

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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**Rotating electrical machines –
Part 27-1: Off-line partial discharge measurements on the winding insulation**

**Machines électriques tournantes –
Partie 27-1: Mesurages à l'arrêt des décharges partielles effectués sur le
système d'isolation des enroulements**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ROTATING ELECTRICAL MACHINES –**Part 27-1: Off-line partial discharge measurements
on the winding insulation**

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International Standard IEC 60034-27-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 2: Rotating machinery.

This International Standard cancels and replaces IEC TS 60034-27 (2006). It constitutes a technical revision.

The main technical changes with regard to IEC TS 60034-27 (2006) are as follows:

- In 1st version the scope was not well defined, and open to a too wide range of measurement frequencies. That has been corrected.
- In 1st version pulse magnitude was defined in different ways. Now, 2 definitions are given, one for each method.
- In 1st version the types of PD were erroneous. Especially the definition of the most critical “slot discharges” has been improved.

- Adding one more common test arrangement to Clause 7.
- Adding Annex A.
- Adding Annex B.
- Adding Annex G.
- Moving part of the original text (valid for old fashioned instruments) to new Annex H.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

| FDIS | Report on voting |
|-------------|------------------|
| 2/1877/FDIS | 2/1887/RVD |

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 in the IEC 60034 series, published under the general title *Rotating electrical machines*, can be found on the IEC website.

NOTE A table of cross-references of all IEC TC 2 publications can be found in the IEC TC 2 dashboard on the IEC website.

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INTRODUCTION

For many years, the measurement of partial discharges (PD) has been employed as a means of assessing the quality of new insulation systems and the condition of aged insulation systems. It is also considered as a means of detecting localized sources of PD in used electrical winding insulation arising from operational stresses in service. Compared with other dielectric tests (e.g. the measurement of dissipation factor or insulation resistance) the differentiating character of partial discharge measurements allows PD sources within the insulation system to be detected.

In connection with the servicing and overhaul of rotating machines, the measurement and analysis of partial discharges can also provide information on:

- presence of ageing effects and potential defects in the insulating system;
- ageing processes;
- further measures and intervals between overhauls.

Although the PD testing of rotating machines has gained widespread acceptance, it has emerged from several studies that not only are there different methods of measurement in existence but also the criteria and methods of analysing and finally assessing the measured data are often different and not comparable. Consequently, there is a need to give some guidance to those users who are considering the use of PD measurements to assess the condition of their insulation systems.

Partial discharge testing of stator windings can be divided into two broad groups:

- a) off-line measurements, in which the stator winding is isolated from the power system and a separate power supply is employed to energize the winding;
- b) on-line measurements, in which the rotating machine is operating normally and connected to the power system (IEC 60034-27-2).

Both of these approaches have advantages and disadvantages with respect to one another. While acknowledging the extensive world-wide use of on-line methods and their proven value to industry, this international standard is confined to off-line techniques. This approach is considered necessary to render this standard sufficiently concise to be of use by non-specialists in the field of PD testing.

Limitations:

When PD measurements are performed on stator windings, several external factors will inevitably affect the result. Consequently, PD measurements are only comparable under certain conditions.

In a factory or site environment, the PD measurement results will be influenced by noise, unless provisions have been made to reduce the influence of noise. Different hardware and software methods, affecting for example measurement frequency band or noise cancellation algorithms, are used in different equipment systems to separate relevant PD signals from noise. Recalculation of the measured PD signal to an equivalent charge is an additional step that will be dependent on the measurement and the calibration equipment that has been used for normalization, as well as the method used.

Measurement conditions including temperature and moisture as well as test object set-up will further affect the PD result. In case of a stator winding, the attenuation and dispersion of the PD pulse during propagation will be dependent on the actual winding design and the origin of the pulse.

Based on the above reasons, absolute PD magnitude limits for the windings of rotating machines, for example as acceptance criteria for production or operation are difficult to define.

In addition, the degree of deterioration, and hence the risk of insulation system failure, depends on the specific type of PD source and its location within the stator winding insulation, both of which can influence the test results significantly.

Users of PD measurement should be aware that, due to the principles of the method, not all insulation-related problems in stator windings can be detected by measuring partial discharges (for example insulation failure mechanisms, which are not accompanied by pulse signals due to conductive paths between different elements of the insulation). Pulse signals may further remain undetected in practice due to the impact of electrical noise and disturbance conditions, which limit the detection sensitivity.

For individual bars and coils, absolute limits for PD magnitude are also difficult to establish due to disparities between different test equipment and test setups. Therefore, no absolute limits are given in the current version of this document.

ROTATING ELECTRICAL MACHINES –

Part 27-1: Off-line partial discharge measurements on the winding insulation

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60034 provides a common basis for:

- measuring techniques and instruments;
- the arrangement of test circuits;
- normalization and testing procedures;
- noise reduction;
- the documentation of test results;
- the interpretation of test results,

with respect to partial discharge off-line measurements on the winding insulation of rotating electrical machines.

The measurement methods described in this document are applicable to stator windings of machines with or without conductive slot coating and to the stator windings of machines made with form wound or random wound windings. In special cases like high voltage rotor field windings, this document is applicable as well. The measurement methods are applicable when testing with alternating sinusoidal voltages from 0,1 Hz up to 400 Hz.

Interpretation guidelines are given in this document and are applicable only if all the following requirements are fulfilled:

- Measurements performed with power frequency of 50 Hz or 60 Hz, or when testing with power supply within a frequency range of 45 Hz to 65 Hz.
- Form wound windings and winding components such as bars and coils.
- Winding with conductive slot coating. This is usually valid for machines with voltage rating of 6 kV and higher.

For machines with random wound windings, form-wound windings without conductive slot coating, and testing at frequencies differing from power frequencies, the interpretation guidelines are not applicable. The testing procedures for off-line PD-measurements of this document can be used for assessing the uniform quality of manufacturing or/and the trending of these kind of windings as well as converter driven machine windings.

NOTE Testing of low voltage machines with so called Type I insulation systems is defined in reference [10]¹. Testing procedures for qualification of converter driven high voltage machines with so called Type II insulation systems are dealt with in IEC 60034-18-42 (in addition to the optional electric tests described therein).

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.

¹ Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.