

International Lamp Coding System (ILCOS)

ICS 29.140.01

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee, CPL/34/1, Electric Lamps, which has the responsibility to:

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- present to the responsible international/European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
- monitor related international and European developments and promulgate them in the UK.

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From 1 January 1997, all IEC publications have the number 60000 added to the old number. For instance, IEC 27-1 has been renumbered as IEC 60027-1. For a period of time during the change over from one numbering system to the other, publications may contain identifiers from both systems.

Cross-references

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

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, the IEC TS title page, pages ii to iv, pages 1 to 15 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

This Published Document, having been prepared under the direction of the Electrotechnical Sector Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Committee and comes into effect on 15 November 1999

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ISBN 0 580 35409 1

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

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**SPÉCIFICATION
TECHNIQUE**

**CEI
IEC**

**TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATION**

TS 61231

Deuxième édition
Second edition
1999-06

**Système international de codification
des lampes (ILCOS)**

International lamp coding system (ILCOS)



Numéro de référence
Reference number
IEC TS 61231:1999

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Foreword

1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, the IEC publishes International Standards. Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. The IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.

2) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested National Committees.

3) The documents produced have the form of recommendations for international use and are published in the form of standards, technical specifications, technical reports or guides and they are accepted by the National Committees in that sense.

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The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. In exceptional circumstances, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical specification when

- the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts, or
- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 61231, which is a technical specification has been prepared by subcommittee 34A: Lamps, of IEC technical committee 34: Lamps and related equipment.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published as a technical report of type 2 in 1993. It constitutes a technical revision, of which the main changes are indicated below.

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
34A/838/CDV	34A/866/RVC

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

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Compared to the first edition, the major changes having an influence on the coding are the following.

- The standardization part is deleted, and thereby ILCOS T, because this version has found no application in practice.
- For nearly all lamp categories, the possibility of including further technical details in ILCOS L is extended.
- An extended short version ILCOS LE is introduced for tungsten filament, tungsten halogen and fluorescent lamps because of the need to make the application of the short code more flexible.
- For tungsten halogen and metal halide lamps, a new letter S is introduced in ILCOS L for self-shielded lamps, i.e. lamps designed to be suitable for use in open luminaires.

- For tungsten halogen lamps with integral front cover the letter I is replaced by the letter S in ILCOS L.
- For tungsten halogen lamps with double envelope, the code HE is deleted in ILCOS L, because these lamps are now covered as being single-ended self-shielded HSGS.
- For tungsten halogen lamps, the floodlight lamps are included in the general purpose type of lamps because of their general application. So the letter F is replaced by G in ILCOS L.
- For tungsten halogen lamps with integral metal (proximity) reflector, the code HI is replaced by HP in ILCOS L.
- For fluorescent lamps, the new development of “induction type lamps” is introduced in ILCOS L by the letter I.
- For fluorescent lamps, the circular lamps are coded in ILCOS L as single-capped lamps, i.e. FSC instead of FC.
- For fluorescent lamps, the U-shaped lamps are coded in ILCOS L as double-capped lamps, i.e. FDU instead of FU.
- For metal halide lamps that are not standardized by the IEC, the full ILCOS D coding is kept under consideration, because of the complexity of the different lamp types and associated circuitry on the market.

Annex A is for information only.

The committee has decided that this publication remains valid until 2003-09.

At this date, in accordance with the committee’s decision, the publication will be

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