IEC 61496-1

Edition 3.0 2012-04

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Safety of machinery – Electro-sensitive protective equipment – Part 1: General requirements and tests

Sécurité des machines – Equipements de protection électro-sensibles – Partie 1: Prescriptions générales et essais

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

COMMISSION ELECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE XA
CODE PRIX

ICS 13.110; 29.260.99

ISBN 978-2-8322-0061-2

CONTENTS

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SAFETY OF MACHINERY – ELECTRO-SENSITIVE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT –

Part 1: General requirements and tests

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61496-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 44: Safety of machinery – Electrotechnical aspects.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2004 and its amendment 1 (2007). The document 44/615/CDV, circulated to the National Committees as amendment 2, led to the publication of this new edition.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows: The design, test and verification requirements have been updated to make them consistent with the latest standards for functional safety and EMC.

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

CDV	Report on voting
44/615/CDV	44/641/RVC

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.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 61496 series, published under the general title *Safety of machinery – Electro-sensitive protective equipment*, can be found on the IEC website.

A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendment 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site 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- withdrawn,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 corrigendum of April 2015 have been included in this copy.

INTRODUCTION

An electro-sensitive protective equipment (ESPE) is applied to machinery presenting a risk of personal injury. It provides protection by causing the machine to revert to a safe condition before a person can be placed in a hazardous situation.

This part of IEC 61496 provides general design and performance requirements of ESPEs for use over a broad range of applications. Essential features of equipment meeting the requirements of this standard are the appropriate level of safety-related performance provided and the built-in periodic functional checks/self-checks that are specified to ensure that this level of performance is maintained.

Each type of machine presents its own particular hazards and it is not the purpose of this standard to recommend the manner of application of the ESPE to any particular machine. The application of the ESPE should be a matter for agreement between the equipment supplier, the machine user and the enforcing authority, and in this context attention is drawn to the relevant guidance established internationally, for example ISO 12100.

This part of IEC 61496 specifies technical requirements of electro-sensitive protective equipment. The application of this standard may require the use of substances and/or test procedures that could be injurious to health unless adequate precautions are taken. Conformance with this standard in no way absolves either the supplier or the user from statutory obligations relating to the safety and health of persons during the use of the equipment covered by this standard.

Due to the complexity of the technology used to implement ESPEs, there are many issues that are highly dependent on analysis and expertise in specific test and measurement techniques. In order to provide a high level of confidence, independent review by relevant experts is recommended.