

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Wind energy generation systems –  
Part 12-1: Power performance measurements of electricity producing wind  
turbines**

**Systemes de génération d'énergie éolienne –  
Partie 12-1: Mesures de performance de puissance des éoliennes de production  
d'électricité**



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**WIND ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS –****Part 12-1: Power performance measurements  
of electricity producing wind turbines**

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61400-12-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 88: Wind energy generation systems.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2005. This edition constitutes a technical revision. This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) new definition of wind speed,
- b) inclusion of wind shear and wind veer,
- c) revision of air density correction,
- d) revision of site calibration,
- e) revision to definition of power curve,
- f) interpolation to bin centre method,
- g) revision of obstacle model,

- h) clarification of topography requirements,
- i) new annex on mast induced flow distortion,
- j) revision to anemometer classifications,
- k) inclusion of ultrasonic anemometers,
- l) cold climate annex added,
- m) database A changed to special database,
- n) revision of uncertainty annex,
- o) inclusion of remote sensing.

IEC 61400-12-2 is an addition to IEC 61400-12-1.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
88/610/FDIS	88/617/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.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61400, published under the general title *Wind energy generation systems*, can be found on the IEC website.

Future standards in this series will carry the new general title as cited above. Titles of existing standards in this series will be updated at the time of the next edition.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee recognizes that this revision represents a significant increase in complexity and perhaps greater difficulty to implement. However, it represents the committee's best attempt to address issues introduced by larger wind turbines operating in significant wind shear and complex terrain. The committee recommends that the new techniques introduced be validated immediately by test laboratories through inter-lab proficiency testing. The committee recommends a Review Report be written within three years of the release of this document which includes recommendations, clarifications and simplifications that will improve the practical implementation of this standard. If necessary a revision should be proposed at the same time to incorporate these recommendations, clarifications and simplifications.

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.

The contents of the corrigenda 1 (2019), 2 (2020) and 3 (2021) have been included in this copy.

**IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.**



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this part of IEC 61400 is to provide a uniform methodology that will ensure consistency, accuracy and reproducibility in the measurement and analysis of power performance by wind turbines. The standard has been prepared with the anticipation that it would be applied by:

- a) a wind turbine manufacturer striving to meet well-defined power performance requirements and/or a possible declaration system;
- b) a wind turbine purchaser in specifying such performance requirements;
- c) a wind turbine operator who may be required to verify that stated, or required, power performance specifications are met for new or refurbished units;
- d) a wind turbine planner or regulator who shall be able to accurately and fairly define power performance characteristics of wind turbines in response to regulations or permit requirements for new or modified installations.

This document provides guidance in the measurement, analysis, and reporting of power performance testing for wind turbines. The document will benefit those parties involved in the manufacture, installation planning and permitting, operation, utilization, and regulation of wind turbines. The technically accurate measurement and analysis techniques recommended in this standard should be applied by all parties to ensure that continuing development and operation of wind turbines is carried out in an atmosphere of consistent and accurate communication relative to wind turbine performance. This document presents measurement and reporting procedures expected to provide accurate results that can be replicated by others. Meanwhile, a user of the standard should be aware of differences that arise from large variations in wind shear and turbulence. Therefore, a user should consider the influence of these differences and the data selection criteria in relation to the purpose of the test before contracting the power performance measurements.

A key element of power performance testing is the measurement of wind speed. This document prescribes the use of cup or sonic anemometers or remote sensing devices (RSD) in conjunction with anemometers to measure wind. Even though suitable procedures for calibration/validation and classification are adhered to, the nature of the measurement principle of these devices may potentially cause them to perform differently. These instruments are robust and have been regarded as suitable for this kind of test with the limitation of some of them to certain classes of terrain.

Recognising that, as wind turbines become ever larger, a wind speed measured at a single height is increasingly unlikely to accurately represent the wind speed through the entire turbine rotor, this standard introduces an additional definition of wind speed. Whereas previously wind speed was defined as that measured at hub height only, this may now be supplemented with a so called Rotor Equivalent Wind Speed (REWS) defined by an arithmetic combination of simultaneous measurements of wind speed at a number of heights spanning the complete rotor diameter between lower tip and upper tip. The power curves defined by hub height wind speed and REWS are not the same and so the hub height wind speed power curve is always presented for comparison whenever a REWS power curve is measured. As a consequence of this difference in wind speed definition, the annual energy production (AEP) derived from the combination of a measured power curve with a wind speed distribution uses an identical definition of wind speed in both the power curve and the wind speed distribution.

Procedures to classify cup anemometers and ultrasonic anemometers are given in Annexes I and J. Procedures to classify remote sensing devices are given in Annex L. Special care should be taken in the selection of the instruments chosen to measure the wind speed because it can influence the result of the test.