

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# IEC 60529

Edition 2.1  
2001-02

Edition 2:1989 consolidated with amendment 1:1999

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## Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)

*This **English-language** version is derived from the original **bilingual** publication by leaving out all French-language pages. Missing page numbers correspond to the French-language pages.*



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## CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD.....	9
INTRODUCTION.....	11
Clause	
1 Scope and object.....	13
2 Normative references .....	15
3 Definitions .....	15
4 Designations .....	19
4.1 Arrangement of the IP Code .....	19
4.2 Elements of the IP Code and their meanings .....	21
4.3 Examples for the use of letters in the IP Code .....	23
5 Degrees of protection against access to hazardous parts and against solid foreign objects indicated by the first characteristic numeral.....	23
5.1 Protection against access to hazardous parts.....	23
5.2 Protection against solid foreign objects .....	25
6 Degrees of protection against ingress of water indicated by the second characteristic numeral .....	27
7 Degrees of protection against access to hazardous parts indicated by the additional letter .....	31
8 Supplementary letters.....	33
9 Examples of designations with the IP Code .....	33
9.1 IP Code not using optional letters:.....	33
9.2 IP Code using optional letters:.....	35
10 Marking .....	35
11 General requirements for tests .....	37
11.1 Atmospheric conditions for water or dust tests.....	37
11.2 Test samples.....	37
11.3 Application of test requirements and interpretation of test results .....	37
11.4 Combination of test conditions for the first characteristic numeral.....	37
11.5 Empty enclosures .....	39
12 Tests for protection against access to hazardous parts indicated by the first characteristic numeral .....	39
12.1 Access probes.....	39
12.2 Test conditions.....	39
12.3 Acceptance conditions.....	43
12.3.1 For low-voltage equipment (rated voltages not exceeding 1 000 V a.c. and 1 500 V d.c.) .....	43
12.3.2 For high-voltage equipment (rated voltages exceeding 1 000 V a.c. and 1 500 V d.c.) .....	43
12.3.3 For equipment with hazardous mechanical parts.....	43

Clause	Page
13 Tests for protection against solid foreign objects indicated by the first characteristic numeral .....	45
13.1 Test means .....	45
13.2 Test conditions for first characteristic numerals 1, 2, 3, 4 .....	45
13.3 Acceptance conditions for first characteristic numerals 1, 2, 3, 4 .....	45
13.4 Dust test for first characteristic numerals 5 and 6 .....	45
13.5 Special conditions for first characteristic numeral 5 .....	49
13.5.1 Test conditions for first characteristic numeral 5 .....	49
13.5.2 Acceptance conditions for first characteristic numeral 5 .....	49
13.6 Special conditions for first characteristic numeral 6 .....	49
13.6.1 Test conditions for first characteristic numeral 6 .....	49
13.6.2 Acceptance conditions for first characteristic numeral 6 .....	49
14 Tests for protection against water indicated by the second characteristic numeral .....	49
14.1 Test means .....	49
14.2 Test conditions .....	51
14.2.1 Test for second characteristic numeral 1 with the drip box .....	53
14.2.2 Test for second characteristic numeral 2 with the drip box .....	53
14.2.3 Test for second characteristic numeral 3 with oscillating tube or spray nozzle .....	53
14.2.4 Test for second characteristic numeral 4 with oscillating tube or spray nozzle .....	55
14.2.5 Test for second characteristic numeral 5 with the 6,3 mm nozzle .....	57
14.2.6 Test for second characteristic numeral 6 with the 12,5 mm nozzle .....	57
14.2.7 Test for second characteristic numeral 7: temporary immersion between 0,15 m and 1 m .....	57
14.2.8 Test for second characteristic numeral 8: continuous immersion subject to agreement .....	59
14.3 Acceptance conditions .....	59
15 Tests for protection against access to hazardous parts indicated by the additional letter .....	59
15.1 Access probes .....	59
15.2 Test conditions .....	59
15.3 Acceptance conditions .....	61
Annex A (informative) Examples of IP coding for the verification of protection of low-voltage equipment against access to hazardous parts .....	75
Annex B (informative) Summary of responsibilities of relevant technical committees .....	87
Bibliography .....	91

	Page
Figure 1 – Jointed test finger .....	63
Figure 2 – Test device to verify protection against dust (dust chamber) .....	65
Figure 3 – Test device to verify protection against vertically falling water drops (drip box) ....	67
Figure 4 – Test device to verify protection against spraying and splashing water; second characteristic numerals 3 and 4 (oscillating tube).....	69
Figure 5 – Hand-held device to verify protection against spraying and splashing water; second characteristic numerals 3 and 4 (spray nozzle) .....	71
Figure 6 – Test device to verify protection against water jets (hose nozzle) .....	73
Table 1 – Degrees of protection against access to hazardous parts indicated by the first characteristic numeral.....	25
Table 2 – Degrees of protection against solid foreign objects indicated by the first characteristic numeral.....	27
Table 3 – Degrees of protection against water indicated by the second characteristic numeral.....	29
Table 4 – Degrees of protection against access to hazardous parts indicated by the additional letter.....	31
Table 5 – Test conditions for degrees of protection indicated by the first characteristic numeral.....	39
Table 6 – Access probes for the tests for protection of persons against access to hazardous parts.....	41
Table 7 – Test means for the tests for protection against solid foreign objects .....	45
Table 8 – Test means and main test conditions for the tests for protection against water .....	51
Table 9 – Total water flow rate $q_V$ under IPX3 and IPX4 test conditions – Mean flow rate per hole $q_{Vl} = 0,07$ l/min.....	55
IP Codes of examples in annex A .....	85

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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## DEGREES OF PROTECTION PROVIDED BY ENCLOSURES (IP Code)

### 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.
- 4) In order to promote international unification, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC International Standards transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional standards. Any divergence between the IEC Standard and the corresponding national or regional standard shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) The IEC provides no marking procedure to indicate its approval and cannot be rendered responsible for any equipment declared to be in conformity with one of its standards.
- 6) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. The IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 60529 has been prepared by technical committee 70: Degrees of protection by enclosures.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1976 and constitutes a technical revision.

This consolidated version of IEC 60529 is based on the second edition (1989) [documents 70(CO)13 + 70(CO)16 and 70(CO)15 + 70(CO)17], and its amendment 1 (1999) [documents 70/91/FDIS and 70/92/RVD].

It bears the edition number 2.1.

A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendment 1.

Annexes A and B are for information only.

The contents of the corrigendum of January 2003 have been included in this copy.

## INTRODUCTION

This standard describes a system for classifying the degrees of protection provided by the enclosures of electrical equipment. Whilst this system is suitable for use with most types of electrical equipment, it should not be assumed that all the listed degrees of protection are applicable to a particular type of equipment. The manufacturer of the equipment should be consulted to determine the degrees of protection available and the parts of equipment to which the stated degree of protection applies.

The adoption of this classification system, wherever possible, will promote uniformity in methods of describing the protection provided by the enclosure and in the tests to prove the various degrees of protection. It should also reduce the number of types of test devices necessary to test a wide range of products.

This second edition of IEC 60529 takes account of experiences with the first edition, and clarifies the requirements. It provides for an optional extension of the IP Code by an additional letter A, B, C, or D if the actual protection of persons against access to hazardous parts is higher than that indicated by the first characteristic numeral.

In general, enclosures with an IP coding to the first edition would be eligible for the same code according to this edition.

## DEGREES OF PROTECTION PROVIDED BY ENCLOSURES (IP Code)

### 1 Scope and object

This standard applies to the classification of degrees of protection provided by enclosures for electrical equipment with a rated voltage not exceeding 72,5 kV.

The object of this standard is to give:

- a) *Definitions* for degrees of protection provided by enclosures of electrical equipment as regards:
  - 1) protection of persons against access to hazardous parts inside the enclosure;
  - 2) protection of the equipment inside the enclosure against ingress of solid foreign objects;
  - 3) protection of the equipment inside the enclosure against harmful effects due to the ingress of water.
- b) *Designations* for these degrees of protection.
- c) *Requirements* for each designation.
- d) *Tests* to be performed to verify that the enclosure meets the requirements of this standard.

It will remain the responsibility of individual technical committees to decide on the extent and manner in which, the classification is used in their standards and to define “enclosure” as it applies to their equipment. However, it is recommended that for a given classification the tests do not differ from those specified in this standard. If necessary, complementary requirements may be included in the relevant product standard. A guide for the details to be specified in relevant product standards is given in annex B.

For a particular type of equipment, a technical committee may specify different requirements provided that at least the same level of safety is ensured.

This standard deals only with enclosures that are in all other respects suitable for their intended use as specified in the relevant product standard and which from the point of view of materials and workmanship ensure that the claimed degrees of protection are maintained under the normal conditions of use.

This standard is also applicable to empty enclosures provided that the general test requirements are met and that the selected degree of protection is suitable for the type of equipment to be protected.

Measures to protect both the enclosure and the equipment inside the enclosure against external influences or conditions such as

- mechanical impacts
- corrosion
- corrosive solvents (for example, cutting liquids)
- fungus
- vermin
- solar radiation
- icing
- moisture (for example, produced by condensation)
- explosive atmospheres

and the protection against contact with hazardous moving parts external to the enclosure (such as fans), are matters for the relevant product standard to be protected.

Barriers external to the enclosure and not attached to it and obstacles which have been provided solely for the safety of personnel are not considered as a part of the enclosure and are not dealt with in this standard.

## **2 Normative references**

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

IEC 60050-195:1998, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 195: Earthing and protection against electric shock*

IEC 60050(826):1982, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 826: Electrical installations of buildings*

IEC 60068-1:1988, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-68:1994, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test L: Dust and sand*

IEC 60071-2:1996, *Insulation co-ordination – Part 2: Application guide*