

International Telecommunication Union

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

K.64

(06/2016)

SERIES K: PROTECTION AGAINST INTERFERENCE

**Safe working practices for outside equipment
installed in particular environments**

Recommendation ITU-T K.64

ITU-T



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Safe working practices for outside equipment installed in particular environments

Summary

Recommendation ITU-T K.64 describes working practices for service personnel to help them work safely in telecommunication installations in three specific environments.

The specific environments covered in this Recommendation are characterized by wet conditions or close proximity to exposed metallic parts.

The working practices apply to telecommunication plants with voltage levels higher than the limits defined for analogue PSTN circuits, such as remote feeding telecommunication current or voltage (RFT-C or RFT-V) circuits.

This version of Recommendation ITU-T K.64 includes a warning regarding contact with terminals carrying RFT circuits with small parts of the body, e.g., back of the hand. The references have been updated.

History

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group	Unique ID*
1.0	ITU-T K.64	2004-02-29	5	11.1002/1000/7147
2.0	ITU-T K.64	2011-01-13	5	11.1002/1000/11035
3.0	ITU-T K.64	2016-06-29	5	11.1002/1000/12874

Keywords

K.50, RFT, RFT-C, RFT-V, safe, TNV, work practices.

* To access the Recommendation, type the URL <http://handle.itu.int/> in the address field of your web browser, followed by the Recommendation's unique ID. For example, <http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11830-en>.

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Introduction

Network operators, in their telecommunication infrastructure, use equipment that is remotely powered by symmetrical or coaxial pair cables. The voltages and currents that power these systems differ among them, and comply with the limit values defined in standards IEC 60950-1 and IEC 60950-21 for symmetrical pair cables and in standard IEC 60728-11 for coaxial cables. The limits in these standards have been defined to allow service personnel to work safely on these lines without de-energizing the circuits.

Nevertheless, there are telecommunication environments that necessitate additional precautions to enable service personnel to work safely on circuits that are usually considered safe to touch. These environments are characterized as wet conditions, sometimes associated with standing water. This Recommendation lists three practical situations where additional precautions are needed and defines how the service personnel should perform work to reduce risk associated with these situations.

Specific applications, local conditions or regulations may give rise to a need for additional safeguards or modifications to practices presented in this Recommendation.

Recommendation ITU-T K.64

Safe working practices for outside equipment installed in particular environments

1 Scope

The scope of this Recommendation is to provide working procedures for maintenance activities in specific environments for telecommunication plants with voltage levels higher than the limits defined for analogue public switched telephone network (PSTN) circuits. The specific environments covered in this Recommendation are characterized by wet conditions or close proximity to exposed metallic parts.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

- [ITU-T K.50] Recommendation ITU-T K.50 (2000), *Safe limits of operating voltages and currents for telecommunication systems powered over the network.*
- [IEC TS 60479-1] IEC/TS 60479-1 Ed. 4.0 (2005), *Effects of current on human beings and livestock – Part 1: General aspects.*
- [IEC 60728-11] IEC 60728-11 Ed. 3.0 (2010), *Cable networks for television signals, sound signals and interactive services – Part 11: Safety.*
- [IEC 60950-1] IEC 60950-1 Ed. 2.0 (2005), *Information technology equipment – Safety – Part 1: General requirements.*
- [IEC 60950-21] IEC 60950-21 Ed. 1.0 (2002), *Information technology equipment – Safety – Part 21: Remote power feeding.*

3 Definitions

This Recommendation defines the following terms:

3.1 analogue PSTN circuit: A telecommunication network voltage (TNV) circuit (see clause 3.9) operating at voltages less than or equal to 90 V d.c. with cadenced ringing signals complying with [IEC 60950-1].

3.2 CATV circuit: An interface circuit for a cable distribution system intended for transmission of video, data and/or audio signals between separate buildings or between outdoor antennas and buildings.

NOTE – CATV circuits remotely powered, i.e., circuits on feeder between the optical node unit and the last line amplifier, are only considered in this Recommendation.

3.3 dry conditions: An environmental condition in which the resistance of the skin and to the body is not reduced with respect to the value defined in [IEC TS 60479-1].

3.4 environment classification: The environments considered by this Recommendation are classified as follows:

- Environment type 1: environment with the floor in wet conditions, sometimes with standing water (for example, manholes, vaults, trenches);
- Environment type 2: environment with wet walls and confined working space (for example, vaults) such that the wet wall may be in contact with the person's body and producing (in the case of hand contact with an energized part) a current path different to the hand-to-feet current path;
- Environment type 3: environment with confined working space and existing extraneous metallic parts (for example, facilities of other services); during the operations, large area of the metallic parts (e.g., metallic tower for radio link) are in continuous contact with the body.

3.5 insulated tool: A tool, such as a screwdriver, scissor or pliers, having an insulated handle that may be used by service personnel during his operations on telecommunication equipment or cable.

3.6 RFT-C circuit: A remote feeding telecommunication circuit that is so designed and protected that under normal operating conditions and single fault conditions, the currents in the circuit do not exceed defined values.

NOTE – The current limit values under normal operating and single fault conditions are specified in [ITU-T K.50] or [IEC 60950-21].

3.7 RFT-V circuit: A remote feeding telecommunication circuit that is so designed and protected that under normal operating conditions and single fault conditions, the voltages are limited and the accessible area of contact is limited.

NOTE – The voltage limit values under normal operating and single fault conditions are specified in [ITU-T K.50] or [IEC 60950-21].

3.8 service personnel: A person having appropriate technical training and experience necessary to be aware of hazards, to which that person may be exposed in performing a task, and of measures to minimize the risks to that person or other persons.

3.9 TNV circuit: A circuit in the equipment to which the accessible area of contact is limited and that is so designed and protected that, under normal operating conditions and single fault conditions, the voltages do not exceed specified limit values.

3.10 user: Any person other than service personnel.

3.11 vault: An underground chamber (manhole, pit, exchange or high rise building cable entry) or above ground pedestal or cabinet used to accommodate communication equipment such as joint closures, housings and/or electronic equipment installed in the external plant environment.

3.12 wet condition: An environmental condition in which the resistance of the skin and to the body is reduced with respect to the value defined in [IEC TS 60479-1].

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

CATV	Cable TV
CCP	Cross-Connection Point
MDF	Main Distribution Frame
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
RFT-C	Remote Feeding Telecommunication – Current circuit

RFT-V	Remote Feeding Telecommunication – Voltage circuit
rms	Root Mean Square
SELV	Safety Extra Low Voltage
TLC	Telecommunication
TNV	Telecommunication Network Voltage

5 Telecommunication particular workplaces

Safety standards recognize that voltage levels defined as safe to touch in normal conditions may present a hazard to service personnel in damp conditions. For example, it is recognized that even safety extra low voltage (SELV) circuit limits may present a risk of electric shock for a person when such circuits are used in a wet environment. For this reason, the voltage limit for parts touchable by a person is equal to half the value of the limit applicable in dry environments.

Obviously, it is not possible to reduce the voltages usually present on a telecommunication line in order to have the same safe conditions within a wet environment when contacted by service personnel. In such cases, recognizing the presence of potentially harmful energy sources, the behaviour of service personnel becomes an effective means to prevent injury. Therefore, there is the need to follow safe working practices when equipment maintenance is necessary and a dry environment is not possible. This approach is possible because the service personnel are skilled and trained.

An example of such work is the maintenance activities inside a manhole or, in general, in a vault where the presence of water at the bottom is as likely as that of infiltration water on the internal walls. Sometimes, the confined space of the workplace hinders the maintenance of the equipment and increases the likelihood that the current path through the person's body will differ from the hand-to-feet current path. Lastly, service personnel may accidentally make an adverse, large-area contact with energized conductors. This could happen, for instance, if one hand holds a tool fastened to the energized conductor while the other hand, or another body part, is in full contact with an earthed conductor.

Summarizing, there are three particular environments that may present safety hazards to the service personnel that operates a telecommunication (TLC) plant:

- 1) Environment type 1: wet conditions (see clause 3.4);
- 2) Environment type 2: confined working space in wet conditions (see clause 3.4);
- 3) Environment type 3: confined working space contacting extraneous metallic parts (see clause 3.4).

To reduce the risk of electric shock associated with the maintenance activities performed in such an environment, service personnel shall follow simple and effective working practices, as described in clause 7.

6 Voltage levels on TLC installations

[IEC 60950-1] allows voltage levels, not higher than 70.7 V (peak) or 120 V d.c., on symmetrical pair cables of telecommunication networks. TNV circuits, accessible to skilled personnel only, are safe for an ordinary environment (dry conditions) but in wet conditions the contact with TNV circuits at voltages greater than analogue PSTN voltages (see 3.1) may be dangerous for service personnel due to a reduction of the contact impedance.

The voltage levels used in a coaxial cable distribution network are defined in [IEC 60728-11]. Voltage levels between the inner and outer conductor of up to 65 Vrms, 120 V d.c. are allowed. It must be considered that such voltage levels shall be completely inaccessible to the user and service personnel may access these voltages only after removing, with a tool, the equipment cover.

[IEC 60950-21] has introduced remote feeding telecommunication circuits limited in current (RFT-C) or in voltage (RFT-V). Both circuits are suitable for barehanded contact by service personnel in powered state, in line with [ITU-T K.50].

Table 1 summarizes the voltage levels that may be present on a telecommunication line under normal conditions for different types of circuits in the network [IEC 60950-1], [ITU-T K.50], [IEC 60728-11], [IEC 60950-21]. These voltage levels are based on the assumption that the surface contact area is not greater than 1 cm² in order to limit body impedance in the hand-to-feet path to more than 5 kΩ.

Table 1 – Voltages on TLC lines in normal conditions for different types of circuits in the equipment powering the network

Type of circuit	V d.c. max [V]	V a.c. max [V]
TNV	120	70.7 (peak value)
RFT-C	±400 (Note 1)	N.A.
RFT-V	±140 (Note 2)	N.A.
CATV	120	65 (rms)
NOTE 1 – This value applies if the voltage rating of the wiring of the telecommunication network is not specified. If it is specified, the supply voltage shall be limited to this value or to a maximum value of 1500 V (see Annex B of [ITU-T K.50]).		
NOTE 2 – Or ±200 V if the short circuit current is limited to 10 mA d.c. (see Annex A of [ITU-T K.50]).		

Essentially, the current flowing through the body determines human responses to electrical stimuli. Voltage is important because, together with the body impedance, it determines the current through the body.

The previous voltage and current limits have been calculated using the 'let-go' limit. This defines the threshold at which inability to release the energized conductor occurs. In the case of limited voltage circuits, e.g., TNV and RFT-V circuits, the voltage limits have been defined using a body impedance of 5 kΩ. This introduces a margin of safety into the limit in case a current path through a body is created because higher values of body impedance may be encountered in practice, as indicated by [IEC TS 60479-1] (small contact surface area).

Working practices performed on live conductors affect the likelihood that a possible physiological response may occur. The likelihood of specific response of the body occurring at a specific voltage level depends on the precautions adopted whilst working on those live parts. These precautions may be very simple for lower voltages, but can include the disconnection of the power feeding on the cable or on the equipment before working.

The safety precautions described below allow service personnel to work safely in the specific environments defined in this Recommendation.

NOTE – The possible effects of induced voltages on telecommunication lines are under study.

7 Work practices on TLC plants in particular environments

Work on telecommunication installations under normal conditions as well as in the specific environments considered in this Recommendation (Environment types 1, 2 or 3) shall only be performed by skilled service personnel following well-defined safe working procedures.

This Recommendation requires, first of all, the classification of the telecommunication installation where it is necessary to work; practically the installations with voltages from TNV, RFT-C, RFT-V or coaxial cable circuits have to be indicated. Prior to starting work, this Recommendation requires that service personnel assess the risk by determining the voltage classification in the telecommunication facilities (e.g., by consulting records/maps (plans) of the TLC facilities in which information on the type of service is reported).

For conductors with voltages higher than that of the analogue PSTN service, labels or insulated markers (e.g., coloured plastic collets) should be installed at the main distribution frame (MDF) and at accessible cross-connection points (CCP) along the route to clearly indicate both the service and the voltage. In these cases, the safety precautions described in clauses 7.1 and 7.2 (Figure 1) shall be followed.

7.1 Switching off the power supply

Electrical works on TLC installations in environment types 1, 2 or 3 should be performed, preferentially, with the power supply switched off or by using insulating or disconnect or shorting devices at the MDF and other suitable CCPs, on the conductors carrying the potentially hazardous voltage levels that fall within the scope of this Recommendation.

Where practicable, a temporary notice should also be placed at the MDF indicating clearly the necessity to leave in place the insulating or disconnect devices or not to change the switch position due to works in progress on the line.

Nevertheless, the warning shall be considered sufficient only if the disabling devices are used in places where the access is limited to service personnel; otherwise, it is required to lock the disabling devices in their "Off" position.

Once the work has been completed, the power supply may be reconnected only after the service personnel have made the installation safe.

At the MDF, those conductors carrying voltage levels from RFT-V or RFT-C circuits should be labelled. Unintentional contact between conductors from different power feeding circuits, even of the same type, should be avoided, e.g., by providing insulating shielding covers.

Prior to the commencement of work, service personnel are required to verify, through use of an appropriate measuring instrument, the absence of voltages exceeding analogue PSTN limits (see clause 3.1) on all conductors where it is necessary to operate.

7.2 Practices to be used when working on live telecommunication circuits

Where it is not practicable to disconnect the power feed to those parts that may be touched barehanded by service personnel under the specified environment, tools with insulated handles or other effective insulated protection devices (e.g., insulated gloves and/or rubber boots in type 1 environment) should be used.

For the different environment types defined in this Recommendation, it is necessary to adopt the following safety precautions¹:

- Environment type 1: if voltages on TNV or RFT-V circuits with no current limitation are higher than 105 V d.c., it is necessary to use insulated connectors or tools with insulated handles to avoid bare hand contact with conductors, and/or rubber insulating boots to prevent moisture contact with the feet/legs.
- Environment types 2 and 3: if voltages on TNV or RFT-V circuits with no current limitation are higher than 90 V d.c., it is necessary to use insulated connectors or tools with insulated handles, insulated boots or insulated gloves.

Environment types 2 and 3: if voltages on coaxial cables are higher than 60 Vrms, it is necessary to use insulated connectors or tools with insulated handles.

When work is performed on live parts, it is essential that possible earth faults or leakage currents (see clause B.3 of [ITU-T K.50]), in particular with floating power systems that may originate dangerous touch currents (RFT-C circuits), be detected by measurement, and that the low impedance to earth fault of the one line conductor be removed before beginning work.

These safety precautions for live working on different types of environment are summarized in Table 2.

When working close to other telecommunication live parts different from PSTN circuits, if service personnel is unable to use special protection devices, the worker should be careful to maintain his hands sufficiently far away from those live parts.

Particular care should be taken when working on, or near, terminals carrying RFT circuits. If terminals carrying an RFT circuit are bridged to a small part of the body, e.g., back of the hand or a finger, a higher than normal current can occur, resulting in a painful shock and a burn at the contact points. This higher than normal current is due to the lower resistance between the contact points, compared to a hand-to-hand contact.

Table 2 – Safety precautions for live working in different types of environment

Environment	TNV circuit	RFT-C circuit	RFT-V circuit with no current limitation	CATV circuit
Environment type 1: wet conditions.	If above 105 V d.c., use insulated connectors or tool handles.	Touch only one conductor and check for earth faults on the line.	If above 105 V d.c., use insulated connectors or tool handles.	No specific precautions given.
Environment type 2: confined working space in wet conditions.	If above 90 V d.c., use insulated connectors or tool handles.	Touch only one conductor and check for earth faults on the line.	If above 90 V d.c., use insulated connectors or tool handles, insulated gloves or boots.	If voltages are above 60 Vrms, use insulated connectors or tool handles.
Environment type 3: confined working space contacting extraneous metallic parts.	If above 90 V d.c., use insulated connectors or tool handles.	Touch only one conductor and check for earth faults on the line.	If above 90 V d.c., use insulated connectors or tool handles, insulated gloves or boots.	If voltages are above 60 Vrms, use insulated connectors or tool handles.

¹ The values indicated are calculated in Appendix I.

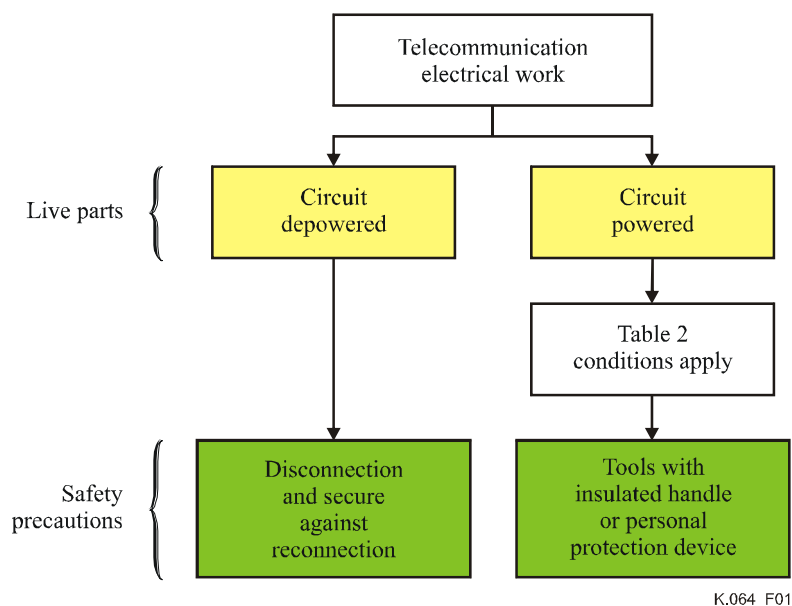


Figure 1 – Scheme for safety procedures in particular environments (see clause 3.4)

8 Work on telecommunication installations at risk of electric shock

Usually, work performed on a telecommunication plant may consist of one of the following activities:

- maintenance or replacement of equipment;
- operations on cables.

NOTE – This Recommendation is concerned only with the above two points because it is considered that prior to the plant's first activation, it is switched off and so is not dangerous in the sense given in this Recommendation.

8.1 Work on equipment or devices (terminal box, etc.)

Equipment installed in environments at risk of electric shock shall have a warning mark clearly visible on its enclosure to remind service personnel of the need to use the appropriate safety procedures.

In an environment like a manhole, installation and siting of equipment should take into account the need to perform maintenance activities. Where possible, consideration should also be given in the installation and siting of equipment to allow ease of operations in the workplace. One example of this is the use of cables long enough to allow equipment within the manhole to be either:

- temporarily removed from the manhole entirely and placed on the road surface;
- raised from the floor of the manhole to a level at which maintenance may be performed from the outside.

Unless the road surface is wet, the operation in these conditions is comparable to that performed in an ordinary environment.

When it is necessary to operate in an environment such as a vault, then, considering the likely limited freedom of movement, the working procedure must be subordinated to the nature of the operation.

For such a purpose, as far as maintenance activities on line or terminal equipment are concerned, it is possible to distinguish the following cases:

- 1) Electrical measurements: it is required that the measurement instruments and their accessories have an insulation level adequate to the expected voltages present on the telecommunication line.
- 2) Maintenance by removal or insertion of components directly extractable.

- 3) Maintenance with action by hand directly on components without accessible parts at dangerous voltages.
- 4) Maintenance with action by hand on components having accessible parts at dangerous voltages.

Only when the operation should be performed on accessible parts of live equipment is it necessary to use tools with insulated handle. In other cases, service personnel will not experience harmful effects and so bare hand operation is possible.

Replacement of equipment shall be performed only after the power supply has been switched off.

8.2 Work on cables

Generally, work on a cable can be safely carried out if the cable sheath is not open or, after its opening, it is not possible to touch the internal conductors with remote power feeding voltages higher than analogue PSTN limits.

The external conductor of a coaxial cable or the plastic insulation of pair cable conductors shall not be damaged during the work.

During normal activities performed on cables, e.g., splice making, contact may occur with the entire span of the hand or even hand to hand. Such possibilities shall be avoided. Therefore, splicing techniques that do not remove the insulation of the conductors are preferred.

Two kinds of splicing are possible on cables:

- 1) making a new splice involving all the conductors of the cable;
- 2) remaking a splice involving some conductors of the cable.

The first case may occur, e.g., when a cable has been cut in the field, and since the telephone service is down, it may be convenient to disconnect the power supply on all conductors with voltage levels higher than analogue limits (PSTN services) to protect service personnel making the splice in an environment at risk of electric shock.

In the second case, two methods may be used:

- 1) identify the pairs in the splice with voltages exceeding analogue PSTN limits using instruments like "pair-finders" or by traditional methods that require service personnel to proceed by trial and error, contacting the conductors one by one in order to identify them at the exchange on the network side. Label them to avoid unwanted contacts. This may be the easiest method with paper insulated conductors;
- 2) use insulated tools to avoid conductive paths to earth. This may be the most practicable method for plastic insulated conductors.

The conductors with voltage levels higher than the analogue limits (PSTN services) shall be interrupted at the MDF/CCP with suitable insulators/disconnectors or shorting devices unless splicing is performed without the likelihood of skin contact with bare conductors by using suitable personal protective devices and practices described in clause 7.2.

As for equipment, the service personnel shall ensure, first of all, that cable conductors are not powered. Operation on the cable prior to verification that the power remote feeding has been switched off shall be performed using insulated tools.

Appendix I

Rationale of safe voltage limit values for workplace at major risk of electric shock

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

This appendix describes the rationale leading to the safe voltage limit values shown in Table 2 for human safety while operating on TNV, RFT-V and CATV circuits in a workplace at major risk of electric shock.

The calculations are done according to [IEC TS 60479-1] determining voltage and current values that, in the case of human body contact with active parts of a telecommunication plant, do not generate dangerous situations for trained personnel.

I.1 Operating cases

With reference to the environment type classification for electric shock risk, defined in clause 3.4, different operating conditions, which could determine different effects on the human body, have been identified.

They depend substantially on the type of contact of the body with the telecommunication plant and the ground, and the site's environmental conditions.

The body parts which can come into contact with the telecommunication plant and the ground are:

- hands;
- back;
- seat;
- feet.

I.2 Calculation assumption

Calculations have to determine the contact voltage limit originated by touching the telecommunication plant that, based on the human body impedance value in the contact path (Z), generates no dangerous current for people.

For this, refer to [IEC TS 60479-1], which considers this impedance Z constituted by:

$$Z = Z_b + Z_c$$

where:

Z_b is a partition of human body impedance, function of surface contact and touch voltage, developing through the current path considered;

Z_c is the touch ground impedance.

Figure I.1 shows the human body impedance, function of surface contact and touch voltage Z_T , through the hand-to-hand path.

To obtain the Z_b value, it is necessary to calculate the human body impedance partition, in the path interested by the contact, with respect to such impedance Z_T .

Such partition can be obtained by using Figure I.2.

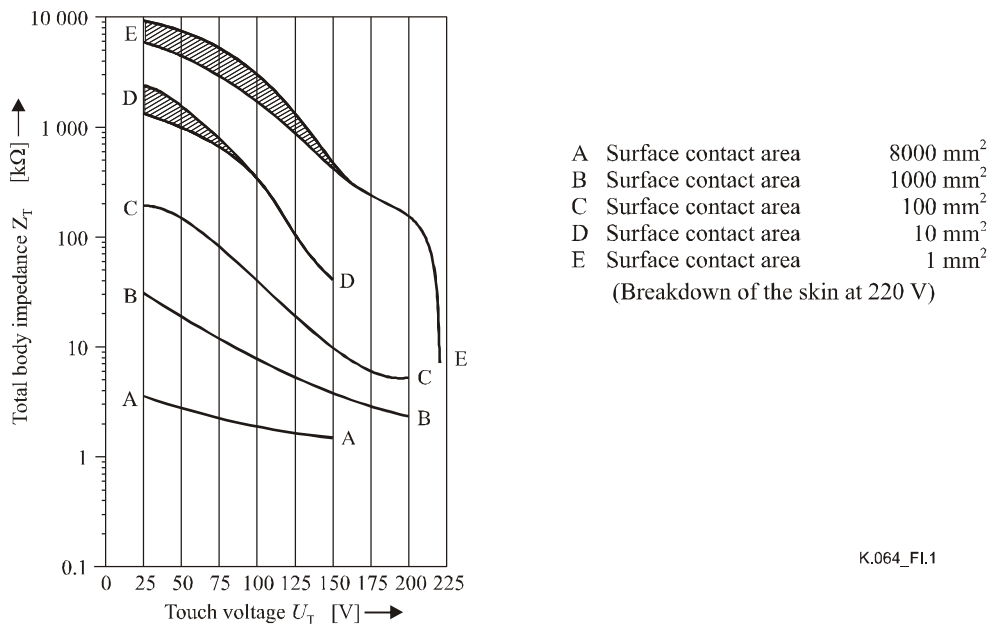
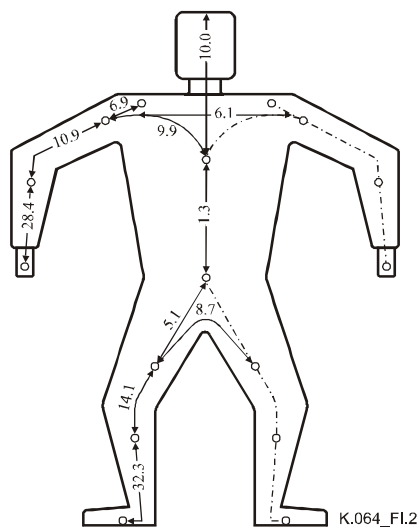


Figure I.1 – Human body impedance for hand-to-hand path



The numbers indicate the percentage of the internal impedance of the human body for the part of the body concerned, in relation to the hand-to-foot path.

NOTE 1 – In order to calculate the total body impedance Z_T for a given current path, the internal impedances for all parts of the body of the current path have to be added as well as the impedances of the skin of the contact areas.

NOTE 2 – The internal impedance from one hand to both feet is approximately 75%, the impedance from both hands to both feet 50% and the impedance from both hands to the trunk of the body 25% of the impedance hand-to-hand or hand-to-foot.

Figure I.2 – Percentage of the human body internal impedance in relation to the hand-to-foot path

Therefore:

$$Z_b = k \times Z_T$$

where k is the sum of percentages met in the considered path.

Although, according to [IEC 60950-1], the surface contact to be considered is 100 mm² (fingertip dimension), this calculation should take into consideration the possibility that the operator, while using insulated tools, accidentally touches active telecommunication parts with the whole finger. Therefore, this surface is assumed to be 1000 mm², and consequently curve B of Figure I.1 should be taken into account.

Regarding body impedance contact with ground Z_c , it is assumed that:

- floor and walls are always wet or damped and their impedance is assumed no greater than 200 Ω;

- the impedance of wet or damp shoes is 1000 Ω [b-CENELEC HD 637];
- metallic parts impedance is assumed to be 0 Ω.

Therefore, cases to be analysed are those shown in Table I.1, considering negligible the difference between back and seat path (1.3%).

Table I.1 – Analysis cases

Case	Environment type	Contact path	Condition of shoes	Impedance contact with floor, wall or metallic parts	% impedance of human body with respect to the path [K]
1	1	hand-feet	wet or damp	1200 Ω	75
2		hands-feet			50
3		hand-foot			100
4	2	hand-hand		200 Ω	100
5		hand-seat			50
6		hands-seat			25
7	3	hand-hand		0 Ω	100
8		hand-seat			50
9		hands-seat			25

I.3 Limit current calculation

The level of danger of current flowing through the human body is related to its intensity and its duration.

Figure I.3 shows the zone limits for different physiological effects for the human body and their description related to alternating current.

Figure I.4 shows the zone limits for different physiological effects for the human body and their description related to direct current.

Such current values can change depending on the different current paths through the human body; the factor taking into account this fact is the so-called "heart-current factor", F , whose value is specified in Table I.2.

Therefore:

$$I_h = \frac{I_{ref}}{F}$$

where:

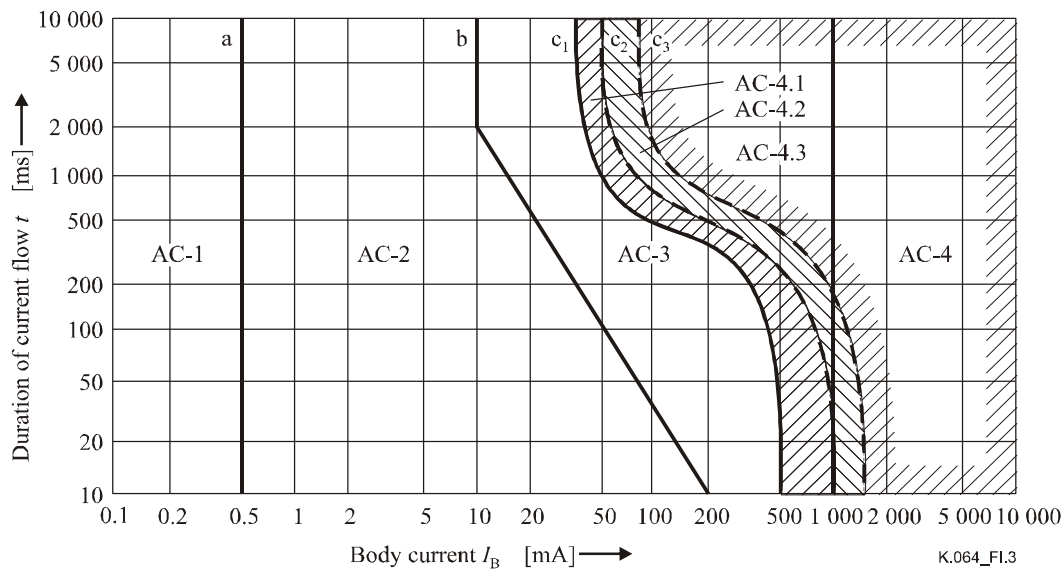
I_{ref} is the reference current in Figures I.3 and I.4

I_h is the current for different paths indicated in Table I.2

In case of similar paths, the most precautionary F value has to be considered.

Table I.3 shows the limit values for a.c. and d.c. with respect to the "b" curve.

Table I.4 shows the limit values for a.c. and d.c. with respect to the "c₁" curve.

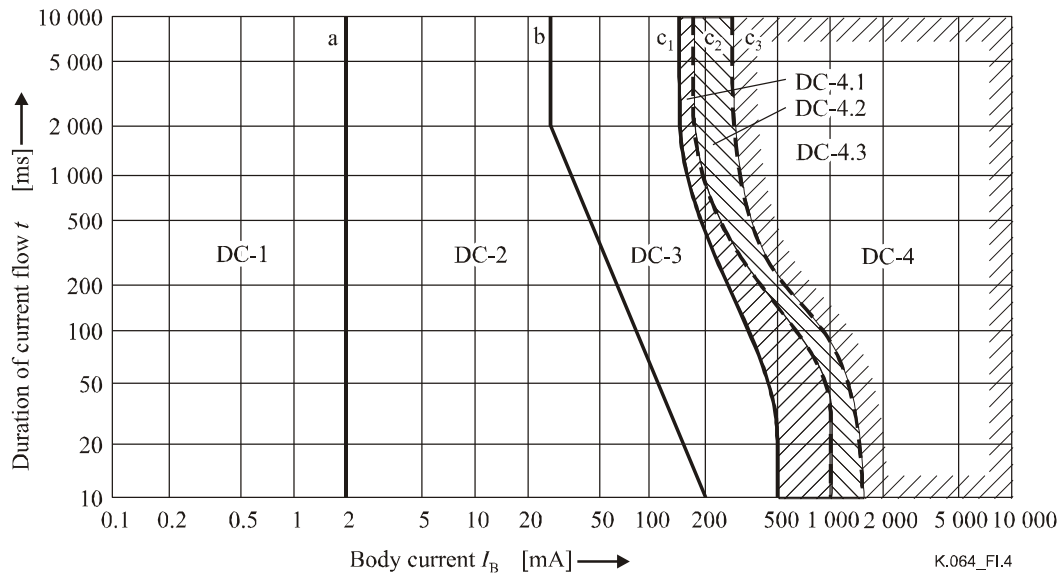


Zone descriptions

Zone designation	Zone limits	Physiological effects
AC-1	Up to 0.5 mA line a	Usually no reaction.
AC-2	0.5 mA up to line b (Note)	Usually no harmful physiological effects.
AC-3	Line b up to curve c_1	Usually no organic damage to be expected. Likelihood of cramp like muscular contractions and difficulty in breathing for durations of current-flow longer than 2 s. Reversible disturbances of formation and conduction of impulses in the heart, including a trial fibrillation and transient cardiac arrest without ventricular fibrillation increasing with current magnitude and time.
AC-4	Above curve c_1	Increasing with magnitude and time, dangerous pathophysiological effects such as cardiac arrest, breathing arrest and severe burns may occur in addition to the effects of zone 3.
AC-4.1	$c_1 - c_2$	Probability of ventricular fibrillation increasing up to about 5%.
AC-4.2	$c_2 - c_3$	Probability of ventricular fibrillation up to about 50%.
AC-4.3	Beyond curve c_3	Probability of ventricular fibrillation above 50%.

NOTE – For durations of current-flow below 10 ms, the limit for the body current for line b remains constant at a value of 200 mA.

Figure I.3 – Physiological effects of alternating current on human body



Zone descriptions

Zone designation	Zone limits	Physiological effects
DC-1	Up to 2 mA line a	Usually no reaction. Slight pricking pain when switching on or off.
DC-2	2 mA up to line b (Note)	Usually no harmful physiological effects.
DC-3	Line b up to curve c ₁	Usually no organic damage to be expected. Increasing with current magnitude and time, reversible disturbances of formation and conduction of impulses in the heart may occur.
DC-4	Above curve c ₁	Increasing with current magnitude and time, dangerous pathophysiological effects for example, severe burns, are to be expected in addition to the effects of zone 3.
DC-4.1	c ₁ – c ₂	Probability of ventricular fibrillation increasing up to about 5%.
DC-4.2	c ₂ – c ₃	Probability of ventricular fibrillation up to about 50%.
DC-4.3	Beyond curve c ₃	Probability of ventricular fibrillation above 50%.

NOTE – For durations of current-flow below 10 ms, the limit for the body current for line b remains constant at a value of 200 mA.

Figure I.4 – Physiological effects of direct current on human body

Table I.2 – Heart-current factor

Current path	Heart-current factor <i>F</i>
Left hand to left foot, right foot or both feet	1.0
Both hands to both feet	1.0
Left hand to right hand	0.4
Right hand to left foot, right foot or to both feet	0.8
Back to right hand	0.3
Back to left hand	0.7
Chest to right hand	1.3
Chest to left hand	1.5
Seat to left hand, right hand or to both hands	0.7

Table I.3 – a.c. and d.c. limit values with respect to curve b

Case	Environment type	Path contact	Condition of shoes	Impedance contact with floor, wall or metallic parts [Ω]	% impedance of human body with respect to the path [k]	Heart-current factor F	Current reference a.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	Limit current a.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	Current reference d.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	Limit current d.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	
1	1	hand-feet	wet or damp	1200	75	1.0	10.0	10.00	30.0	30.00	
2		hands-feet			50						
3		hand-foot			100						
4	2	hand-hand		200	100	0.4		25.00		75.00	
5		hand-seat			50	0.7		14.29			42.86
6		hands-seat			25						
7	3	hand-hand		0	100	0.4		25.00		75.00	
8		hand-seat			50	0.7		14.29			42.86
9		hands-seat			25						

Table I.4 – a.c. and d.c. limit values with respect to curve c₁

Case	Environment type	Path contact	Condition of shoes	Impedance contact with floor, wall or metallic parts [Ω]	% impedance of human body with respect to the path [k]	Heart-current factor F	Current reference a.c. for c ₁ curve [mA]	Limit current a.c. for c ₁ curve [mA]	Current reference d.c. for c ₁ curve [mA]	Limit current d.c. for c ₁ curve [mA]	
1	1	hand-feet	wet or damp	1200	75	1.0	40.0	40.00	150.0	150.00	
2		hands-feet			50						
3		hand-foot			100						
4	2	hand-hand		200	100	0.4		100.00		375.00	
5		hand-seat			50	0.7		57.14			214.29
6		hands-seat			25						
7	3	hand-hand		0	100	0.4		100.00		375.00	
8		hand-seat			50	0.7		57.14			214.29
9		hands-seat			25						

I.4 Voltage limit calculation

Voltage limits to be calculated, with respect to identified cases, correspond to the values generating the body impedances in Figure I.1 whose current flowing through the contact path has to be less than the limits shown in Tables I.3 and I.4.

Such calculations are summarized in Table I.5 where voltage value ranges are shown to identify the voltage corresponding to current limit value with respect to "b" curve and to "c₁" curve.

Therefore, it is possible to deduce the following conclusions:

- For environment type 1, there are no critical cases for a.c. voltage because there is no value less than 65 V a.c.; regarding d.c. voltage, the most critical case is the second one because it presents the smallest range of voltage values with respect to the other one having less than 140 V d.c.
- For environment types 2 and 3, the most critical cases are the 6th and the 9th regarding a.c. voltage and d.c. voltage because they present the smallest range of voltage values with respect to the other ones having less than 65 V a.c. and 140 V d.c., respectively.

Via mathematical analysis of the values reported in Table I.5, it is possible to associate the limit current value to the relative voltage and define the following critical values:

- Environment type 1 (Case 2): 105 V d.c.
- Environment types 2 and 3 (Cases 6 and 9): 90 V d.c., 60 V a.c.

Table I.5 – Corresponding voltage limits for curves "b" and "c1"

Voltage contact [Volt]				25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	Limit current a.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current a.c. [V]	Limit current d.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current d.c. [V]	Limit current a.c. for 'c1' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current a.c. [V]	Limit current d.c. for 'c1' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current d.c. [V]																					
Impedance of human body with respect to surface contact and voltage contact [ohm]				32000	19000	12500	7800	5000	3800	2900	2200																													
Case	Environment type	Condition of shoes	Path contact																																					
1	1	wet or damp	hand-foot	k	75								10	75-100	30	100-125	40	125-150	150	> 200																				
				Z _b	24000	14250	9375	5850	3750	2850	2175	1650																												
				Z _c	1200																																			
				Z	25200	15450	10575	7050	4950	4050	3375	2850																												
I			0.99	3.24	7.09	14.18	25.25	37.04	51.85	70.18																														
2			1	wet or damp	hands-feet	k	50														10	75	30	100-125	40	125-150	150	> 200												
						Z _b	16000	9500	6250	3900	2500	1900																	1450	1100										
						Z _c	1200																																	
						Z	17200	10700	7450	5100	3700	3100																	2650	2300										
I					1.45	4.67	10.07	19.61	33.78	48.39	66.04	86.96																												
3					1	wet or damp	hand-foot	k	100																				10	75-100	30	100-125	40	125-150	150	> 200				
								Z _b	32000	19000	12500	7800																									5000	3800	2900	2200
	Z _c	1200																																						
	Z	33200						20200	13700	9000	6200	5000	4100	3400																										
I	0.75	2.48					5.47	11.11	20.16	30.00	42.68	58.82																												
4	2	dry					hand-hand	k	100								25	125-150	75	175-200																	100	> 200	375	> 200
								Z _b	32000	19000	12500	7800	5000	3800	2900	2200																								
			Z _c	200																																				
			Z	32200				19200	12700	8000	5200	4000	3100	2400																										
I			0.78	2.60			5.91	12.50	24.04	37.50	56.45	83.33																												
5			2	dry			hand-seat	k	50												14.29	75-100	42.86	100-125	57.14	125-150	214.29	> 200												
								Z _b	16000	9500	6250	3900	2500	1900	1450	1100																								
					Z _c	200																																		
					Z	16200		9700	6450	4100	2700	2100	1650	1300																										
I					1.54	5.15	11.63	24.39	46.30	71.43	106.06	153.85																												
6					2	dry	hands-seat	k	25																				14.29	50-75	42.86	75-100	57.14	100-125	214.29	175-200				
								Z _b	8000	4750	3125	1950	1250	950	725	550																								
	Z _c	200																																						
	Z	8200						4950	3325	2150	1450	1150	925	750																										
I	3.05	10.10					22.56	46.51	86.21	130.43	189.19	266.67																												

Table I.5 – Corresponding voltage limits for curves "b" and "c1"

Voltage contact [Volt]				25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	Limit current a.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current a.c. [V]	Limit current d.c. for 'b' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current d.c. [V]	Limit current a.c. for 'c1' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current a.c. [V]	Limit current d.c. for 'c1' curve [mA]	Voltage range corresponding to limit current d.c. [V]			
Impedance of human body with respect to surface contact and voltage contact [ohm]				32000	19000	12500	7800	5000	3800	2900	2200											
Case	Environment type	Condition of shoes	Path contact																			
7	3		hand-hand	k	100								25	125	75	175-200	100	> 200	375	> 200		
				Z _b	32000	19000	12500	7800	5000	3800	2900	2200										
				Z _c	0																	
				Z	32000	19000	12500	7800	5000	3800	2900	2200										
				I	0.78	2.63	6.00	12.82	25.00	39.47	60.34	90.91										
8			hand-seat	k	50								14.29	75-100	42.86	100-125	57.14	125-150	214.29	> 200		
				Z _b	16000	9500	6250	3900	2500	1900	1450	1100										
				Z _c	0																	
				Z	16000	9500	6250	3900	2500	1900	1450	1100										
				I	1.56	5.26	12.00	25.64	50.00	78.95	120.69	181.82										
9				hands-seat	k	25								14.29	50-75	42.86	75-100	57.14	100-125	214.29	150-175	
					Z _b	8000	4750	3125	1950	1250	950	725										550
					Z _c	0																
					Z	8000	4750	3125	1950	1250	950	725										550
					I	3.13	10.53	24.00	51.28	100.00	157.89	241.38										363.64

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- [b-ITU-T K.51] Recommendation ITU-T K.51 (2009), *Safety criteria for telecommunication equipment.*
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