

IEC Basic Safety Publications

Application of basic safety standards with
installation and product standards
development

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What is a basic safety publication?

Also referred to as a horizontal standard





Basic safety publications

IEC Definition

horizontal standard

<https://www.electropedia.org/iev/iev.nsf/display?openform&ievref=901-02-14>



Basic safety publications

https://www.iec.ch/members_experts/tools/pdf/BasicSafetyPublications_2011.pdf



Basic safety publications

In general, horizontal publications deal with fundamental principles, concepts, terminology or technical characteristics that are relevant to a number of technical committees.



Basic safety publications

The goal of horizontal publications is to ensure the consistency of IEC publications in areas common to a number of technical committees.

They avoid duplication of work and contradictory requirements.



Most relevant Basic Safety Publications

IEC 60479

https://webstore.iec.ch/preview/info_iec60479-2%7Bed1.0%7Den.pdf

IEC 61140

https://webstore.iec.ch/preview/info_iec61140%7Bed4.0%7Db.pdf



Other relevant standards

IEC 60364 series

https://webstore.iec.ch/preview/info_iec60364-5-53%7Bed4.1%7Db.pdf

IEC 61008 series


https://webstore.iec.ch/preview/info_iec61008-1%7Bed3.0%7Db.pdf



IEC 60479 Scope (extract)

This basic safety publication is primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

It is not intended for use by manufacturers or certification bodies.



IEC 60479 Scope (extract) –continued

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. The requirements, test methods or test conditions of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant publications.



IEC 61140 Scope (extract)

This International Standard is a basic safety publication primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

It is not intended to be used as a stand-alone standard.

According to IEC Guide 104, technical committees, when preparing, amending, or revising their publications, are required to make use of any basic safety publication such as IEC 61140.



In Summary

In theory, if all IEC technical committees apply the technical intent of IEC basic safety publications there should be no conflicting requirements across the series of the electrotechnical standards.



In Summary

IEC Technical committees have various mechanisms to address occurrences of inconsistencies and conflicting technical intents when they are identified.

IEC experts endeavour to avoid and if necessary rectify conflicts and inconsistencies at the soonest opportunity maintaining confidence and the integrity of IEC standardization to developing requirements consistent and applicable to electrotechnical applications.