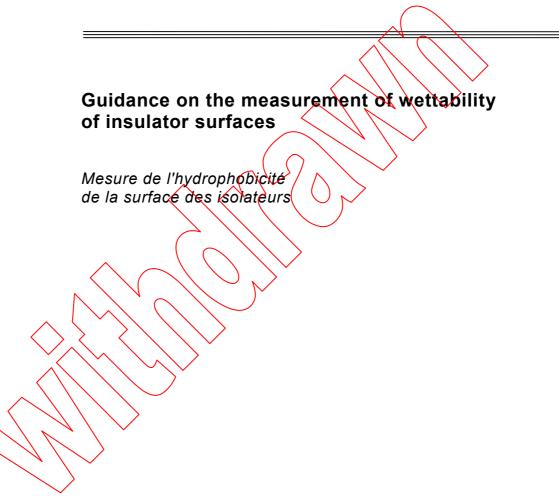
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

IEC TS 62073

First edition 2003-06





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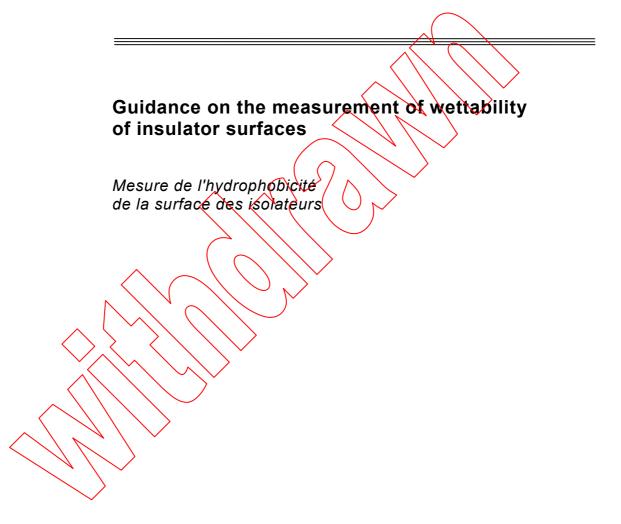
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PRICE CODE

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CONTENTS

FΟ	REWORD	4
INT	TRODUCTION	6
1	Scope and object	7
	Terms and definitions	
2		
3	Methods for measurement of wetting properties. Method A – Contact angle method	9
4	Method A – Contact angle method	10
	4.1 General	10
	\wedge \ \ \ \ \	10
	4.4 Evaluation	4.4
5	Method B – Surface tension method	11 11
	5.1 General	11
	5.1 General 5.2 Safety precautions	11 12
	5.3 Equipment and reagents	12
	5.4 Measurement procedure	12
	5.5 Evaluation	13
6	Method C – The spray method	13
	6.1 General	13
	6.2 Equipment 6.3 Measurement procedure	13
	6.3 Measurement procedure	13
	6.4 Evaluation	
7	Documentation	15
An	nex A (normative) Guidelines regarding the applicability and comments on the	
	itations of the different methods described in this technical specification	
	nex B (normative) Method A Contact angle method	
An	nex C (normative) Method B – Surface tension method	19
An	nex D (normative)	21
_	gure 1 – Definition of the static contact angle	8
_	gure 2 – Definition of the advancing angle (θ_a) and the receding angle (θ_r)	
	ide a liquid drop resting on an inclined solid surface	9
_	gure 3 – Measurements of the advancing angle ($\theta_{\rm a}$) and the receding angle ($\theta_{\rm r}$)	
by	adding or withdrawing water from a droplet	11
Fig	gure B.1 – Measurement of the advancing angle ($ heta_{ m a}$) and the receding angle ($ heta_{ m r}$)	
bv	using the captive bubble technique	18

Table 1 – Criteria for the determination of wettability class (WC)	14
Table C.1 – Concentrations of ethylene-glycol-monoethyl-ether (cellosolve), formamide mixtures used in measuring surface tension of insulator surfaces in the range 30 mN/m to 56 mN/m (T = 20 °C)	19
Table C.2 – Concentrations of distilled water and formamide mixture used in measuring surface tension of insulator surfaces in the range 58 mN/m to 73 mN/m ($T = 20 ^{\circ}$ C)	20
Table C.3 – Concentrations of distilled water and sodium chloride in mixtures used in measuring surface tension of insulator surfaces in the range 73 mN/m to 82 mN/m ($T = 20$ °C)	20



INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

GUIDANCE ON THE MEASUREMENT OF WETTABILITY OF INSULATOR SURFACES

FOREWORD

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Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC 62073, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 36: Insulators.

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
36/185/DTS	36/197A/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical specification 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.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2006. At this date, the publication will be

- · transformed into an International standard;
- · reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.



INTRODUCTION

The wetting properties of a surface by water are commonly described by the terms hydrophobic (or hydrophobicity) and hydrophilic (or hydrophilicity). A hydrophobic surface is water-repellent, while a surface that is easily wetted by water is hydrophilic.

The wetting phenomenon of a surface is complex and many different parameters can influence its apparent wettability. Some important parameters include: type of insulator material, surface roughness, heterogeneities of the surface, chemical composition (e.g. due to ageing) and presence of pollution. For some of the insulator materials in common use, the wetting properties can change over time, due to the influence of the ambient conditions. This change can be either reversible or irreversible. Thus, the result of the measurement of the wettability may be influenced by the ambient conditions and the HV corona or dry-band arcing to which the insulator has been previously exposed. This dynamic wetting behaviour is more or less specific to different insulator materials.

The dynamic wetting behaviour exhibited by insulator materials is due to their chemical composition. Different processes such as oxidation, hydrolysis, migration of low molecular weight compounds, formation of complex compounds between e.g. siloxanes and water, rotation of flexible polymer chains, inter- and intra-molecular rearrangements, microbial growth, deposition of contaminants, adhesion and encapsulation of contaminant particles, may take place at different rates, depending on material and ambient conditions. Thus, wettability along and around an insulator can vary, due to differences in the exposure to solar radiation, rain, corona discharges, deposited pollution, etc. Therefore, wettability measurement of insulators should be performed on several separate areas of the insulator.

Measurement of the wettability of a surface is readily performed in the laboratory on well defined, homogeneous, smooth and planar surfaces of prepared specimens. In the case of insulators, for which non-destructive measurements are usually required (and where cut-out of material samples is usually not desired) these conditions do not exist and measurement with high precision is a difficult task. This is especially true when the measurement has to be performed on an insulator installed in an overhead line, substation or even in a high voltage test set-up in the laboratory.