documents 23E/1229/CDV and 23E/1126/RVD].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 60898-3 has been prepared by sub-committee 23E: Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

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

A list of all parts in the IEC 60898 series, published under the general title *Electrical accessories – Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations*, can be found on the IEC website.

In this document, the following print types are used:

- Requirements proper: in roman type.
- *Test specifications: in italic type.*
- Explanatory matter: in smaller roman type.

The following differences exist in the countries indicated below.

- 4.7, Note 2: In China, other ranges of instantaneous tripping defined by the manufacturer are allowed.
- Clause 6, Notes 1 and 2: In the following countries: DK, FI, NO, SE and ZA the marking of the symbol on the circuit-breaker is mandatory to indicate that the device provides isolation for the installation downstream. In Australia this marking on the circuit-breaker is mandatory but is not required to be visible after installation.
- H.1, Note: In CZ, DK, NL, NO and CH, the upper limit of current for use of screwless terminals is 16 A.
- H.3.3, Note 1 to entry: In the following countries only universal screwless type terminals are accepted: AT, BE, CN, DK, DE, ES, FR, IT, PT and SE.
- Clause I.1, Note: The use of circuit-breakers with flat quick-connect terminations for rated currents up to and including 20 A is accepted in BE, FR, IT, ES, PT and US.
- I.8.2.2, Note 1: The use for rated currents up to and including 20 A is accepted in BE, FR, IT, PT, ES and US.
- Clause J.1, Note: In Austria, Australia and Germany, the use of aluminium screw-type terminals for use with copper conductors is not allowed.
- In Austria and Germany, terminals for aluminium conductors only are not allowed.
- In Spain, the use of aluminium conductors is not allowed for final circuits in household and similar installations e.g. offices, shops.
- In Denmark, the minimum cross-sectional area for aluminium conductors is 16 mm².

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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

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ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES – CIRCUIT-BREAKERS FOR OVERCURRENT PROTECTION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS –

Part 3: Circuit-breakers for DC operation

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60898 applies to DC circuit-breakers, having a rated DC voltage not exceeding 440 V, a rated current not exceeding 125 A and a rated short-circuit capacity not exceeding 10 000 A.

These circuit-breakers are intended for the protection against overcurrents of wiring installations of buildings and similar applications; they are designed for use by uninstructed people and for not being maintained.

They are intended for use in an environment with pollution degree 2.

They are suitable for isolation.

Circuit-breakers in compliance with this document are suitable for use in TN, TT, and, under specific conditions, IT systems.

This document also applies to circuit-breakers having more than one rated current, provided that the means for changing from one discrete rating to another is not accessible in normal service and that the rating cannot be changed without the use of a tool.

This document does not apply to

- circuit-breakers intended to protect motors;
- circuit-breakers, the current setting of which is adjustable by means accessible to the user.

For circuit-breakers having a degree of protection higher than IP20 according to IEC 60529, for use in locations where arduous environmental conditions prevail (e.g. excessive humidity, heat or cold or deposition of dust) and in hazardous locations (e.g. where explosions are liable to occur), special constructions can be required.

For an environment with a higher pollution degree, enclosures giving the appropriate degree of protection are used.

This document does not apply to circuit-breakers for AC operation, which is covered by IEC 60898-1.

This document does not apply to circuit-breakers for AC and DC operation, which is covered by IEC 60898-2.

Circuit breakers according to this document have a high resistance against unwanted tripping, regardless whether caused by in-rush currents through loading of electronic loads or by switching operations in the circuit.

NOTE Circuit-breakers within the scope of this document can also be used for protection against electric shock in case of a fault, depending on their tripping characteristics and on the characteristics of the installation. The criterion of application for such purposes is dealt with by installation rules.

This document contains all requirements necessary to ensure compliance with the operational characteristics required for these devices by type tests.

It also contains the details relative to test requirements and methods of testing necessary to ensure reproducibility of test results.

Guidance on the coordination, under short-circuit conditions, between a circuit-breaker and another short-circuit protective device (SCPD) is given in Annex C.

Routine tests intended to reveal, as far as safety is concerned, unacceptable variations in material or manufacture are given in Annex G.

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 60050-441, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Switchgear, controlgear and fuses* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60227 (all parts), *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V*

IEC 60228:2004, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60269 (all parts), *Low-voltage fuses*

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment* (available at <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>)

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60664-1:2007, *Insulation co-ordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC 60695-2-10, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-10: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire apparatus and common test procedure*

IEC 60695-2-11:2014, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-11: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow- wire flammability test method for end-products (GWEPT)*

IEC 60947-2:2016, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 2: Circuit-breakers*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-441, and the following apply.

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

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

3.1 Devices

3.1.1

switching device

device designed to make or break the current in one or more electric circuits

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-14-01]

3.1.2

mechanical switching device

switching device designed to close and open one or more electric circuits by means of separable contacts

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-14-02, modified – The note has been deleted.]

3.1.3

fuse

device that, by the fusing of one or more of its specially designed and proportioned components, opens the circuit in which it is inserted and breaks the current when this exceeds a given value for a sufficient time

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-18-01, modified – The end of the definition has been changed.]

3.1.4

circuit-breaker

mechanical switching device, capable of making, carrying and breaking currents under normal circuit conditions and also making, carrying for a specified time, and automatically breaking currents under specified abnormal circuit conditions such as those of short-circuit

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-14-20, modified – "automatically" has been added.]

3.1.5

plug-in circuit-breaker

circuit-breaker having one or more plug-in terminals and designed for use with appropriate means for the plug-in connection

Note 1 to entry: See 3.3.10.8.

3.2 General terms

3.2.1

overcurrent

current exceeding the rated current

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-11-06]

3.2.2

overload current

overcurrent occurring in an electrically undamaged circuit

Note 1 to entry: An overload current may cause damage if sustained for a sufficient time.

3.2.3

short-circuit current

overcurrent resulting from a fault of negligible impedance between points intended to be at different potentials in normal service

Note 1 to entry: A short-circuit current may result from a fault or from an incorrect connection

3.2.4

main circuit

all the conductive parts of a circuit-breaker included in the circuit which it is designed to close and open

3.2.5

control circuit

circuit (other than a path of the main circuit) intended for the closing operation or opening operation, or both, of the circuit-breaker

3.2.6

auxiliary circuit

all the conductive parts of a circuit-breaker intended to be included in a circuit other than the main circuit and the control circuit of the circuit-breaker

3.2.7

pole

that part of a circuit-breaker associated exclusively with one electrically separated conducting path of its main circuit provided with contacts intended to connect and disconnect the main circuit itself and excluding those portions which provide a means for mounting and operating the poles together

3.2.7.1

protected pole

pole provided with an overcurrent release

Note 1 to entry: See 3.3.6.

3.2.7.2

mid-point

common point between two symmetrical circuit elements the opposite ends of which are electrically connected to different line conductors of the same circuit

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:2004, 826-14-04]

3.2.7.3

mid-point conductor

conductor electrically connected to the mid-point and capable of contributing to the distribution of electric energy

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:2004, 826-14-08]

3.2.7.4

M-pole

pole intended to be connected to the mid-point conductor

3.2.8

closed position

position in which the predetermined continuity of the main circuit of the circuit-breaker is secured

3.2.9

open position

position in which the predetermined clearance between open contacts in the main circuit of the circuit-breaker is secured

3.2.10 **air temperature**

3.2.10.1 **ambient air temperature**

temperature, determined under prescribed conditions, of the air surrounding the circuit-breaker

Note 1 to entry: For circuit breakers installed inside an enclosure, it is the temperature of the air outside the enclosure.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-11-13, modified – "circuit breakers" is used instead of the generic term.]

3.2.10.2 **reference ambient air temperature**

ambient air temperature on which the time-current characteristics are based

3.2.11 **operation**

transfer of the moving contact(s) from the open position to the closed position or vice versa

Note 1 to entry: If distinction is necessary, an operation in the electrical sense (make or break) is referred to as a "switching operation" and an operation in the mechanical sense (close or open) is referred to as a "mechanical operation".

3.2.12 **operating cycle**

succession of operations from one position to another and back to the first position

3.2.13 **operating sequence**

<of a mechanical switching device> succession of specified operations with specified time intervals

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-16-03]

3.2.14 **uninterrupted duty**

duty in which the main contacts of a circuit-breaker remain closed whilst carrying a steady current without interruption for long periods (which could be weeks, months, or even years)

3.2.15 **in-rush current**

transient current associated with energizing of transformers, cables, capacitor loads, etc.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-448:1995, 448-11-30, modified – "reactors" has been changed to "capacitor loads".]

3.3 Constructional elements

3.3.1 **main contact**

contact included in the main circuit of a circuit-breaker and intended to carry in the closed position the current of the main circuit

3.3.2 **arcing contact**

contact on which the arc is intended to be established

Note 1 to entry: An arcing contact may serve as a main contact. It may also be a separate contact so designed that it opens after and closes before another contact, which it is intended to protect from damage.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-15-08, modified – In the note, "injury" has been changed to "damage".]

3.3.3

control contact

contact included in a control circuit of a circuit-breaker and mechanically operated by the circuit-breaker

3.3.4

auxiliary contact

contact included in an auxiliary circuit and mechanically operated by the circuit-breaker (e.g. for indicating the position of the contacts)

3.3.5

release

device, mechanically connected to (or integrated into) a circuit-breaker, which releases the holding means and permits the automatic opening of the circuit-breaker

3.3.6

overcurrent release

release which causes a circuit-breaker to open, with or without time-delay, when the current in the release exceeds a pre-determined value

Note 1 to entry: In some cases, this value can depend upon the rate of rise of current.

3.3.7

overload release

overcurrent release intended for protection against overloads

3.3.8

conductive part

part which is capable of conducting current although it may not necessarily be used for carrying current in normal service

3.3.9

exposed conductive part

conductive part which can be readily touched and which normally is not live, but which may become live under fault conditions

Note 1 to entry: Typical exposed conductive parts are walls of metal enclosures, metal operating handles, etc.

3.3.10

terminal

conductive part of a device, provided for re-usable electrical connection to external circuits

3.3.10.1

screw-type terminal

terminal for the connection and subsequent disconnection of a conductor or the inter-connection of two or more conductors, capable of being dismantled, the connection being made, directly or indirectly, by means of screws or nuts of any kind

3.3.10.2

pillar terminal

screw-type terminal in which the conductor is inserted into a hole or cavity, where it is clamped under the shank of the screw(s)

Note 1 to entry: The clamping pressure can be applied directly by the shank of the screw or through an intermediate clamping element to which pressure is applied by the shank of the screw.

Note 2 to entry: Examples of pillar terminals are shown in Annex D, Figure D.1.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-06-22, modified – In Note 1 to entry, "part" has been changed to "clamping element" and Note 2 to entry has been added.]

3.3.10.3 **screw terminal**

terminal in which the conductor is clamped under the head of the screw and where the clamping pressure can be applied directly by the head of the screw or through an intermediate part, such as a washer, a clamping plate or an anti-spread device

Note 1 to entry: Examples of screw terminals are shown in Annex D, Figure D.2.

3.3.10.4 **stud terminal**

screw-type terminal in which the conductor is clamped under a nut

Note 1 to entry: The clamping pressure can be applied directly by a suitably shaped nut or through an intermediate part, such as a washer, a clamping plate or an anti-spread device.

Note 2 to entry: Examples of stud terminals are shown in Annex D, Figure D.2.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-06-23, modified – Note 2 to entry has been added.]

3.3.10.5 **saddle terminal**

screw-type terminal in which the conductor is clamped under a saddle by means of two or more screws or nuts

Note 1 to entry: Examples of saddle terminals are shown in Annex D, Figure D.3.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-06-09, modified – "Terminal" has been changed to "screw-type terminal" and Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.3.10.6 **lug terminal**

screw terminal or stud terminal, designed for clamping a cable lug or a bar directly or indirectly by means of a screw or nut

Note 1 to entry: Examples of lug terminals are shown in Annex D, Figure D.4.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-06-16, modified – "Screw-type terminal" has been changed to "screw terminal or stud terminal" and Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.3.10.7 **screwless terminal**

connecting terminal for the connection and subsequent disconnection of one conductor or the interconnection of two or more conductors capable of being dismantled, the connection being made, directly or indirectly, by means of springs, wedges, eccentrics or cones, etc., without special preparation of the conductor other than removal of insulation

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-442:1998, 442-06-13, modified – The term defined has been changed from "screwless-type clamping unit" to "screwless terminal", "clamping unit" has been changed to "connecting terminal" and the last part of the text has been added.]

3.3.10.8

plug-in terminal

terminal the electrical connection and disconnection of which can be effected without displacing the conductors of the corresponding circuit

Note 1 to entry: The connection is effected without the use of a tool and is provided by the resilience of the fixed and/or moving parts and/or by springs.

3.3.11

tapping screw

screw manufactured from a material having a greater resistance to deformation when applied by rotary insertion to a hole in a material having a lesser resistance to deformation

Note 1 to entry: The screw is made with a tapered thread, the taper being applied to the core diameter of the thread at the end section of the screw.

Note 2 to entry: The thread produced by application of the screw is formed securely only after sufficient revolutions have been made to exceed the number of threads on the tapered section.

3.3.11.1

thread-forming tapping screw

tapping screw having an uninterrupted thread

Note 1 to entry: It is not a function of this thread to remove material from the hole.

Note 2 to entry: An example of thread-forming tapping screw is shown in Figure 1.

3.3.11.2

thread-cutting tapping screw

tapping screw having an interrupted thread, the thread being intended to remove material from the hole

Note 1 to entry: An example of thread-cutting tapping screw is shown in Figure 2.

3.4 Conditions of operation

3.4.1

closing operation

operation by which the circuit-breaker is brought from the open position to the closed position

3.4.2

opening operation

operation by which the circuit-breaker is brought from the closed position to the open position

3.4.3

dependent manual operation

operation solely by means of directly applied manual energy, such that the speed and force of the operation are dependent upon the action of the operator

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-16-13]

3.4.4

independent manual operation

stored energy operation where the energy originates from manual power, stored and released in one continuous operation, such that the speed and force of the operation are independent of the action of the operator

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-16-16]

3.4.5

trip-free circuit-breaker

circuit-breaker, the moving contacts of which return to and remain in the open position when the automatic opening operation is initiated after the initiation of the closing operation, even if the closing command is maintained

Note 1 to entry: To ensure proper breaking of the current which may have been established, it may be necessary that the contacts momentarily reach the closed position.

3.4.6

DC ripple factor

ratio of half the difference between the maximum and minimum value to the mean value of a pulsating direct current

Note 1 to entry: With low values of the DC ripple factor this quantity is approximately equal to the ratio of the difference to the sum of the maximum and the minimum values.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-551:1998, 551-17-29, modified – "of a pulsating direct current to the mean value of this current" has been changed to "to the mean value of a pulsating direct current".]

3.5 Characteristic quantities

3.5.1

rated value

stated value of any one of the characteristic quantities that serve to define the working conditions for which the circuit-breaker is designed and built

3.5.2

prospective current

current that would flow in the circuit if each pole of the circuit-breaker were replaced by a conductor of negligible impedance

Note 1 to entry: The prospective current may be qualified in the same manner as an actual current, for example prospective breaking current, prospective peak current.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-01, modified – "circuit breakers" is used instead of the generic term and the Note to entry has been changed.]

3.5.3

prospective peak current

peak value of a prospective current during the transient period following initiation

Note 1 to entry: The definition assumes that the current is established by an ideal circuit-breaker, that is, with instantaneous transition from infinite to zero impedance. For circuits where the current can follow several different paths, for example polyphase circuits, it further assumes that the current is established simultaneously in all poles, even if the current in only one pole is considered.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-02, modified – "switching device" has been changed to "circuit-breaker" and "made" has been changed to "established".]

3.5.4

maximum prospective peak current

prospective peak current when the initiation of the current takes place at the instant which leads to the highest possible value

Note 1 to entry: For a multipole circuit-breaker in a polyphase circuit, the maximum prospective peak current refers to a single pole only.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-04, modified – In the note, "device" has been changed to "circuit breaker".]

3.5.5**short-circuit making and breaking capacity**

prospective current which the circuit-breaker is designed to make, to carry for its opening time and to break under specified conditions

3.5.5.1**ultimate short-circuit breaking capacity**

breaking capacity for which the specified conditions according to a specified test sequence do not include the capability of the circuit-breaker to carry 0,85 times its non-tripping current for the conventional time

3.5.5.2**service short-circuit breaking capacity**

breaking capacity for which the specified conditions according to a specified test sequence include the capability of the circuit-breaker to carry 0,85 times its non-tripping current for the conventional time

3.5.6**breaking current**

current in a pole of a circuit-breaker at the instant of initiation of the arc during a breaking operation

3.5.7**applied voltage**

voltage which exists across the terminals of a pole of a circuit-breaker just before the making of the current

Note 1 to entry: This definition refers to a single-pole device. For a multipole device, the applied voltage is the voltage across the supply terminals of the device.

3.5.8**recovery voltage**

voltage which appears across the terminals of a pole of a circuit-breaker after the breaking of the current

Note 1 to entry: This voltage may be considered in two successive intervals of time, one during which a transient voltage exists, followed by a second one during which the steady-state recovery voltage alone exists.

Note 2 to entry: This definition refers to a single-pole device. For a multipole device, the recovery voltage is the voltage across the supply terminals of the device.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-25, modified – modified: "switching device" has been changed to "circuit-breaker", "power frequency" has been deleted in Note 1 to entry and, Note 2 to entry has been added.]

3.5.8.1**transient recovery voltage**

recovery voltage during the time in which it has a significant transient character

Note 1 to entry: The transient recovery voltage may be oscillatory or non-oscillatory or a combination of these, depending on the characteristics of the circuit and of the circuit-breaker.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-26, modified – The second sentence of Note 1 to entry has been deleted and Note 2 to entry has been deleted.]

3.5.9**opening time**

time measured from the instant at which, the circuit-breaker being in the closed position, the current in the main circuit reaches the operating value of the overcurrent release to the instant when the arcing contacts have separated in all poles

Note 1 to entry: The opening time is commonly referred to as tripping time, although, strictly speaking, tripping time applies to the time between the instant of initiation of the opening time and the instant at which the opening command becomes irreversible.

3.5.10

arcing time

3.5.10.1

arcing time of a pole

interval of time between the instant of initiation of the arc in a pole and the instant of final arc extinction in that pole

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-37, modified – “or a fuse” and “or that fuse” have been deleted.]

3.5.10.2

arcing time of a multipole circuit-breaker

interval of time between the instant of first initiation of an arc and the instant of final extinction in all poles

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-38, modified – “final arc extinction” has been changed to “final extinction”.]

3.5.11

time constant

rise time $T = L/R$ (ms) of a prospective direct current to reach a value of 0,632 times the maximum peak current

3.5.12

break time

interval of time between the beginning of the opening time of a circuit-breaker and the end of the arcing time

3.5.13

Joule integral

I^2t

integral of the square of the current over a given time interval

$$I^2t = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} i^2 dt$$

3.5.14

I^2t characteristic of a circuit-breaker

curve giving the maximum values of I^2t as a function of the prospective current under stated conditions of operation

3.5.15

co-ordination between overcurrent protective devices in series

3.5.15.1

overcurrent protective co-ordination of overcurrent protective devices

co-ordination of two or more overcurrent protective devices in series to ensure overcurrent (selectivity) and/or back-up protection

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-1:2007, 2.5.22]

3.5.15.2**overcurrent selectivity**

co-ordination of the operating characteristics of two or more overcurrent protective devices in series such that, on the incidence of overcurrents within stated limits, the device intended to operate within these limits does so, while the other(s) does (do) not

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-1:2007/AMD2:2014, 2-5-23, modified – "in series" has been added and the note has been deleted.]

3.5.15.3**back-up protection**

overcurrent co-ordination of two overcurrent protective devices in series, where the protective device, generally but not necessarily on the supply side, effects the overcurrent protection with or without the assistance of the other protective device and prevents excessive stress on the latter

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-1:2007, 2.5.24]

3.5.15.4**total selectivity**

overcurrent selectivity where, in the presence of two overcurrent protective devices in series, the protective device on the load side effects the protection without causing the other protective device to operate

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-2:2016, 2.17.2]

3.5.15.5**partial selectivity**

overcurrent selectivity where, in the presence of two overcurrent protective devices in series, the protective device on the load side effects the protection up to a given level of overcurrent, without causing the other protective device to operate

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-2:2016, 2.17.3]

3.5.15.6**selectivity limit current**

I_s

current co-ordinate of the intersection between the total time-current characteristic of the protective device on the load side and the pre-arcing (for fuses), or tripping (for circuit-breakers) time-current characteristic of the other protective device

Note 1 to entry: The selectivity limit current (see Figure C.1) is a limiting value of current

- below which, in the presence of two overcurrent protective devices in series, the protective device on the load side completes its breaking operation in time to prevent the other protective device from starting its operation (i.e. selectivity is ensured);
- above which, in the presence of two overcurrent protective devices in series, the protective device on the load side may not complete its breaking operation in time to prevent the other protective device from starting its operation (i.e. selectivity is not ensured).

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-2:2016, 2.17.4]

3.5.15.7**take-over current**

I_B

current co-ordinate of the intersection between the time-current characteristics of two overcurrent protective devices

Note 1 to entry: The take-over current is the current co-ordinate of the intersection between the maximum break-time/current characteristics of two overcurrent protective devices in series.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-16, modified – Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.5.15.8 **conditional short-circuit current**

<of a circuit or a switching device> prospective current that a circuit or a switching device, protected by a specified short-circuit protective device, can satisfactorily withstand for the total operating time of that device under specified conditions of use and behaviour

Note 1 to entry: For the purpose of this document, the short-circuit protective device is generally a circuit-breaker or a fuse.

Note 2 to entry: This definition differs from IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-20 by broadening the concept of current limiting device into a short-circuit protective device, the function of which is not only to limit the current.

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-1:2007, 2.5.29]

3.5.15.9 **rated conditional short-circuit current**

I_{nc}
value of prospective current, stated by the manufacturer, which the equipment, protected by a short-circuit protective device specified by the manufacturer, can withstand satisfactorily for the operating time of this device under the test conditions in the relevant product standard

Note 1 to entry: See IEC 60947-1:2007, 4.3.6.4.

3.5.16 **conventional non-tripping current**

I_{nt}
specified value of current which the circuit-breaker is capable of carrying for a specified time (conventional time) without tripping

3.5.17 **conventional tripping current**

I_t
specified value of current which causes the circuit-breaker to operate within a specified time (conventional time)

3.5.18 **instantaneous tripping current**

minimum value of current causing the circuit-breaker to operate automatically without intentional time-delay

3.6 Definitions related to insulation co-ordination

3.6.1 **insulation coordination**

mutual correlation of insulation characteristics of electrical equipment taking into account the expected micro-environment and the influencing stresses

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.1, modified – "other influencing stresses" has been changed to "the influencing stresses" and the note has been deleted.]

3.6.2 **working voltage**

voltage across any particular insulation which can occur when the equipment is supplied at rated voltage

Note 1 to entry: Transients are disregarded.

Note 2 to entry: Both open-circuit conditions and normal operating conditions are taken into account

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.5, modified – "highest r.m.s. value of the a.c. or d.c. voltage across " has been replaced by "voltage across".]

3.6.3

overvoltage

any voltage having a peak value exceeding the corresponding peak value of maximum steady-state voltage at normal operating conditions

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.7]

3.6.4

impulse withstand voltage

highest peak value of impulse voltage of prescribed form and polarity which does not cause breakdown of the insulation under specific conditions

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.8.1, modified – "specified" has been replaced by "specific".]

3.6.5

overvoltage category

numeral defining a transient overvoltage condition

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.10, modified – The notes have been deleted.]

3.6.6

macro-environment

environment of the room or other location, in which the equipment is installed or used

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.12.1]

3.6.7

micro-environment

immediate environment of the insulation which particularly influences the dimensioning of the creepage distances

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.12.2]

3.6.8

pollution

any addition of foreign matter, solid, liquid or gaseous that can result in a reduction of electric strength or surface resistivity of the insulation

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.11]

3.6.9

pollution degree

numeral characterising the expected pollution of the micro-environment

Note 1 to entry: The pollution degree to which equipment is exposed may be different from that of the macro-environment where the equipment is located because of protection offered by means such as an enclosure or internal heating to prevent absorption or condensation of moisture.

[SOURCE: IEC 60664-1:2007, 3.13, modified – Note 1 to entry replaces the existing note.]

3.6.10

isolation

isolating function

function intended to cut off the supply from all or a discrete section of the installation by separating the installation from every source of electrical energy for reasons of safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60947-1:2007, 2.1.19]

3.6.11

isolating distance

clearance between open contacts of a pole of a mechanical switching device, meeting the safety requirements specified for isolation purposes

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-35, modified – "disconnectors" has been changed to "isolation purposes".]

3.6.12

clearance

shortest distance in air between two conductive parts along a string stretched the shortest way between these conductive parts

Note 1 to entry: For the purpose of determining a clearance to accessible parts, the accessible surface of an insulating enclosure is considered conductive as if it was covered by a metal foil wherever it can be touched by a hand or a standard test finger according to Figure 8.

Note 2 to entry: See Annex A.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-441:2000, 441-17-31, modified – "the distance" has been changed to "shortest distance in air" and the notes have been added.]

3.6.13

creepage distance

shortest distance along the surface of an insulating material between two conductive parts

Note 1 to entry: See Annex A.

Note 2 to entry: For the purpose of determining a creepage distance to accessible parts, the accessible surface of an insulating enclosure is considered conductive as if it was covered by a metal foil wherever it can be touched by a hand or a standard test finger according to Figure 8.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-15-50, modified – "solid" has been deleted from "insulating material" and the Notes to entry have been added.]

4 Classification

4.1 General

Circuit-breakers are classified according to several criteria.

4.2 According to the number of poles

- single-pole circuit-breakers;
- two-pole circuit-breakers with two protected poles;
- three-pole circuit-breakers with two protected poles and non-polarized protected M pole.

NOTE 1 The non-polarized M-pole of three-pole circuit-breaker with two protected poles can consist of two polarized factory pre-wired poles.

NOTE 2 Three pole circuit-breakers are intended to protect a distribution system with 2 polarities and a mid-point. See Table 1.

NOTE 3 A pole of a non-polarized breaker can consist of two polarized factory pre-wired poles.

4.3 According to the current direction through the poles

- polarized circuit breaker;
- non-polarized circuit breaker.

4.4 According to the protection against external influences

- enclosed-type (not requiring an appropriate enclosure);
- unenclosed-type (for use with an appropriate enclosure).

4.5 According to the method of mounting

- surface-type;
- flush-type;
- panel board type, also referred to as distribution board type.

NOTE These types can be intended to be rail mounted.

4.6 According to the methods of connection

4.6.1 According to the fixation system

- circuit-breakers, the electrical connections of which are not associated with the mechanical mounting;
- circuit-breakers, the electrical connections of which are associated with the mechanical mounting.

NOTE Examples of this type are:

- plug-in type;
- bolt-on type;
- screw-in type.

Some circuit-breakers can be of the plug-in type or bolt-on type on the line side only, the load terminals being usually suitable for wiring connection.

4.6.2 According to the type of terminals

- circuit-breakers with screw-type terminals for external copper conductors;
- circuit-breakers with screwless type terminals for external copper conductors;

NOTE 1 The requirements for circuit-breakers equipped with this type of terminals are given in Annex J.

- circuit-breakers with flat quick-connect terminals for external copper conductors;

NOTE 2 The requirements for circuit-breakers equipped with this type of terminals are given in Annex K.

- circuit-breakers with screw-type terminals for external aluminium conductors.

NOTE 3 The requirements for circuit-breakers with this type of terminals are given in Annex L.

4.7 According to the instantaneous tripping current (see 3.5.18)

- B-type;
- C-type.

NOTE 1 The selection of a particular type can depend on the installation rules.

NOTE 2 In China, other ranges of instantaneous tripping defined by the manufacturer are allowed.

5 Characteristics of circuit-breakers

5.1 List of characteristics

The characteristics of a circuit-breaker shall be stated in the following terms:

- number of poles (see 4.2);
- current direction (see 4.3)
- protection against external influences (see 4.4);
- method of mounting (see 4.5);

- method of connection (see 4.6);
- value of rated operational voltage (see 5.2.1.1);
- value of rated direct current (see 5.2.2);
- range of instantaneous tripping current (see 4.7 and 5.3.4);
- value of rated short-circuit capacity (see 5.3.3);
- I^2t characteristic (see 3.5.14).

5.2 Rated quantities

5.2.1 Rated voltages

5.2.1.1 Rated operational voltage (U_e)

The rated operational voltage (hereinafter referred to as rated voltage) of a circuit-breaker is the value of voltage, assigned by the manufacturer, to which its performance (particularly the short-circuit performance) is referred.

NOTE The same circuit-breaker can be assigned a number of rated voltages and associated rated short-circuit capacities.

5.2.1.2 Rated insulation voltage (U_i)

The rated insulation voltage of a circuit-breaker is the value of voltage, assigned by the manufacturer, to which dielectric test voltages and creepage distances are referred.

Unless otherwise stated, the rated insulation voltage is the value of the maximum rated voltage of the circuit-breaker. In no case shall the maximum rated voltage exceed the rated insulation voltage.

5.2.1.3 Rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})

The rated impulse withstand voltage of a circuit-breaker shall be equal to or higher than the standard value of rated impulse withstand voltage given in 5.3.5.

5.2.2 Rated direct current (I_n)

A rated direct current is the direct current assigned by the manufacturer as the current which the circuit-breaker is designed to carry in uninterrupted duty (see 3.2.14), at a specified reference ambient air temperature.

The standard reference ambient air temperature is 30 °C. If a different reference ambient air temperature for the circuit-breaker is used, the effect on the overload protection of cables shall be taken into account, since this is also based on a reference ambient air temperature of 30 °C according to installation rules.

NOTE The reference ambient air temperature for the overload protection of cables has been fixed at 25 °C.

5.2.3 Rated short-circuit capacity (I_{cn})

The rated short-circuit capacity of a circuit-breaker is the value of the ultimate short-circuit breaking capacity (see 3.5.5.1) assigned to that circuit-breaker by the manufacturer.

NOTE A circuit-breaker having a given rated short-circuit capacity has a corresponding service short-circuit capacity (I_{cs}) (see Table 16).

5.2.4 Rated making and breaking capacity of an individual pole (I_{cn1})

The value is the limiting short-circuit making and breaking capacity on each individual protected pole of multipole circuit breakers.

The value of prospective short-circuit current is assigned by the manufacturer on one pole of a two-pole circuit breaker, which the device is designed to make, to carry for its opening time and to break under specified conditions

The standard values are those given in 5.3.3.

5.3 Standard and preferred values

5.3.1 Preferred values of rated voltage

The preferred values of rated voltages are given in Table 1.

Table 1 – Preferred values of rated voltage and corresponding supply systems

Circuit breaker	Single pole	Single pole	Two pole	Two pole	Three pole with non-polarized M-pole
Rated voltage of circuit-breaker V	200	200	200	400	400
Maximum supply system voltages V	2-wires 200	3-wires 200/400	2-wires 200	3-wires 200/400	3-wires 200/400
Maximum line to line voltage for IT-systems ^a V	200	200	200	200	200
^a If not otherwise specified by the manufacturer.					

5.3.2 Preferred values of rated current

Preferred values of rated current are:

6 A, 8 A, 10 A, 13 A, 16 A, 20 A, 25 A, 32 A, 40 A, 50 A, 63 A, 80 A, 100 A and 125 A.

5.3.3 Values of rated short-circuit capacity

Standard values of rated short-circuit capacities up to and including 10 000 A are:

1 500 A, 3 000 A, 4 500 A, 6 000 A, 10 000 A.

NOTE The values of 1 000 A, 2 000 A, 2 500 A, 5 000 A, 7 500 A and 9 000 A are also considered as standard in some countries.

5.3.4 Standard ranges of instantaneous tripping

The ranges of instantaneous tripping are given in Table 2.

Table 2 – Ranges of instantaneous tripping

Type	Range for DC
B	Above $4 I_n$ up to and including $7 I_n$
C	Above $7 I_n$ up to and including $15 I_n$

5.3.5 Standard value of rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})

The standard value of the rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp}) is 4 kV.

6 Marking and other product information

Each circuit-breaker shall be marked in a durable manner with the following:

- manufacturer's name or trade mark;
- type designation, catalogue number or serial number;
- rated voltage with the symbol — — — ;
- maximum line-to-line voltage for application in IT systems;
- rated current without symbol "A", preceded by the symbol of instantaneous tripping (B or C), for example B16;
- marking of polarity, if required (e.g. +, -, M);
- rated short-circuit capacity for DC in amperes;
- wiring diagram, unless the correct mode of connection is evident;
- reference ambient air temperature, if different from 30 °C;
- degree of protection (only if different from IP20);
- making and breaking capacity of an individual protected pole of multipole circuit breakers (I_{cn1}), if different from I_{cn} .

If, for small devices, the space available does not allow all the above data to be marked, at least the information under e) shall be marked and visible when the circuit-breaker is installed.

The information under a), b), d), g), i), j) and k) may be marked on the side or on the back of the device and be visible only before the device is installed.

Alternatively, the information under h) may be on the inside of any cover which has to be removed in order to connect the supply wires. Any remaining information not marked shall be given in the manufacturer's literature.

The information under f) shall be placed near the corresponding terminals and visible from the front.

The suitability for isolation, which is provided by all circuit-breakers of this document, may be indicated by the symbol  on the device. When affixed, this marking may be included in a wiring diagram, where it may be combined with symbols of other functions, for example overload protection, or other symbols of technical committee 3 of IEC. When the symbol is used on its own (i.e. not in a wiring diagram), combination with symbols of other functions is not allowed.

NOTE 1 In the following countries: DK, FI, NO, SE and ZA the marking of the symbol on the circuit-breaker is mandatory to indicate that the device provides isolation for the installation downstream. In these countries it is required that the symbol be clearly and unmistakably visible when the circuit-breaker is installed as in service and the actuator is accessible.

NOTE 2 In Australia, this marking on the circuit-breaker is mandatory but is not required to be visible after installation.

If a degree of protection higher than IP20 according to IEC 60529 is marked on the device, it shall comply with it, whichever the method of installation. If the higher degree of protection is obtained only by a specific method of installation and/or with the use of specific accessories (e.g. terminal covers, enclosures), this shall be specified in the manufacturer's literature.

The manufacturer shall declare in his literature the minimum voltage for which the circuit-breaker is designed.

The manufacturer shall make available, on request, the I^2t characteristic (see 3.5.14).

For circuit-breakers other than those operated by means of push-buttons, the open position shall be indicated by the symbol O (a circle) IEC 60417-5008:2002-10 and the closed position by the symbol I (a short vertical straight line) IEC 60417-5007:2002-10. Additional national symbols for this indication are allowed. Provisionally, the use of this national indication alone is allowed. These indications shall be readily visible when the circuit-breaker is installed.

For circuit-breakers operated by means of two push-buttons, only the push-button designed for the opening operation shall be red and/or be marked with the symbol O IEC 60417-5008:2002-10.

Red shall not be used for any other push-button of the circuit-breaker.

If a push-button is used for closing the contacts and is clearly identified as such, its depressed position is sufficient to indicate the closed position.

If a single push-button is used for closing and opening the contacts and is identified as such, the button remaining in its depressed position is sufficient to indicate the closed position. On the other hand, if the button does not remain depressed, an additional means indicating the position of the contacts shall be provided.

For circuit-breakers with multiple current ratings, the maximum value shall be marked in accordance with marking e), and in addition the value for which the circuit-breaker is adjusted shall be indicated without ambiguity.

If it is necessary to distinguish between the supply and the load terminals, the former shall be indicated by arrows pointing towards the circuit-breaker and the latter by arrows pointing away from the circuit-breaker.

Terminals intended for the protective conductor, if any, shall be indicated by the symbol  (IEC 60417-5019:2006-08).

Marking shall be indelible and easily legible, and shall not be placed on screws, washers or other removable parts.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the test of 9.3.

7 Standard conditions for operation in service

7.1 General

Circuit-breakers complying with this document shall be capable of operating under the following standard conditions.

7.2 Ambient air temperature range

The ambient air temperature does not exceed +40 °C and its average over a period of 24 h does not exceed +35 °C.

The lower limit of the ambient air temperature is –5 °C.

Circuit-breakers intended to be used in ambient air temperatures above +40 °C (particularly in tropical countries) or below –5 °C shall either be specially designed or be used according to the information given in the manufacturer's catalogue.

7.3 Altitude

In general, the altitude of the site of installation does not exceed 2 000 m.

For installations at higher altitudes, it is necessary to take into account the reduction of the dielectric strength and of the cooling effect of the air. Circuit-breakers intended to be so used shall be designed specially or used according to an agreement between manufacturer and user. Information given in the manufacturer's catalogue may take the place of such an agreement.

7.4 Atmospheric conditions

The air is clean and its relative humidity does not exceed 50 % at a maximum temperature of +40 °C.

Higher relative humidities may be permitted at lower temperatures, for example 90 % at +20 °C.

Care should be taken by appropriate means (for example drain holes) of moderate condensation which may occasionally occur due to variations in temperature.

7.5 Conditions of installation

The circuit-breaker shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

7.6 Pollution degree

Circuit-breakers according to this document are intended for environment with pollution degree 2, i.e. normally only non-conductive pollution occurs; occasionally, however, a temporary conductivity caused by condensation may be expected.

8 Requirements for construction and operation

8.1 Mechanical design

8.1.1 General

Circuit-breakers shall be so designed and constructed that, in normal use, their performance is reliable and without danger to the user or surroundings.

In general, compliance is checked by carrying out all the relevant tests specified.

8.1.2 Mechanism

The moving contacts of all poles of multipole circuit-breakers shall be so mechanically coupled that all poles make and break substantially together, whether operated manually or automatically, even if an overload occurs on one protected pole only.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by manual test, using any appropriate means (e.g. indicator lights, oscilloscope).

Circuit-breakers shall have a trip-free mechanism.

Compliance with the above requirements is checked by inspection, by manual test and, for the trip-free function, by the test of 9.10.3.

For DC circuit breakers with poles consisting of series connected prewired (unpolarized) pole-modules, such “pole-assemblies” are treated as a single pole.

For three pole circuit-breakers, one of the poles shall be a non polarized M-pole. The non-polarized M-Pole may consist of two polarized factory pre-wired poles.

It shall be possible to switch the circuit-breaker on and off by hand. For plug-in type circuit-breakers without operating handle, this requirement is not considered met by the fact that the circuit-breaker can be removed from its base.

Circuit-breakers shall be so constructed that the moving contacts can come to rest only in the closed position (see 3.2.8) or in the open position (see 3.2.9), even when the operating means is released in an intermediate position.

Circuit-breakers shall provide in the open position (see 3.2.9) an isolation distance complying with requirements of isolating function (see 8.3). Indication of the open and closed position of the main contacts shall be provided by one or both of the following means:

- the position of the actuator (this being preferred), or
- a separate mechanical indicator.

If a separate mechanical indicator is used, this shall show the colour red for the closed position (ON) and the colour green for the open position (OFF). The means of indication of the contact position shall be reliable.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the tests of 9.10.3.

Circuit-breakers shall be designed so that the actuator, front plate or cover can only be correctly fitted in a manner which ensures correct indication of the contact position.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the tests of 9.12.12.1 and 9.12.12.2.

Where the operating means is used to indicate the position of the contacts, the operating means, when released, shall automatically take up the position corresponding to that of the moving contact(s); in this case, the operating means shall have two distinct rest positions corresponding to the position of the contacts but, for automatic opening, a third distinct position of the operating means may be provided.

The action of the mechanism shall not be influenced by the position of enclosures or covers and shall be independent of any removable part.

A cover sealed in position by the manufacturer is considered to be a non-removable part.

If the cover is used as a guiding means for push-buttons, it shall not be possible to remove the buttons from the outside of the circuit-breaker.

Operating means shall be securely fixed on their shafts and it shall not be possible to remove them without the aid of a tool. Operating means directly fixed to covers are allowed.

If the operating means has an "up-down" movement, when the circuit-breaker is mounted as in normal use, the contacts shall be closed by the up movement.

Provisionally, in certain countries down-closing movement is allowed.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by manual test.

When means are provided or specified by the manufacturer to lock the operating means in the open position, locking in that position shall only be possible when the main contacts are in the open position.

NOTE Locking of the operating means in the closed position is possible for particular applications.

Compliance is checked by inspection, taking into account the instructions of the manufacturer.

8.1.3 Clearances and creepage distances (see Annex A)

8.1.3.1 General

The minimum required clearances and creepage distances are given in Table 3 which is based on the circuit-breaker being designed for operating in an environment with pollution degree 2.

Parts of PCBs connected to the live parts protected against pollution by the use of a type 2 protection according to IEC 60664-3 are exempted from this verification.

The insulating materials are classified into material groups on the basis of their comparative tracking index (CTI) according to IEC 60664-1.

NOTE 1 The comparative tracking index (CTI) is declared by the manufacturer on the basis of tests carried out on the insulating material.

NOTE 2 Information on the requirements for design of solid insulation is provided in IEC 60664-1.

NOTE 3 For clearances on printed wiring material, Note 3 in Table F.2 of IEC 60664-1:2007 applies: "For printed wiring material, the values for pollution degree 1 apply except that the value shall not be less than 0,04 mm, as specified in Table F.4." For creepage distances on printed wiring material, distances in Table F.4 in IEC 60664-1:2007 can be used if protected with a coating meeting IEC 60664-3 requirements and tests.

8.1.3.2 Clearances

Compliance for item 1 in Table 3 is checked by measurement and by the tests of 9.7.5.4.

The test is carried out with samples not submitted to the humidity treatment described in 9.7.1

Compliance for item 2 and 4 in Table 3 is checked by measurement and, if required, by the tests of 9.7.5.2.

The clearances of items 2 and 4 (except accessible surface after installation, see Note) may be reduced provided that the measured clearances are not shorter than the minimum allowed

in IEC 60664-1 for homogenous field conditions. In this case, compliance for items 2 and 4 is always checked by the test of 9.7.5.2.

NOTE Accessible surface after installation means any surface accessible by the user when the circuit-breaker is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. The test finger can be applied to determine whether a surface is accessible or not.

Compliance for item 3 in Table 3 is checked by measurement.

8.1.3.3 Creepage distances

Compliance for item 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Table 3 is checked by measurement.

NOTE All measurements required in 8.1.3 are carried out in Test sequence A on one sample. Tests according to 9.7.2 to 9.7.5 are carried out in test sequence B on three samples.

8.1.3.4 Solid insulation

Compliance is checked by the tests according to 9.7.2, 9.7.3, 9.7.4 and 9.7.5 as applicable.

Table 3 – Minimum clearances and creepage distances

	Minimum clearances mm	Minimum creepage distances ^{e, f} mm											
		Group IIIa ^h (175 V ≤ CTI < 400 V) ^d				Group II (400 V ≤ CTI < 600 V) ^d				Group I (600 V ≤ CTI) ^d			
	Rated voltage V	Working voltage ^e V											
	U_{imp} 4 kV												
Description/item	200 400	>25 ≤50 ⁱ	120	250	400	>25 ≤50 ⁱ	120	250	400	>25 ≤50 ⁱ	120	250	400
1. between live parts which are separated when the main contacts are in the open position ^{a,j}	4,0	1,2	2,0	4,0	4,0	0,9	2,0	4,0	4,0	0,6	2,0	4,0	4,0
2. between live parts of different polarity ^a	3,0	1,2	1,5	3,0	4,0	0,9	1,5	3,0	3,0	0,6	1,5	3,0	3,0
3. between circuits supplied from different sources, one of which being PELV or SELV ^g	8,0		3,0	6,0	8,0		3,0	6,0	8,0		3,0	6,0	8,0
		Rated voltage V											
		200 400				200 400				200 400			

4. between live parts and – accessible surfaces of operating means – screws or other means for fixing covers which have to be removed when mounting the circuit-breaker – surface on which the circuit-breaker is mounted ^b – screws or other means for fixing the circuit-breaker ^b – metal covers or boxes ^b – other accessible metal parts ^c – metal frames supporting flush-type circuit-breakers	3,0	4,0	3,0	3,0
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Care should be taken to provide adequate clearances and creepage distances between live parts of different polarity of circuit-breakers, e.g. of the plug-in type mounted close to one another.

NOTE The parts of the M pole, if any, are considered to be live parts.

^a For auxiliary and control contacts, the values are given in the relevant standard.

^b The values are doubled if clearances and creepage distances between live parts of the device and the metallic screen or the surface on which the circuit-breaker is mounted are not dependent on the design of the circuit-breaker only, so that they can be reduced when the circuit-breaker is mounted in the most unfavourable condition.

^c Including a metal foil in contact with the surfaces of insulating material which are accessible after installation for normal use. The foil is pushed into corners, grooves, etc., by means of a straight unjointed test finger according to 9.6 (see Figure 8).

^d See IEC 60112.

^e Interpolation is allowed in determining creepage distances corresponding to voltage values intermediate to those listed as working voltage. When interpolating, linear interpolation shall be used and values shall be rounded to the same number of digits as the values picked up from the tables. For determination of creepage distances, see Annex A.

^f Creepage distances cannot be less than the associated clearances.

^g To cover all different voltages including ELV in an auxiliary contact.

^h For material group IIIb ($100\text{ V} \leq \text{CTI} < 175\text{ V}$) the values for material group IIIa multiplied by 1,6 apply.

ⁱ For working voltages up to and including 25 V reference may be made to IEC 60664-1.

^j The clearance and creepage distances between the metal parts within the arc chamber may be less than 1mm, provided that the sum of distances is greater than prescribed in item 1 of Table 3.

8.1.4 Screws, current-carrying parts and connections

8.1.4.1 Connections, whether electrical or mechanical, shall withstand the mechanical stresses occurring in normal use.

Screws operated when mounting the circuit-breaker during installation shall not be of the thread-cutting type.

NOTE 1 Screws (or nuts) which are operated when mounting the circuit-breaker include screws for fixing covers or cover-plates, but not connecting means for screwed conduits and for fixing the base of a circuit-breaker.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the test of 9.4.

NOTE 2 Screwed connections are considered as checked by the tests of 9.8, 9.9, 9.12, 9.13 and 9.14.

8.1.4.2 For screws in engagement with a thread of insulating material and which are operated when mounting the circuit-breaker during installation, correct introduction of the screw into the screw hole or nut shall be ensured.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by manual test.

The requirement with regard to correct introduction is met, if introduction of the screw in a slanting manner is prevented, for example by guiding the screw by the part to be fixed by a recess in the female thread, or by the use of a screw with the leading thread removed.

8.1.4.3 Electrical connections shall be so designed that contact pressure is not transmitted through insulating material other than ceramic, pure mica or other material with characteristics no less suitable, unless there is sufficient resilience in the metallic parts to compensate for any possible shrinkage or yielding of the insulating material.

Compliance is checked by inspection.

NOTE The suitability of the material is considered in respect of the stability of the dimensions.

8.1.4.4 Current-carrying parts including parts intended for protective conductors, if any, shall be made of a metal having, under the conditions occurring in the equipment, mechanical strength, electrical conductivity and resistance to corrosion adequate for their intended use.

NOTE Examples of suitable materials are given below:

- copper;
- an alloy containing at least 58 % copper for parts worked cold, or at least 50 % copper for other parts;
- other metal or suitably coated metal, no less resistant to corrosion than copper and having mechanical properties no less suitable.

In case of using ferrous alloys or suitably coated ferrous alloys, compliance to resistance to corrosion is checked by a test of resistance to rusting (see 9.16).

The requirements of 8.1.4.4 do not apply to contacts, magnetic circuits, heater elements, bimetals, shunts, electronic components, including circuit boards, or to screws, nuts, washers, clamping plates, similar parts of terminals and parts of the test circuit.

8.1.5 Terminals for external conductors

8.1.5.1 Terminals for external conductors shall be such that the conductors may be connected so as to ensure that the necessary contact pressure is maintained permanently.

Connection arrangements intended for busbar connection are admissible, provided they are not used for the connection of cables.

Such arrangements may be either of the plug-in or of the bolt-on type.

The terminals shall be readily accessible under the intended conditions of use.

Compliance is checked by inspection, by the tests of 9.5 for screw-type terminals, by specific tests for plug-in or bolt-on circuit-breakers included in this document, or by the tests of Annex H or Annex I, as relevant for the type of connection.

8.1.5.2 Circuit breakers shall be provided with either:

- terminals which shall allow the connection of copper conductors having nominal cross-sectional areas as shown in Table 4;

NOTE 1 Examples of possible designs of screw-type terminals are given in Annex D.

- or terminals for external untreated aluminium conductors according to Annex J;
- or with aluminium screw-type terminals for use with copper or with aluminium conductors according to Annex J.

Compliance is checked by inspection, by measurement and by fitting, in turn, one conductor of the smallest and one of the largest cross-sectional area as specified.

Table 4 – Connectable cross-sections of copper conductors for screw-type terminals

Rated current ^b A		Range of nominal cross-section to be clamped ^a mm ²	
Greater than	Up to and including	Rigid (solid or stranded ^c) conductors	Flexible conductors
–	13	1 to 2,5	1 to 2,5
13	16	1 to 4	1 to 4
16	25	1,5 to 6	1,5 to 6
25	32	2,5 to 10	2,5 to 6
32	50	4 to 16	4 to 10
50	80	10 to 25	10 to 16
80	100	16 to 35	16 to 25
100	125	25 to 50	25 to 35

^a It is required that, for current ratings up to and including 50 A, terminals be designed to clamp solid conductors as well as rigid stranded conductors. Nevertheless, it is permitted that terminals for conductors having cross-sections from 1 mm² up to 6 mm² be designed to clamp solid conductors only.

^b A range of CBs having the same fundamental design and having the same design and construction of terminals, the terminals are fitted with copper conductors of the smallest cross-section for the minimum rated current and largest cross-section for the maximum rated current, as specified, solid and stranded, as applicable.

^c Rigid stranded conductors shall be used for conductors having cross-sections from 1,5 mm² up to 50 mm² and shall be in compliance with class 2 of IEC 60228:2004, related to stranded conductors for single-core.

NOTE 2 For AWG copper conductors, see Annex E.

8.1.5.3 The means for clamping the conductors in the terminals shall not serve to fix any other component, although they may hold the terminals in place or prevent them from turning.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the tests of 9.5.

8.1.5.4 Terminals for rated currents up to and including 32 A shall allow the conductors to be connected without special preparation.

Compliance is checked by inspection.

NOTE The term "special preparation" covers soldering of the wire of the conductor, use of cable lugs, formation of eyelets, etc., but not the reshaping of the conductor before its introduction into the terminal or the twisting of a flexible conductor to consolidate the end.

8.1.5.5 Terminals shall have adequate mechanical strength. Screws and nuts for clamping the conductors shall have a metric ISO thread or a thread comparable in pitch and mechanical strength.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the tests of 9.4 and 9.5.1.

NOTE Provisionally, SI, BA and UN threads can be used as they are virtually equivalent in pitch and mechanical strength to metric ISO threads.

8.1.5.6 Terminals shall be so designed that they clamp the conductor without undue damage to the conductor.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the test of 9.5.3.

8.1.5.7 Terminals shall be so designed that they clamp the conductor reliably and between metal surfaces.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the tests of 9.4 and 9.5.1.

8.1.5.8 Terminals shall be so designed or positioned that neither a rigid solid conductor nor a wire of a stranded conductor can slip out while the clamping screws or nuts are tightened.

This requirement does not apply to lug terminals.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.5.4.

8.1.5.9 Terminals shall be so fixed or located that, when the clamping screws or nuts are tightened or loosened, the terminals shall not work loose from their fixings to circuit-breakers.

NOTE 1 These requirements do not imply that the terminals are so designed that their rotation or displacement is prevented, but any movement is sufficiently limited so as to prevent non-compliance with the requirements of this document.

NOTE 2 The use of sealing compound or resin is considered to be sufficient for preventing a terminal from working loose, provided that

- the sealing compound or resin is not subject to stress during normal use, and
- the effectiveness of the sealing compound or resin is not impaired by temperatures attained by the terminal under the most unfavourable conditions specified in this document.

Compliance is checked by inspection, by measurement and by the test of 9.4.

8.1.5.10 Clamping screws or nuts of terminals intended for the connection of protective conductors shall be adequately secured against accidental loosening.

Compliance is checked by manual test.

NOTE In general, the designs of terminals (examples of which are shown in Annex D) provide sufficient resilience to comply with this requirement; for other designs, special provisions, such as the use of an adequately resilient part which is not likely to be removed inadvertently, can be necessary.

8.1.5.11 Pillar terminals shall allow full insertion and reliable clamping of the conductor.

Compliance is checked by inspection after a rigid conductor of the largest cross-sectional area specified for the relevant rated current in Table 4 has been fully inserted and fully clamped by applying the torques according to Table 10.

8.1.5.12 Screws and nuts of terminals intended for the connection of external conductors shall be in engagement with a metal thread and the screws shall not be of the tapping screw type.

8.1.6 Non-interchangeability

For circuit-breakers intended to be mounted on bases forming a unit therewith (plug-in type or screw-in type) it shall not be possible, without the aid of a tool, to replace a circuit-breaker when mounted and wired as for normal use by another of the same make having a higher rated current.

Compliance is checked by inspection.

NOTE The expression "as for normal use" implies that the circuit-breaker is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

8.1.7 Mechanical mounting of plug-in type circuit-breakers

8.1.7.1 General

The mechanical mounting of plug-in type circuit-breakers, the holding in position of which does not depend solely on their plug-in connection(s), shall be reliable and have adequate stability.

8.1.7.2 Plug-in type circuit-breakers, the holding in position of which does not depend solely on their plug-in connection(s)

Compliance of the mechanical mounting is checked by the relevant tests of 9.13.

8.1.7.3 Plug-in type circuit-breakers, the holding in position of which depends solely on their plug-in connection(s)

Compliance of the mechanical mounting is checked by the relevant tests of 9.13.

8.2 Protection against electric shock

Circuit-breakers shall be so designed that, when they are mounted and wired as for normal use (see note to 8.1.6), live parts are not accessible.

A part is considered to be "accessible" if it can be touched by the test finger (see 9.6).

For circuit-breakers other than those of the plug-in type, external parts, other than screws or other means for fixing covers and labels, which are accessible when the circuit-breakers are mounted and wired as for normal use, shall either be of insulating material or be lined throughout with insulating material, unless the live parts are within an internal enclosure of insulating material.

Linings shall be fixed in such a way that they are not likely to be lost during installation of the circuit-breakers. They shall have adequate thickness and mechanical strength and shall provide adequate protection at places where sharp edges occur.

Inlet openings for cables or conduits shall either be of insulating material or be provided with bushings or similar devices of insulating material. Such devices shall be reliably fixed and shall have adequate mechanical strength.

For plug-in circuit-breakers, external parts other than screws or other means for fixing covers, which are accessible in normal conditions of use, shall be of insulating material.

Metallic operating means shall be insulated from live parts and their exposed conductive parts shall be covered by insulating material. This requirement does not apply to means for coupling insulated operating means of several poles. It shall be possible to replace plug-in circuit-breakers easily without touching live parts.

Lacquer or enamel are not considered to provide adequate insulation for the purpose of 8.2.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the test of 9.6.

8.3 Dielectric properties and isolating capability

8.3.1 General

Circuit-breakers shall have adequate dielectric properties and shall ensure isolation.

8.3.2 Dielectric properties

Circuit breakers shall have adequate dielectric properties.

Control circuits connected to the main circuit shall not be damaged by high DC voltage due to insulation measurements which are normally carried out after circuit breakers are installed.

Compliance is checked by the tests of 9.7.1, 9.7.2 and 9.7.3 on the circuit-breaker in new condition

8.3.3 Isolating capability

Circuit-breakers shall be suitable for isolation.

Compliance is checked by the verification of compliance with the minimum clearances and creepage distances of item 1 of Table 3 and by the tests of 9.7.5.3 and 9.7.5.4.

8.3.4 Dielectric strength at rated impulse withstand voltage (U_{imp})

Circuit-breakers shall adequately withstand impulse voltages.

Compliance is checked by the tests of 9.7.5.2.

8.4 Temperature rise

8.4.1 Temperature rise limits

The temperature rises of the parts of a circuit-breaker specified in Table 5, measured under the conditions specified in 9.8.2, shall not exceed the limiting values stated in that table.

The circuit-breaker shall not suffer damage impairing its functions and its safe use.

Table 5 – Temperature rise values

Parts ^{a b}	Temperature rise K
Terminals for external connections ^c	60
External parts liable to be touched during manual operation of the circuit-breaker, including operating means of insulating material and metallic means for coupling insulated operating means of several poles	40
External metallic parts of operating means	25
Other external parts, including that face of the circuit-breaker in direct contact with the mounting surface	60
^a No value is specified for the contacts, since the design of most circuit-breakers is such that a direct measurement of the temperature of those parts cannot be made without the risk of causing alterations or displacements of parts likely to affect the reproducibility of the tests. The 28-day test (see 9.9) is considered to be sufficient for checking indirectly the behaviour of the contacts with respect to undue overheating in service. ^b No value is specified for parts other than those listed, but no damage shall be caused to adjacent parts of insulating materials, and the operation of the circuit-breaker shall not be impaired. ^c For plug-in type circuit-breakers, the terminals of the base on which they are installed.	

8.4.2 Ambient air temperature

The temperature rise limits given in Table 5 are applicable only if the ambient air temperatures remain between the limits given in 7.2.

8.5 Uninterrupted duty

Circuit-breakers shall operate reliably even after long service.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.9.

8.6 Automatic operation

8.6.1 Standard time-current zone

The tripping characteristic of circuit-breakers shall be such that they ensure adequate protection of the circuit, without premature operation.

The zone of the time-current characteristic (tripping characteristic) of a circuit-breaker is defined by the conditions and the values stated in Table 6.

This table refers to a circuit-breaker mounted in accordance with the reference conditions (see 9.2) operating at the reference calibration temperature of 30 °C, with a tolerance of $^{+5}_{0}$ °C.

Compliance is checked by the tests specified in 9.10.

The test may be made at any convenient temperature, the results being referred to 30 °C, using the information given by the manufacturer.

In any case the variation from the test current of Table 6 shall not exceed 1,2 % per K of calibration temperature variation.

If the circuit-breakers are marked for a calibration temperature different from 30 °C, they are tested for that different temperature.

The manufacturer shall be prepared to give information on the variation of the tripping characteristic for calibration temperatures differing from the reference value.

Table 6 – Time-current operating characteristics

Test	Type	Test current DC	Initial condition	Limits of tripping or non-tripping time	Result to be obtained	Remarks
a	B, C	$1,13 I_n$	Cold*	$t \leq 1 \text{ h } (I_n \leq 63 \text{ A})$ $t \leq 2 \text{ h } (I_n > 63 \text{ A})$	No tripping	
b	B, C	$1,45 I_n$	Immediately following test a	$t < 1 \text{ h } (I_n \leq 63 \text{ A})$ $t < 2 \text{ h } (I_n > 63 \text{ A})$	Tripping	Current steadily increased within 5 s
c	B, C	$2,55 I_n$	Cold*	$1 \text{ s} < t < 60 \text{ s } (I_n \leq 32 \text{ A})$ $1 \text{ s} < t < 120 \text{ s } (I_n > 32 \text{ A})$	Tripping	
d	B C	$4 I_n$ $7 I_n$	Cold*	$0,1 < t < 45 \text{ s } (I_n \leq 32 \text{ A})$ $0,1 < t < 90 \text{ s } (I_n > 32 \text{ A})$ $0,1 < t < 15 \text{ s } (I_n \leq 32 \text{ A})$ $0,1 < t < 30 \text{ s } (I_n > 32 \text{ A})$	Tripping	Current established by closing an auxiliary switch

e	B C	$7 I_n$ $15 I_n$	Cold*	$t < 0,1 \text{ s}$	Tripping	Current established by closing an auxiliary switch
* The term "cold" means without previous loading, at the reference calibration temperature.						

8.6.2 Conventional quantities

8.6.2.1 Conventional time

The conventional time is 1 h for circuit-breakers of rated current up to and including 63 A, and 2 h for circuit-breakers of rated current above 63 A.

8.6.2.2 Conventional non-tripping current (I_{nt})

The conventional non-tripping current of a circuit-breaker is 1,13 times its rated current.

8.6.2.3 Conventional tripping current (I_t)

The conventional tripping current of a circuit-breaker is 1,45 times its rated current.

8.6.3 Tripping characteristic

8.6.3.1 General

The tripping characteristic of circuit-breakers shall be contained within the zone defined in 8.6.1.

NOTE Conditions of temperature and mounting different from those specified in 9.2 (e.g. mounting in a special enclosure, grouping of several circuit-breakers in the same enclosure) can affect the tripping characteristic of circuit-breakers.

The manufacturer shall be prepared to give information on the variation of the tripping characteristic for ambient temperatures differing from the reference value, within the limits of 7.2.

8.6.3.2 Effect of single-pole loading of multipole circuit-breakers on the tripping characteristic

When circuit-breakers having more than one protected pole are loaded on only one of the protected poles, starting from cold, with a current equal to

- 1,1 times the conventional tripping current, for two-pole circuit-breakers with two protected poles,
- 1,2 times the conventional tripping current, for three-pole,

the circuit-breakers shall trip within the conventional time specified in 8.6.2.1.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.10.4.

8.6.3.3 Effect of the ambient air temperature on the tripping characteristic

Ambient temperatures other than the reference temperature, within the limits of -5 °C and $+40 \text{ °C}$, shall not unacceptably affect the tripping characteristic of circuit-breakers.

Compliance is checked by the tests of 9.10.5.

8.7 Mechanical and electrical endurance

Circuit-breakers shall be capable of performing an adequate number of cycles with rated current.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.11.

8.8 Performance at short-circuit currents and at small DC currents

Circuit-breakers shall be capable of performing a specified number of short-circuit operations, during which they shall neither endanger the operator nor initiate a flashover between live conductive parts or between live conductive parts and earth.

Compliance is checked by the tests of 9.12.

It is required that circuit-breakers be able to make and to break any value of current up to and including the value corresponding to the rated short-circuit capacity up to the specified time constant according to 9.12.5. It is also required that the corresponding values of I^2t lie below the I^2t characteristic (see 3.5.14).

If not otherwise specified, the tests are performed at 105 % (± 5 %) of the rated operational voltage.

8.9 Resistance to mechanical shock and impact

Circuit-breakers shall have adequate mechanical behaviour so as to withstand the stresses imposed during installation and use.

Compliance is checked by the tests of 9.13.

8.10 Resistance to heat

Circuit-breakers shall be sufficiently resistant to heat.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.14.

8.11 Resistance to abnormal heat and to fire

External circuit-breaker parts made of insulating material shall not be likely to ignite and to spread fire if current-carrying parts in their vicinity attain a high temperature under fault or overload conditions.

Compliance is checked by inspection and by the test of 9.15.

8.12 Resistance to rusting

Ferrous parts shall be adequately protected against rusting.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.16.

8.13 Behaviour in case of making inrush current

In the case of making high capacitive load or the load of similar features, circuit-breakers shall be capable of undergoing the effects of inrush currents at the instant of making and without unwanted tripping or welding of contacts.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.17.

8.14 Power loss

Circuit-breakers shall not have excessive power loss. The maximum permissible values per pole are indicated in Table 7.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.8.5.

Table 7 – Maximum power loss per pole

Range of rated current I_n A	Maximum power loss per pole W
$I_n \leq 10$	3
$10 < I_n \leq 16$	3,5
$16 < I_n \leq 25$	4,5
$25 < I_n \leq 32$	6
$32 < I_n \leq 40$	7,5
$40 < I_n \leq 50$	9
$50 < I_n \leq 63$	13
$63 < I_n \leq 100$	15
$100 < I_n \leq 125$	20

8.15 Requirement of small DC currents

Circuit breakers shall be capable of performing an adequate number of cycles with low DC current.

Compliance is checked by the test of 9.12.11.2.3.

9 Tests

9.1 Type tests and test sequences

The characteristics of circuit-breakers are verified by means of type tests.

Type tests required by this document are listed in Table 8.

Table 8 – List of type tests

Test	Subclause
Indelibility of marking	9.3
Reliability of screws, current-carrying parts and connections	9.4
Reliability of terminals for external conductors	9.5
Protection against electric shock	9.6
Dielectric properties and isolating capability	9.7
Temperature rise	9.8
28-day test	9.9
Tripping characteristic	9.10
Mechanical and electrical endurance	9.11
Short-circuit	9.12
Resistance to mechanical shock and impact	9.13
Resistance to heat	9.14
Resistance to abnormal heat and to fire	9.15
Resistance to rusting	9.16
Verification of the behaviour in case of making inrush current	9.17

For the purpose of verification of conformity with this document, type tests are carried out in test sequences.

The test sequences and the number of samples to be submitted are stated in Annex B of this document.

Unless otherwise specified, each type test (or sequence of type tests) is carried out on circuit-breakers in a clean and new condition.

9.2 Test conditions

The circuit-breaker is mounted individually, vertically and in free air at an ambient temperature between 20 °C and 25 °C, unless otherwise specified, and is protected against undue external heating or cooling.

Circuit-breakers designed for installation in an individual enclosure are tested in the smallest of such enclosures specified by the manufacturer.

Unless otherwise specified, the circuit-breakers are wired with the appropriate cable specified in Table 9 and are fixed on a dull, black-painted plywood board of about 20 mm thickness, the method of fixing complying with any requirements relating to the means of mounting recommended by the manufacturer.

For circuit-breakers without the marking of polarity, two samples shall be connected in one current direction, the third sample shall be connected in the reversed current direction.

Where a tolerance is not specifically specified, type tests are carried out at values not less severe than those specified in this document.

Unless otherwise specified, DC test voltages and currents shall have a ripple of $\omega \leq 5\%$ or have the minimum instantaneous value no lower than the required test value -5% and shall have no maximum instantaneous value higher than $+10\%$ of the required test value.

During the tests, no maintenance or dismantling of the samples is allowed

For the tests of 9.8, 9.9, 9.10 and 9.11, the circuit-breaker is connected as follows.

- a) The connections are made by means of single-core, PVC insulated copper cables, according to IEC 60227 (all parts).
- b) Unless otherwise specified, the tests are carried out with DC current.
- c) The connections are in free air and spaced not less than the distance between the terminals.
- d) The minimum length of each temporary connection from terminal to terminal is:
 - 1 m for cross-sections up to and including 10 mm²;
 - 2 m for cross-sections larger than 10 mm².

The tightening torques to be applied to the terminal screws are two-thirds of those specified in Table 10.

Table 9 – Cross-sectional areas (*S*) of test copper conductors corresponding to the rated currents

<i>S</i> mm ²	Values of the rated current <i>I_n</i> A
1	$I_n \leq 6$
1,5	$6 < I_n \leq 13$
2,5	$13 < I_n \leq 20$
4	$20 < I_n \leq 25$
6	$25 < I_n \leq 32$
10	$32 < I_n \leq 50$
16	$50 < I_n \leq 63$
25	$63 < I_n \leq 80$
35	$80 < I_n \leq 100$
50	$100 < I_n \leq 125$

NOTE For AWG copper conductors, see Annex E.

9.3 Test of indelibility of marking

The test is made by rubbing the marking by hand for 15 s with a piece of cotton soaked with water and again for 15 s with a piece of cotton soaked with aliphatic solvent hexane with a content of aromatics of maximum 0,1 % by volume, a kauributanol value of 29, an initial boiling-point of approximately 65 °C, a dry-point of approximately 69 °C and a density of approximately 0,68 g/cm³.

Alternately the following solvent could be used: *n*-hexane 95 % (Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number CAS RN: 110-54-3).

NOTE *n*-hexane 95 % (Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number CAS RN: 110-54-3) is available from a variety of chemical suppliers as a high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) solvent.

Marking made by impression, moulding, or engraving is not subjected to this test.

After this test, the marking shall be easily legible.

The marking shall also remain easily legible after all the tests of this document.

It shall not be easily possible to remove labels and they shall show no curling.