



**The Gambia
Standards Bureau**

**Balance-of-system components for photovoltaic
systems – Design qualification natural
environments**

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THE GAMBIA STANDARDS BUREAU

The Gambia Standards Bureau is a statutory Government specialized Agency established by The Gambia Standards Bureau Act 2010 to standardize products, methods, systems and for connected matters. Hence, the Bureau is the sole National Standardization Body. As such, it has been a member of International Standardization Bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) since 2011, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) from 2012.

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For further information on and copies of Gambian Standards, please contact The Gambia Standards Bureau.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE: NATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The National Electrotechnical Committee (NEC) developed this National Wiring Standard. The NEC was initially set up by PURA in 2008 when they became a member of IEC. Upon establishment of the Bureau and replacement of PURA at IEC, the Bureau took over the NEC in 2012 and began the work of development of standards in the electrotechnical field.

The NEC consists of representatives from the following Institutions/Organizations:

- Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
- National Water and Electricity Company
- Gambia Telecommunications Company
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure
- University of The Gambia
- Gambia Technical Training Institute
- New Gambia Industrialists
- ComAfrique Intelizon Initiative
- Renewable Energy Association of The Gambia
- Consumer Protection Association of The Gambia
- The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Gambia Standards Bureau is the Secretariat and Secretary to the NEC.

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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International Standard IEC 62093 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
82/374/FDIS	82/380/RVD

Full information on the voting for approval 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.

GAMBIAN STANDARD

GAMS IEC 62093:2005

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result 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.

1. Scope

This National Standard establishes requirements for the design qualification of balance-of-system (BOS) components used in terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) systems. This standard is suitable for operation in indoor, conditioned or unconditioned; or outdoor in general open-air climates as defined in IEC 60721-2-1, protected or unprotected. It is written for dedicated solar components such as batteries, inverters, charge controllers, system diode packages, heat sinks, surge protectors, system junction boxes, maximum power point tracking devices and switch gear, but may be applicable to other BOS system components.

This standard is based on that which is specified in IEC 61215 and IEC 61646 for the design qualification of PV modules. However, changes have been made to account for the special features of the balance-of-system components, and to add different levels of severity for the different service environments. Dust, fungus, insects, shipping vibration and shock, and protection class have been added to the appropriate environmental categories. The high and low temperature and humidity limits have also been modified for the appropriate service environments.

This standard does not apply to photovoltaic modules. These are covered by IEC 61215 or IEC 61646. Also, this standard does not apply to concentrator modules or to complete PV systems. Specific electrical safety aspects are not part of this standard.

This standard is applicable to lead-acid and nickel-cadmium cells and batteries. Other electrochemical storage systems will be included when they become available.

The object of this test sequence is to determine the performance characteristics of each BOS components and to show, as far as possible within reasonable constraints of cost and time, that the component is capable of maintaining this performance after exposure to the simulated service natural environmental conditions for which it is intended to be applicable as specified by the manufacturer. The actual life expectancy of components so qualified will depend on their design, their environment and the system conditions under which they are operated.

2. Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60068-1, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-6, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests – Test Fc: vibration (sinusoidal)*

IEC 60068-2-21, *Environmental testing – Part 2-21: Tests – Test U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices*

IEC 60068-2-27, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests. Test Ea and guidance: Shock*

IEC 60068-2-30, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Tests. Test Db and guidance: Damp heat, cyclic (12 + 12-hour cycle)*

IEC 60068-2-75, *Environmental testing – Part 2-75: Tests – Test Eh: Hammer tests*

IEC 60068-2-78, *Environmental testing – Part 2-78: Tests – Test Cab: Damp heat, steady state*

IEC 60068-3-6, *Environmental testing – Part 3-6: Supporting documentation and guidance – Confirmation of the performance of temperature/ humidity chambers*

IEC 60410, *Sampling plans and procedures for inspection by attributes*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60721-2-1, *Classification of environmental conditions – Part 2-1: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Temperature and humidity*

IEC 60904-3:1989, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data*

IEC 61215, *Crystalline silicon terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval*

IEC 61345, *UV test for photovoltaic (PV) modules*

IEC 61427:2005, *Secondary cells and batteries for solar photovoltaic energy systems – General requirements and methods of test*

IEC 61646, *Thin film silicon terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval*

IEC 61683, *Photovoltaic systems – Power conditioners – Procedure for measuring efficiency*

IEC 62262, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures for electrical equipment against external mechanical impacts (IK code)*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*