

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

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**Residual current operated circuit-breakers for household and similar use –  
Part 1: Outline of blocks and modules for residual current device standards**

**Interrupteurs automatiques à courant différentiel résiduel pour usage  
domestique et analogue –  
Partie 1: Présentation des blocs et modules pour les normes des dispositifs  
différentiels résiduels**



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS  
FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USE –**
**Part 1: Outline of blocks and modules  
for residual current device standards**

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62873-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 23E: Circuit breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
23E/945/CDV	23E/988/RVC

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

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

A list of all parts of the IEC 62873 series published under the general title *Residual current operated circuit-breakers for household and similar use* can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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- withdrawn,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

## INTRODUCTION

When revising standards within the same group of standards (e.g. RCCBs, RCBOs), it can be clearly seen that there are some common clauses (e.g. reliability of terminals, markings), some clauses with limited differences and some clauses that are completely different (e.g. short-circuit test clauses for RCCBs and RCBOs).

In many cases, there are some mistakes or inconsistencies in clauses which should be identical. Moreover, during each revision, some modifications are made in a document and not systematically introduced in the other documents of the same group of standards, thus leading to new inconsistencies or mistakes. In addition, there are also some significant differences between IEC TR 60755 and IEC 61008-1 or IEC 61009-1, although these three standards should be consistent.

In consultation with the IEC Central Office, SC 23E developed a new approach allowing the production of short papers dealing with only one topic (e.g. one clause of a standard) in order to improve the efficiency of the work and to avoid the many mistakes and discrepancies introduced within the standards over the years. A template was agreed for producing this work.

This approach was launched with several clauses in order to avoid the mistakes and the discrepancies within clauses which should be similar or identical.

This document defines the objectives of this approach, the scope, the methodology and the processes. This document constitutes also a summary of the blocks and modules.

# RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USE –

## Part 1: Outline of blocks and modules for residual current device standards

### 1 Scope

The IEC 62873 series covers available common standards intended to be used in conjunction with or for the preparation of RCD (residual current device) standards.

This part of IEC 62873 defines the methodology and processes used when producing standards based on a new approach (hereafter referred to as blocks and modules) aiming at harmonizing a family of standards, thus avoiding mistakes, inconsistencies or discrepancies within this family of standards. The family of standards considered in this document consists of standards for RCCBs (Residual Current Circuit-Breakers without overcurrent protection), RCBOs (Residual Current Circuit-Breakers with overcurrent Protection), and general safety requirements for residual current operated protective devices (namely IEC 61008-1, IEC 61009-1 and IEC TR 60755).

This approach defines a way to optimize drafting of standards, aiming to keep a common or similar structure, to have common clauses (as far as possible), to avoid inconsistencies, to do editorial work only once, to speed up production of standards, to ensure that a comment on one clause in one standard is also taken into account in other standards, if needed.

The principles of the blocks and modules approach are:

- to identify those parts of the standards which need to be identical (or with limited differences), and those parts of the standards which should remain different;
- to set a library of those common parts;
- to identify the parts which should be published as stand-alone standards;
- to draft product standards, using the library;
- to keep track of the common parts used in a product standard when revision will be needed in the future.

This document also lists the available blocks and modules which were prepared for RCD product standards.

### 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 TR 60755, *General requirements for residual current operated protective devices*

IEC 61008-1, *Residual current operated circuit-breakers without integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCCBs) – Part 1: General rules*

IEC 61009-1, *Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCBOs) – Part 1: General rules*