

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Specifications for the re-use of sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and its mixtures
in electrical equipment**

**Spécifications pour la réutilisation de l'hexafluorure de soufre (SF₆)
et des mélanges contenant du SF₆ dans le matériel électrique**



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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 29.040.20; 29.130.01

ISBN 978-2-8322-6697-7

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	5
1 Scope	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	8
4 Contaminants and their sources	9
4.1 General.....	9
4.2 Contaminants from handling and use	9
4.3 SF ₆ by-products in equipment that only have an insulating function	9
4.4 SF ₆ by-products in switching equipment	10
4.5 SF ₆ by-products from internal arcs	10
4.6 SF ₆ mixtures specific by-products.....	10
5 Specifications for re-use of SF ₆	10
6 Specifications for re-use of SF ₆ mixtures.....	11
7 Reclaiming of SF ₆ and SF ₆ mixtures	11
7.1 Feasibility and process	11
7.2 Detection techniques for checking the quality of the gases.....	14
7.2.1 General	14
7.2.2 On-site analysis.....	14
7.2.3 Laboratory analysis	15
8 Handling, storage and transportation (informative).....	16
9 Safety and first aid	16
9.1 General safety rules.....	16
9.1.1 General	16
9.1.2 Protection of personnel.....	17
9.1.3 Handling of contaminated safety equipment and tools.....	18
9.1.4 Pressurized equipment and tools or measuring devices	19
9.1.5 Personal safety and protective equipment.....	19
9.1.6 Facilities and services	20
9.2 Additional safety measures in case of abnormal release of SF ₆ due to external fire or internal arc fault	20
9.3 First aid equipment and treatment.....	21
9.3.1 General	21
9.3.2 Irritation of the skin	21
9.3.3 Irritation of the eyes.....	22
9.3.4 Breathing difficulty	22
10 Environmental aspects	22
Annex A (informative) Description of methods of analysis (on-site and laboratory).....	23
A.1 Sampling.....	23
A.1.1 General	23
A.1.2 On-site sampling connection.....	23
A.1.3 Sample cylinder for laboratory analysis.....	23
A.1.4 Sampling methods for laboratory analysis.....	24
A.2 On-site analysis	25
A.2.1 General	25
A.2.2 SF ₆ concentration meter.....	25

A.2.3	Hygrometers	25
A.3	Laboratory analysis.....	26
A.3.1	Gas chromatography	26
A.3.2	Infrared spectroscopy	28
Annex B (informative)	By-products of SF ₆ and its mixtures.....	31
B.1	Decomposition of SF ₆ and its mixtures	31
B.1.1	General	31
B.1.2	Behaviour of SF ₆ in an electric arc	31
B.1.3	SF ₆ decomposition with low current discharges	33
B.1.4	Catalytic decomposition of SF ₆ (high-temperature behaviour)	33
B.2	Corrosion behaviour of SF ₆ and its by-products.....	33
B.3	Measures for the removal of by-products	33
B.4	Physiological characteristics of by-products	34
Annex C (informative)	Procedures for evaluating the potential effects on health from by-products of SF ₆ and its mixtures	35
C.1	General.....	35
C.2	Formation and health effects of SF ₆ by-products	35
C.2.1	Formation of SF ₆ by-products.....	35
C.2.2	Effects of SF ₆ by-products on health	36
C.2.3	Quantitative estimation of gaseous by-products	37
C.2.4	Procedures for health risk evaluation	38
C.3	Conclusion.....	40
Annex D (informative)	Reclaiming recommendations.....	42
D.1	General.....	42
D.2	Filtering recommendations	42
D.3	Transport of used SF ₆ in gas cylinders and containers by road.....	42
Annex E (informative)	Cryogenic reclaiming of SF ₆	43
E.1	General.....	43
E.2	Applications	43
E.3	Physical background.....	43
E.4	Cryogenic processes.....	44
E.5	Description of a cryogenic reclaimer	44
Bibliography.....		47
Figure 1	– Decision flow chart for recovered SF ₆	13
Figure A.1	– One-sampling cylinder method set-up	24
Figure A.2	– Two-sampling cylinder method set-up	24
Figure A.3	– Example of a gas chromatogram in one print out showing the different possible by-products after decomposition	27
Figure A.4	– Typical GCMS chromatogram of decomposed SF ₆ /CF ₄ mixture.....	28
Figure A.5	– IR spectrum of contaminated SF ₆	30
Figure C.1	– Procedure for the evaluation of the potential effects on health due to arcing	39
Figure C.2	– Procedure for the evaluation of the potential effects on health due to low energy discharges	40
Figure D.1	– Saturated vapour pressure of various gases as a function of temperature.....	43
Figure D.2	– Typical cryogenic reclaimer for SF ₆ recovery on site	45
Figure D.3	– Typical cryogenic reclaimer for removing contaminants	45

Table 1 – SF₆ contaminants 9

Table 2 – Specifications for re-use of SF₆ 10

Table 3 – Specifications for re-use of SF₆/N₂ mixtures 11

Table 4 – Specifications for re-use of SF₆/CF₄ mixtures 11

Table 5 – General contaminants and methods for their removal 12

Table 6 – Typical adsorbents for various SF₆ contaminants 12

Table 7 – On-site methods 15

Table 8 – Laboratory methods 16

Table 9 – Measures when working with SF₆ electric power equipment 17

Table 10 – Safety measures when opening or accessing gas compartments 18

Table 11 – Neutralizing solutions 19

Table 12 – Additional safety measures 21

Table A.1 – Peak absorption of SF₆ and contaminants 29

Table C.1 – OELs for SO₂, HF, and S₂F₁₀ 37

Table C.2 – SOF₂ production rate 37

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RE-USE OF SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE (SF₆)
AND ITS MIXTURES IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60480 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 10: Fluids for electrotechnical applications.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition, published in 2004. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- specifications for the re-use of SF₆ have been confirmed;
- specifications for the re-use of SF₆ mixtures, namely SF₆/N₂ and SF₆/CF₄ mixtures are included;
- as a result of a new repartition of annexes in IEC 60376, IEC 60480 and IEC 62271-4, this new edition now contains the following five annexes:
 - Annex A: Description of methods of analysis (on-site and laboratory);
 - Annex B: By-products of SF₆ and its mixtures;

- Annex C: Procedure for evaluating the potential effects on health from by-products of SF₆ and its mixtures;
- Annex D: Reclaiming recommendations.
- Annex E: Cryogenic reclaiming of SF₆;

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
10/1075/FDIS	10/1080/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RE-USE OF SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE (SF₆) AND ITS MIXTURES IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

1 Scope

This document provides criteria for the re-use of sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and its mixtures after recovery and reclaiming from electrical equipment (e.g. for maintenance, at the end-of-life).

Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), nitrogen (N₂) and carbon tetrafluoride (CF₄), are gases commonly used for electrical equipment. Taking into account environmental concerns, particular attention is paid to re-use criteria for SF₆ and its mixtures with N₂ and CF₄ for its use in electrical equipment. Procedures for recovering and reclaiming used SF₆ and its mixtures are outside the scope of this document and are described in IEC 62271-4.

This document provides several annexes on the description of the different methods of analysis, on by-products, on the procedure for evaluating the potential health effects from by-products, on cryogenic reclaiming of SF₆, and on reclaiming recommendations.

Storage, transportation and disposal of SF₆ and its mixtures are outside the scope of this document and are covered by IEC 62271-4. Procedures to determine SF₆ leakages are described in IEC 60068-2-17 [4]¹.

For the purposes of this document, the complementary gases used in SF₆ mixtures will be limited to N₂ or CF₄.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050-192, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 192: Dependability* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60050-212, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 212: Electrical insulating solids, liquids and gases* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60050-441, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 441: Switchgear, controlgear and fuses* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 60050-826, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 826: Electrical installations* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 62271-4:2013, *High-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 4: Handling procedures for sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and its mixtures*

¹ Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-192, IEC 60050-212, IEC 60050-441 and IEC 60050-826, and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

electrical equipment

item used for such purposes as generation, conversion, transmission, distribution or utilization of electrical energy, such as electric machines, transformers, switchgear and controlgear, measuring instruments, protective devices, wiring systems, current-using equipment, insulated bushings, surge arresters

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:2004, 826-16-01, modified – "insulated bushings, surge arresters" has been added.]

3.2

container

vessel (cylinder) suitable for the containment of pressurized gases either in gaseous or liquid phase, according to local and/or international safety and transportation regulations

3.3

used sulphur hexafluoride

SF₆ which has been introduced into electrical equipment

3.4

reclaiming

process of contaminants removal from an insulating liquid or gas

3.5

recovery

process of transferring gas from electrical equipment to an alternate container

3.6

SF₆ mixture

gas mixture formed by SF₆ and a complementary gas, typically N₂ or CF₄

3.7

contaminant

foreign substance or material in an insulating liquid or gas which usually has a deleterious effect on one or more properties

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-212:2010, 212-17-27, modified – "or solid" has been deleted.]

3.8

by-products

contaminants which are formed by the degradation of SF₆ and its mixtures by electrical arcs or sparks

3.9

ambient air

normal atmosphere surrounding the equipment