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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**Electrical accessories – Circuit-breakers for overcurrent protection for household and similar installations –
Part 1: Circuit-breakers for a.c. operation**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES –
CIRCUIT-BREAKERS FOR OVERCURRENT PROTECTION
FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS –****Part 1: Circuit-breakers for a.c. operation**

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of 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, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). 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. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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International Standard IEC 60898-1 has been prepared by sub-committee 23E: Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2002, Amendment 1:2002 and Amendment 2:2003. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) Revision of 9.5 Terminals
- b) Revision of the test of glow wire
- c) Simplification of the figures for short circuit tests.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
23E/881/FDIS	23E/894/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard 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 2.

In this standard, the following print types are used:

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

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.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://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.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

The contents of the corrigendum of November 2015 have been included in this copy.

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

Part 1: Circuit-breakers for a.c. operation

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60898 applies to a.c. air-break circuit-breakers for operation at 50 Hz, 60 Hz or 50/60 Hz, having a rated voltage not exceeding 440 V (between phases), a rated current not exceeding 125 A and a rated short-circuit capacity not exceeding 25 000 A.

As far as possible, it is in line with the requirements contained in IEC 60947-2.

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 of this standard, with exception of those rated 120 V or 120/240 V (see Table 1), are suitable for use in IT systems.

This standard 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 standard 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 may be required.

This standard does not apply to circuit-breakers for a.c. and d.c. operation, which is covered by IEC 60898-2.

This standard does not apply to circuit-breakers which incorporate residual current tripping devices, which is covered by IEC 61009-1, IEC 61009-2-1, and IEC 61009-2-2.

A guide for co-ordination under short-circuit conditions between a circuit-breaker and another short-circuit protective device (SCPDS) is given in Annex D. For more severe overvoltage conditions, circuit-breakers complying with other standards (e.g. IEC 60947-2) should be used.

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

NOTE 1 Circuit-breakers within the scope of this standard can also be used for protection against electric shock in case of 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 standard 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.

This standard states

- a) the characteristics of circuit-breakers;
- b) the conditions with which circuit-breakers shall comply, with reference to:
 - 1) their operation and behaviour in normal service;
 - 2) their operation and behaviour in case of overload;
 - 3) their operation and behaviour in case of short-circuits up to their rated short-circuit capacity;
 - 4) their dielectric properties;
- c) the tests intended for confirming that these conditions have been met and the methods to be adopted for the tests;
- d) the data to be marked on the devices;
- e) the test sequences to be carried out and the number of samples (see Annex C);
- f) the co-ordination under short-circuit conditions with another short-circuit protective device (SCPD) associated in the same circuit (see Annex D);
- g) the routine tests to be carried out on each circuit-breaker to reveal unacceptable variations in material or manufacture, likely to affect safety (see Annex I).

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV)*. Available from: <http://www.electropedia.org/>

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

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

IEC 60364-4-41:2005, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock*

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*. Available from: <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 60695-2-11:2000, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-11: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability test method for end-products*

IEC 60947-1:2007, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 1: General rules*

IEC 60947-2:2006, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 2: Circuit-breakers*

IEC 61545:1996, *Connecting devices – Devices for the connection of aluminium conductors in clamping units of any material and copper conductors in aluminium bodied clamping units*