

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



General requirements for arc fault detection and protection devices (AFDDs)

Exigences générales des dispositifs pour la détection de défaut d'arcs (DPDA) et des dispositifs de protection



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Exigences générales des dispositifs pour la détection de défaut d'arcs (DPDA) et des dispositifs de protection

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ARC FAULT DETECTION AND PROTECTION DEVICES (AFDDs)

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INTRODUCTION

This International Standard aims to provide necessary requirements and testing procedures for devices to be installed by skilled people in households and similar uses to mitigate the risk of igniting an electrical fire downstream of the device.

Residual Current Devices (RCDs) are recognised as efficient to reduce the risk of fire by detection of leakage current and arcing to ground as a consequence of tracking currents within an electrical installation. However, RCDs as fuses or circuit-breakers are not able to reduce the risk of electrical fire due to series or parallel arcing between live conductors.

During a series arc fault, there is no leakage to ground therefore RCDs cannot detect such a fault. Moreover, the impedance of the series arc fault reduces the load current, which will keep the current below the tripping threshold of the circuit-breaker and the fuse. In the case of a parallel arc between phase and neutral conductor, the current is only limited by the impedance of the installation. In the worst cases of sporadic arcs, the conventional circuit breakers were not designed for that purpose.

Experience and information available confirmed that the r.m.s. current value of an earth fault current caused by an arcing fault, which is able to ignite a fire, is not limited to the rated power supply frequency of 50/60 Hz, but may contain a much higher frequency spectrum that is not taken into account for the testing of RCDs.

It has been recognised that the risk of igniting a fire within an electrical installation can also be a consequence of an overvoltage due to a broken neutral in a three phase installation.

This ~~standard~~ document covers devices designed to be installed in a distribution board at the origin of one ~~or several~~ final circuits of a fixed installation.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ARC FAULT DETECTION AND PROTECTION DEVICES (AFDDs)

1 Scope

This International Standard applies to arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) for household and similar uses, intended to be used in a.c. circuits, for rated voltages not exceeding 440 V a.c, with rated frequencies of 50 Hz, 60 Hz or 50/60 Hz and rated currents not exceeding 63 A.

NOTE 1 In the USA, Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI) are considered similar to AFDDs.

An AFDD is designed by the manufacturer:

- either as a single device having opening means able to open the protected circuit in specified conditions; or
- as a single device ~~integrating~~, with arc fault detection integrated in or assembled by manufacturer to a protective device; or
- as a separate unit, according to Annex D assembled on site with a declared protective device.

The integrated protection device is either a circuit-breaker in accordance with IEC 60898-1 or an RCD in accordance with IEC 61008-1, IEC 61009-1 or IEC 62423.

These devices are intended to mitigate the risk of fire in a final circuits of a fixed installation due to the effect of arc fault currents that pose a risk of fire ignition under certain conditions if the arcing persists.

Protection against fire ignition due to overvoltage due to a broken neutral within a three phase installation to be included in this type of equipment as an additional option is under consideration in 9.22.

NOTE 2 Tracking current leads to arcing and therefore may ignite fire.

This International Standard applies to devices performing simultaneously the detection and discrimination of arcing current with regards to fire hazards and defines operating criteria under specified conditions for the opening of the circuit when the arcing current exceeds the limit values given in this standard.

AFDDs complying with this standard, with the exception of those with an uninterrupted neutral, are suitable for use in IT systems.

~~The maximum rated voltage is 240 V a.c. AFDDs, according to this standard, are supplied either between line and neutral or between two lines.~~

~~The maximum rated current (I_n) is 63 A a.c.~~

AFDDs energised from batteries or a circuit other than the protected circuit are not covered by this standard.

AFDDs provide isolation, they are intended to be operated by uninstructed persons and do not require maintenance.

Particular requirements may be necessary for:

- AFDDs incorporated in or intended only for association with plugs and socket-outlets or with appliance couplers for household or similar general purposes;