

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

Basic and safety principles for man-machine interface, marking and identification – Identification of equipment terminals, conductor terminations and conductors

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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references.....	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Methods of identification	10
5 Application of identification means	11
6 Identification by colours	11
6.1 General.....	11
6.2 Use of single colours.....	12
6.2.1 Permitted colours The use of the single colours GREEN and YELLOW.....	12
6.2.2 Neutral or mid-point conductor	12
6.2.3 Line conductor in AC system	12
6.2.4 Line conductor in DC system.....	12
6.2.5 Functional earthing conductor	12
6.3 Use of bi-colour combinations.....	13
6.3.1 Permitted colours	13
6.3.2 Protective conductor	13
6.3.3 PEN conductor.....	13
6.3.4 PEL conductor	14
6.3.5 PEM conductor	14
6.3.6 Protective bonding conductor.....	14
7 Identification by alphanumeric notation.....	14
7.1 General.....	14
7.2 Equipment terminal identification – Marking principles.....	15
7.3 Identification of certain designated conductors.....	17
7.3.1 General	17
7.3.2 Neutral conductor.....	17
7.3.3 Protective conductor	18
7.3.4 PEN conductor.....	18
7.3.5 PEL conductor	18
7.3.6 PEM conductor	18
7.3.7 Protective bonding conductor	18
7.3.8 Functional earthing conductor	18
7.3.9 Functional bonding conductor.....	18
7.3.10 Mid-point conductor	18
7.3.11 Line conductor	18
7.3.12 System-referencing-conductor	19
Annex A (informative) Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals	20
Annex B (informative) List of notes concerning particular conditions in certain countries	22
Bibliography	28
Figure 1 – Single element with two terminals	15

Figure 2 – Single element with four terminals: Two endpoints and two intermediate points	15
Figure 3 – Three-phase equipment with six terminals.....	16
Figure 4 – Three-element equipment with twelve terminals: Six endpoints and six intermediate points	16
Figure 5 – Equipment with groups of elements.....	17
Figure 6 – Interconnection of equipment terminals and certain designated conductors.....	17
 Table A.1 – Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals	 20

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**BASIC AND SAFETY PRINCIPLES FOR MAN-MACHINE
INTERFACE, MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION –
IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT TERMINALS,
CONDUCTOR TERMINATIONS AND CONDUCTORS**

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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This redline version of the official IEC Standard allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous edition IEC 60445:2017. A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text.

IEC 60445 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 3: Documentation, graphical symbols and representations of technical information. It is an International Standard.

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

This seventh edition cancels and replaces the sixth edition published in 2017. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) the definitions have been aligned with IEC 60050-195:2021 and IEC 60050-826:—¹;
- b) the provisions for colour to be used for identification of certain designated conductors are made requirements and not only recommendations;
- c) introduction of a new subclause on marking of protective terminals for multiple power supply inputs on equipment.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
3/1491/FDIS	3/1517/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

The reader's attention is drawn to the fact that Annex B lists all of the "in-some-country" clauses on differing practices of a less permanent nature relating to the subject of this standard.

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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

¹ Third edition under preparation. Stage at time of publication: IEC FDIS 60050-826:2021.

BASIC AND SAFETY PRINCIPLES FOR MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE, MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION – IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT TERMINALS, CONDUCTOR TERMINATIONS AND CONDUCTORS

1 Scope

This document applies to the identification and marking of terminals of electrical equipment such as resistors, fuses, relays, contactors, transformers, rotating machines and, wherever applicable, to combinations of such equipment (e.g. assemblies), and it also applies to the identification of terminations of certain designated conductors. It also provides general rules for the use of certain colours or alphanumeric notations to identify conductors with the aim of avoiding ambiguity and ensuring safe operation. These conductor colours ~~of~~ and alphanumeric notations are intended to be applied on cores, busbars, and electrical equipment, and in cables or installations.

This basic safety publication **focusing on safety essential requirements** is primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

It is not intended for use by manufacturers or certification bodies. One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. The requirements of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant publications.

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 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment* (available at <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>)

IEC 60617, *Graphical symbols for diagrams* (available at <http://std.iec.ch/iec60617>)

~~IEC Guide 104, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*~~

~~ISO/IEC Guide 51, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*~~

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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>

NOTE The terms are sorted in alphabetical order in the English language.

3.1

earthing

grounding, US

electric connections between conductive parts and local earth

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-24]

3.2

earthed protective bonding conductor ~~earthed~~

protective bonding conductor which has a conductive path to local earth

3.3

electrical equipment

item used for ~~such purposes as~~ generation, conversion, transmission, distribution or utilization of electric energy

Note 1 to entry: Examples of such items are electric machines, transformers, switchgear and controlgear, measuring instruments, protective devices, wiring systems, current-using equipment

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:2004—, 826-16-01]

3.4

electrical safety

freedom from risk that is not tolerable and which is caused by electricity

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-20]

3.5

equipotential bonding

~~provision of electric connections between conductive parts, intended to achieve equipotentiality~~
set of electric connections intended to achieve equipotentiality between conductive parts

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-01-10]

3.6

equipotentiality

state when conductive parts are at a substantially equal electric potential

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195: 19982021, 195-01-09]

3.7

functional bonding conductor

conductor provided for functional-equipotential-bonding

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-02-16]

3.8

functional earthing

functional grounding, US

earthing ~~a point or points in a system or in an installation or in equipment,~~ for purposes other than electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195/AMD1:2001:2021, 195-01-13]

3.9

functional earthing conductor

functional grounding conductor, US

~~earthing~~ conductor provided for functional earthing

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:~~1998~~2021, 195-02-15]

3.10

functional-equipotential-bonding

equipotential bonding for ~~operational~~ reasons other than electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:~~1998~~2021, 195-01-16]

3.11

line conductor

~~DEPRECATED: phase conductor (in AC systems)~~

~~DEPRECATED: pole conductor (in DC systems)~~

conductor ~~which is intended to be energized in normal operation~~ and capable of contributing to the transmission or distribution of electric energy but which is not a neutral conductor or mid-point conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:~~1998~~2021, 195-02-08, modified – Note 1 to entry removed.]

3.12

local earth

local ground, US

part of the Earth that is in electric contact with an earth electrode and that has an electric potential not necessarily equal to zero

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-03]

3.13

mid-point

common point between two symmetrical circuit elements of which the opposite ends are electrically connected to different line conductors of the same circuit

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-04]

3.14

mid-point conductor

conductor electrically connected to the mid-point and capable of contributing to the distribution of electric energy

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:~~1998~~2021, 195-02-07]

3.15

neutral conductor

conductor electrically connected to the neutral point and capable of contributing to the distribution of electric energy

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:~~1998~~2021, 195-02-06]

3.16

neutral point

common point of a star-connected polyphase system

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-05]

3.17**PEL conductor**

conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a line conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-02-14]

3.18**PEM conductor**

conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a mid-point conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-02-13]

3.19**PEN conductor**

conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a neutral conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-02-12]

3.20**protective bonding conductor**

~~DEPRECATED: equipotential bonding conductor~~

protective conductor provided for protective-equipotential-bonding

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-02-10]

3.21**protective conductor**

~~(identification: PE)~~

equipment grounding conductor, US

grounding electrode conductor, US

conductor provided for purposes of ~~safety, for example protection against electric shock~~
electrical safety

Note 1 to entry: The terms "equipment grounding conductor" and "grounding electrode conductor" are used in the US depending on their application.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-02-09, modified – Two synonyms and Note 1 to entry have been added.]

3.22**protective earthing****protective grounding, US**

earthing ~~a point or points in a system or in an installation or in equipment,~~ for purposes of electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:20012021, 195-01-11]

3.23**protective earthing conductor****PE conductor**

protective grounding conductor, US

protective conductor provided for protective earthing

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:19982021, 195-02-11]

3.24

protective-equipotential-bonding

equipotential bonding for the purposes of electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:1998, 195-01-15]

3.19

~~earth, verb~~

~~ground, verb, US~~

~~make an electric connection between a given point in a system of in an installation or in equipment and a local earth~~

~~Note 1 to entry: The connection to local earth may be
— intentional, or
— unintentional or accidental
— and may be permanent or temporary.~~

~~[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:1998, 195-01-08]~~

3.25

protective terminal

terminal provided on equipment and intended for the electric connection with a protective conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-43]

3.26

system-referencing-conductor

conductor between a live conductor and the earthing arrangement to enable the live conductor to be substantially at the same potential as the Earth

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826: —, 826-13-38]

3.27

terminal

conductive part of electrical equipment provided for connecting that electrical equipment to one or more external conductors

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-12-12, modified – "device, electric circuit or electric network" is replaced by "electrical equipment", and Note 1 to entry is removed.]

3.28

unearthed protective bonding conductor ~~unearthed~~

protective bonding conductor ~~without a conductive path to local earth~~ which is isolated from the Earth

4 Methods of identification

Where the identification of equipment terminals and of terminations of certain designated conductors is considered necessary, it shall be effected by the use of one or more of the following methods:

- the physical or relative location of the equipment terminals or of terminations of certain designated conductors;
- a colour code for equipment terminals and terminations of certain designated conductors in accordance with Clause 6;
- graphical symbols in accordance with IEC 60417. If additional symbols are required, these shall be consistent with IEC 60617;

- an alphanumeric notation in accordance with the system laid down in Clause 7.

To keep consistency with the documentation, conductor and equipment terminal designation, the alphanumeric notation is recommended.

~~Identification of conductors by colours shall be in accordance with the requirements provided in Clause 6. Identification of conductors by alphanumeric notation shall be in accordance with the requirements provided in Clause 7.~~

NOTE 1 It is recognised that for complex systems and installations additional marking and labelling are used for reasons other than safety, see for example IEC 62491.

NOTE 2 Annex A contains Table A.1 which provides an overview of identifications of certain designated conductors and equipment terminals to which these conductors are likely to be connected.

5 Application of identification means

The identifying colour, graphical symbol or alphanumeric notation shall be located on, or adjacent to, the corresponding terminal.

When more than one identification method is used and confusion is possible, the correlation between the methods shall be clarified in the associated documentation.

When no confusion is possible, the juxtaposition of numerical and alphanumeric notation may be applied.

Terminals and conductors used for earthing or equipotential bonding are divided ~~concerning~~ according to their purpose of earthing/bonding into the two basic concepts of protective ~~earthing~~ purposes and functional ~~earthing~~ purposes:

- If a terminal or conductor fulfils the requirements for both protective ~~earthing~~ purposes and functional ~~earthing~~ purposes, it shall be designated as a protective ~~earthing~~ terminal or protective ~~earthing~~ conductor, respectively.
- If the requirements for protective ~~earthing~~ purposes are not met by a ~~functional earthing~~ terminal or ~~functional earthing~~ conductor intended for functional purposes, ~~it the terminal or conductor~~ shall not be marked with an identification of a protective ~~earthing~~ terminal or protective ~~earthing~~ conductor, respectively.
- The requirements for functional earthing ~~are to~~ or functional-equipotential-bonding shall be defined by the manufacturer or the relevant product committee and should be specified within the documentation of the equipment.

NOTE 1 For example, requirements for handling electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues.

NOTE 2 Annex A contains Table A.1 which provides an overview of identifications of certain designated conductors and equipment terminals to which these conductors are likely to be connected.

6 Identification by colours

6.1 General

For identification of conductors, ~~only~~ the following colours ~~are permitted~~ shall be used:

BLACK, BROWN, RED, ORANGE, GREEN, YELLOW, BLUE, VIOLET, GREY, WHITE, PINK, TURQUOISE.

NOTE This list of colours is derived from IEC 60757.

The identification by colour shall be used at terminations and preferably throughout the length of the conductor either by the colour of the insulation or by colour markers, except for bare conductors where the colour identification shall be at termination and connection points.

Identification by colour or marking is not required for:

- concentric conductors of cables,
- metal sheath or armour of cables when used as a protective conductor,
- bare conductors where permanent identification is not practicable,
- extraneous-conductive-parts used as a protective conductor,
- exposed-conductive-parts used as a protective conductor.

Additional markings, for example alphanumerical, are allowed, provided that the colour identification remains unambiguous.

Where conductors shall be identified by colours, the requirements of 6.2 and 6.3 apply.

6.2 Use of single colours

6.2.1 ~~Permitted colours~~ The use of the single colours GREEN and YELLOW

The single colours GREEN and YELLOW ~~are~~ shall only ~~permitted~~ be used where confusion with the colouring of the conductors in accordance with 6.3.2 to 6.3.6 is not likely to occur.

6.2.2 Neutral or mid-point conductor

~~Where a circuit includes~~ A neutral or mid-point conductor shall be identified by the colour BLUE, ~~the colour used for this purpose shall be BLUE~~. In order to avoid confusion with other colours it is recommended to use an unsaturated colour BLUE, often called "light blue".

Where a neutral or mid-point conductor is present, the colour BLUE shall not be used for identifying any other conductor ~~where confusion is possible~~. In the absence of a neutral or mid-point conductor within the whole wiring system, ~~a conductor identified by the colour BLUE~~ may be used for identifying a conductor with any other purpose, except as a protective conductor.

~~If identification by colour is used~~, Bare conductors used as neutral or mid-point conductors shall be either coloured by a BLUE stripe, 15 mm to 100 mm wide in each unit or enclosure and at each accessible position, or coloured BLUE throughout their length.

NOTE In IEC 60079-11, the colour BLUE is used for the marking by colour of terminals, terminal boxes, plugs and sockets of intrinsically-safe circuits.

6.2.3 Line conductor in AC system

~~For~~ Line conductors in AC systems shall be identified by the ~~preferred~~ colours ~~are~~ BLACK, BROWN ~~and~~ or GREY.

NOTE The sequence of colour codes in 6.2.3 is in alphabetical order in the English language, and does not indicate any preferred phasing or direction of rotation.

6.2.4 Line conductor in DC system

~~For~~ Line conductors in DC systems shall be identified by the ~~preferred colours are~~ colour:

- RED for the positive line conductor,
- WHITE for the negative line conductor.

6.2.5 Functional earthing conductor

~~For colour marking of~~ A functional earthing conductor shall be identified by the ~~preferred~~ colour is PINK. ~~The colour need only be applied at the terminations and at points of connection~~. It is only necessary to apply the identification at the terminations and at points of connection.

6.3 Use of bi-colour combinations

6.3.1 Permitted colours

~~Combinations of~~ Any two of the colours listed in 6.1 ~~are permitted~~ may be combined, provided there is no risk of confusion.

To avoid ~~any~~ such confusion, the colour GREEN and the colour YELLOW shall not be used in colour combinations other than the combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.

The colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW ~~is restricted to~~ shall only be used for the purposes specified in 6.3.2 to 6.3.6.

6.3.2 Protective conductor

The protective conductor shall be identified by the bi-colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.

GREEN-AND-YELLOW is the only colour combination recognized for identifying the protective conductor.

For a PEN, PEM, and PEL conductor, additional requirements are given in 6.3.3 to 6.3.5.

The colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW shall be such that, on any 15 mm length of the conductor where colour coding is applied, one of these colours covers at least 30 % and not more than 70 % of the surface of the conductor, the other colour covering the remainder of that surface.

If bare conductors used as protective conductors are provided with colouring they shall be coloured GREEN-AND-YELLOW, either throughout the whole length of each conductor or in each compartment or unit or at each accessible position. If adhesive tape is used, only bi-coloured GREEN-AND-YELLOW tape shall be applied.

Where the protective conductor can be easily identified by its shape, construction or position, for example a concentric conductor, colour coding throughout its length is not necessary but the ends or accessible positions should be clearly identified by the graphical symbol IEC 60417-

5019 (2006-08) "Protective earth; protective ground", , or the bi-colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW or the alphanumeric notation PE.

If extraneous conductive parts are used as a ~~PE~~ protective conductor, identification by colours is not necessary.

6.3.3 PEN conductor

A PEN conductor, when insulated, shall be ~~marked~~ identified by one of the following methods:

- GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation throughout its length and with, ~~in addition~~, BLUE colour markings at the terminations and points of connection; or
- BLUE coloured insulation throughout its length and with, ~~in addition~~, GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured markings at the terminations and points of connection.

The method to be applied within a country should be decided by the National Committee and not on an individual basis.

The ~~additional~~ BLUE coloured markings at the termination and points of connection may be omitted ~~once either~~ provided one of the following two conditions is met:

- in electrical equipment, if relevant requirements are included in specific product standards or within a country;
- in the case of wiring systems, for example those used in industry, if decided by the relevant committee.

6.3.4 PEL conductor

A PEL conductor, when insulated, shall be ~~marked~~ identified by GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation throughout its length and with, ~~in addition,~~ BLUE coloured markings at its terminations and points of connection of the PEL conductor.

The ~~additional~~ BLUE coloured markings at the termination and points of connection may be omitted ~~once either~~ provided one of the following two conditions is met:

- in electrical equipment, if relevant requirements are included in specific product standards or within a country;
- in the case of wiring systems, for example those used in industry, if decided by the relevant committee.

If confusion with a PEN or PEM conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation as given in 7.3.5 shall be indicated at the terminations and points of connection.

6.3.5 PEM conductor

A PEM conductor, when insulated, shall be ~~marked~~ identified by GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation throughout its length and with, ~~in addition,~~ BLUE coloured markings at its terminations and points of connection of the PEM conductor.

The ~~additional~~ BLUE coloured markings at the termination and points of connection may be omitted ~~once either~~ provided one of the following two conditions is met:

- in electrical equipment, if relevant requirements are included in specific product standards or within a country;
- in the case of wiring systems, for example those used in industry, if decided by the relevant committee.

If confusion with a PEN or PEL conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation given in 7.3.6 shall be indicated at the terminations and points of connection.

6.3.6 Protective bonding conductor

A protective bonding conductor shall be identified by the bi-colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW as specified in ~~6.3.1~~ 6.3.2.

7 Identification by alphanumeric notation

7.1 General

If letters and/or numerals are used for identification, letters shall be uppercase Latin characters only and numerals shall be Arabic numerals.

It is recommended that the reference letters for DC elements be chosen from the first part of the alphabet and reference letters for AC elements from the second part.

Letters "I" and "O" shall not be used for identification to prevent confusion with the numerals "1" and "0"; the alphanumeric signs "+" and "-" may be used.

In order to avoid any confusion, unattached numerals 6 and 9 shall be underlined.

All alphanumeric notations shall be in strong contrast to the colour of the background (e.g. insulation).

The alphanumeric identification shall be clearly legible and durable.

NOTE For evaluation of the durability, see IEC 60227-2.

The alphanumeric system applies to identification of conductors and of conductors in a group of conductors. Conductors with GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation shall only be identified as a certain designated conductor in accordance with 7.3.3 to 7.3.9.

The alphanumeric identifications specified in 7.3 shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified.

Where no confusion is possible, parts of the complete alphanumeric notation laid down in the marking principles set out in 7.2 may be omitted.

7.2 Equipment terminal identification – Marking principles

7.2.1 Marking of equipment terminals ~~is (or should be)~~ based on the principles provided in 7.2.2 to 7.2.5.

7.2.2 The two endpoints of an element ~~are~~ should be distinguished by consecutive reference numbers, the odd number being lower than the even number, for example 1 and 2 (see Figure 1).

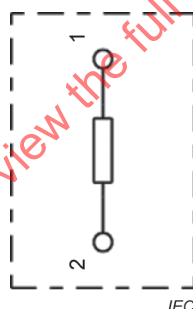


Figure 1 – Single element with two terminals

7.2.3 The intermediate points of a single element ~~are~~ should be distinguished by reference numbers, preferably in a numerical order, for example 3, 4, 5, etc. The reference numbers chosen for intermediate points shall be higher than those chosen for the endpoints; their numbering commences at the point which lies closest to the endpoint with the lower reference number. Thus, for example, the intermediate points of an element with the endpoints 1 and 2 will be denoted by the reference numbers 3 and 4 (see Figure 2).

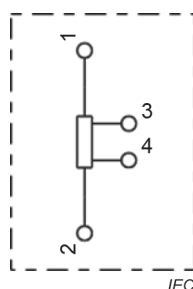


Figure 2 – Single element with four terminals: Two endpoints and two intermediate points

7.2.4 If several similar elements are combined in a group of elements, then one of the following methods for marking the elements shall be used:

- the two endpoints and intermediate points, if any, are distinguished by letters preceding the reference numbers referred to in 7.2.2 and 7.2.3, for example U, V, W corresponding to the phases of a three-phase AC system (see Figure 3);

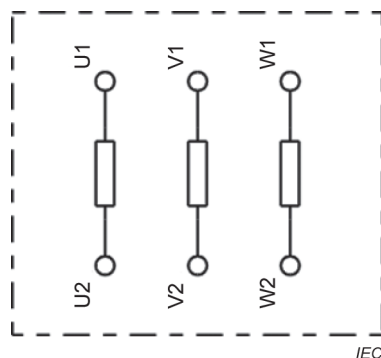
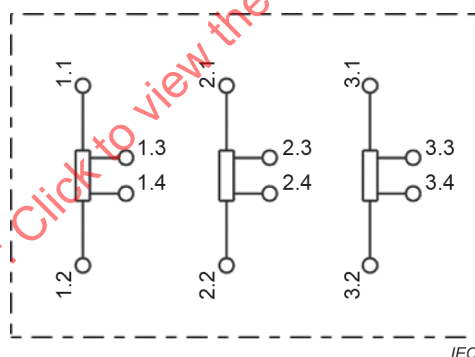


Figure 3 – Three-phase equipment with six terminals

- the two endpoints and intermediate points, if any, ~~are~~ should be distinguished by numbers preceding the reference numbers referred to in 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 where a phase identification is not necessary or possible. To avoid confusion, these numbers shall be separated by a full stop. For example, the endpoints of one element may be marked 1.1 and 1.2, those of another element, 2.1 and 2.2 (see Figure 4);

NOTE For examples of an unambiguous terminal designation with respect to the object to which the terminal belongs, see IEC 61666:2010, Annex A.



**Figure 4 – Three-element equipment with twelve terminals:
Six endpoints and six intermediate points**

- in the case of terminal blocks, the numerical identification ~~are~~ should be in numerical order.

Further detailed requirements on terminal markings and identification may be given by relevant product committees.

7.2.5 Similar groups of elements having the same reference letters ~~are~~ should be distinguished by a numerical prefix to the reference letters (see Figure 5 a) and Figure 5 b)).

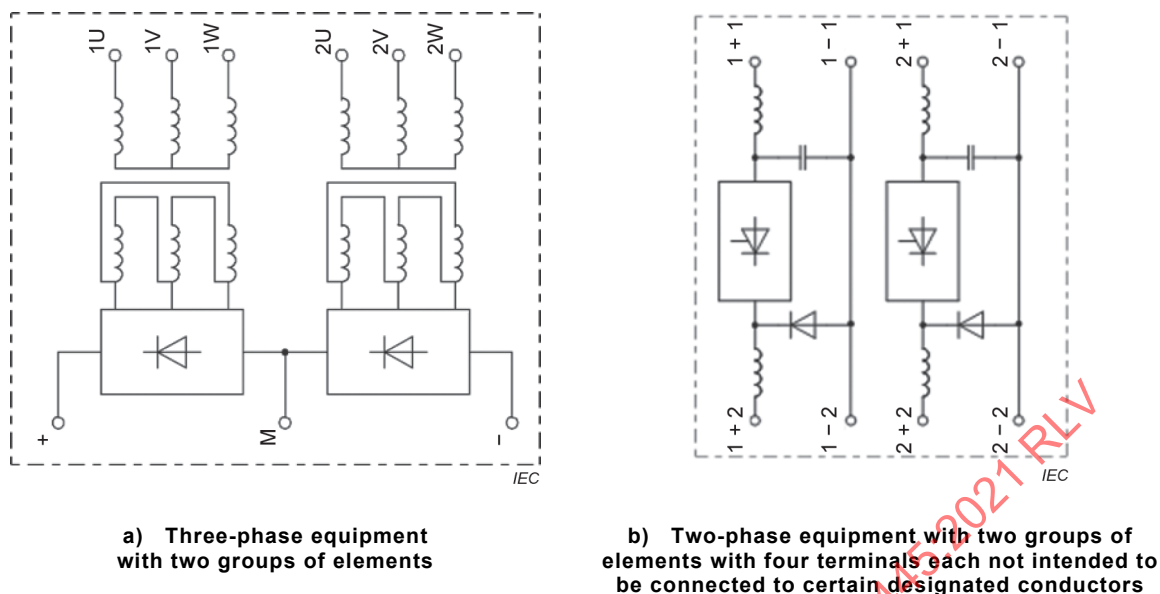


Figure 5 – Equipment with groups of elements

Figure 6 illustrates the interconnection of equipment terminals and certain designated conductors, marked in accordance with the alphanumeric notation.

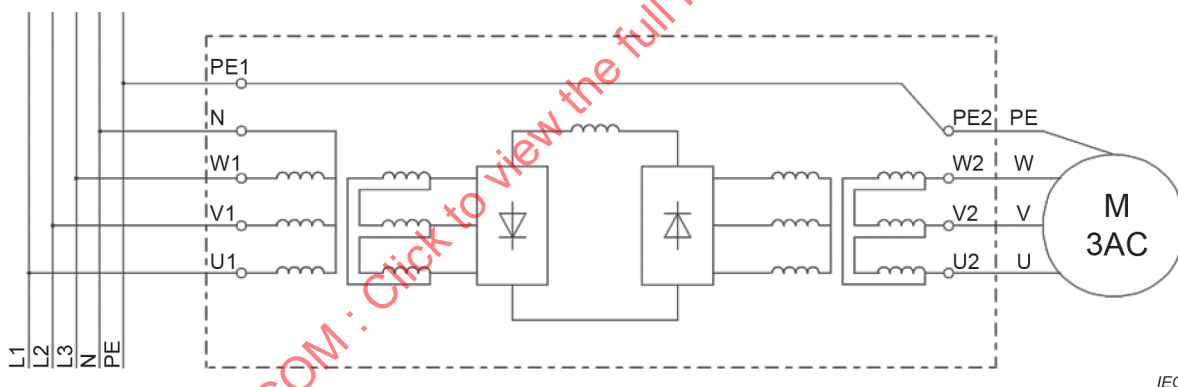


Figure 6 – Interconnection of equipment terminals and certain designated conductors

7.2.6 Where a piece of equipment has more than one incoming supply point, the terminal at the supply points for connection to an external protective conductor shall be marked with the designation "PE".

7.3 Identification of certain designated conductors

7.3.1 General

Equipment terminals which are intended to be connected directly or indirectly to certain designated conductors, and terminations of certain designated conductors shall be marked with reference letters or graphical symbols or both reference letters and graphical symbols according to Table A.1.

7.3.2 Neutral conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a neutral conductor shall be "N".

7.3.3 Protective conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a protective conductor shall be "PE". This identification also applies for a protective earthing conductor.

7.3.4 PEN conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a PEN conductor shall be "PEN".

7.3.5 PEL conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a PEL conductor shall be "PEL".

7.3.6 PEM conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a PEM conductor shall be "PEM".

7.3.7 Protective bonding conductor

7.3.7.1 General

The alphanumeric identification of a protective bonding conductor shall be "PB".

A protective bonding conductor will in most cases be an earthed protective bonding conductor. In those cases where a distinction between an earthed protective bonding conductor and an unearthed protective bonding conductor is necessary (for example, within electro-medical installations), the earthed protective bonding conductor shall be identified in accordance with 7.3.7.2 and the unearthed protective bonding conductor shall be identified in accordance with 7.3.7.3.

7.3.7.2 Earthed protective bonding conductor ~~earthed~~

If it is necessary to distinguish between an earthed protective bonding conductor ~~earthed~~ and an unearthed protective bonding conductor ~~unearthed~~, the alphanumeric identification of ~~a~~ the earthed protective bonding conductor ~~earthed~~ shall be "PBE".

7.3.7.3 Unearthed protective bonding conductor ~~unearthed~~

If it is necessary to distinguish between an earthed protective bonding conductor ~~earthed~~ and an unearthed protective bonding conductor ~~unearthed~~, the alphanumeric identification of ~~a~~ the unearthed protective bonding conductor ~~unearthed~~ shall be "PBU".

7.3.8 Functional earthing conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a functional earthing conductor shall be "FE".

7.3.9 Functional bonding conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a functional bonding conductor shall be "FB".

7.3.10 Mid-point conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a mid-point conductor shall be "M".

7.3.11 Line conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a line conductor shall start with the letter "L" suffixed by:

- ~~for an AC circuit~~ in AC systems, a sequential number of line conductors, starting with the digit one "1";

- ~~for a DC circuit~~ in DC systems, with the sign "+" (PLUS SIGN) for the positive line conductor and with the sign "-" (MINUS SIGN) for the negative line conductor.

If no more than one line conductor is used, the suffix may be omitted.

7.3.12 System-referencing-conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a system-referencing-conductor shall be "SRC".

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Annex A (informative)

Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals

Table A.1 – Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals

Designated conductors/terminals		Identification of conductors/terminals by			
		Alphanumeric notations ^a		Colours	Graphical symbols ^b
		Conductors	Terminals		
AC conductors		AC	AC	-	
	Line 1	L1	U	 BK ^d or	
	Line 2	L2 ^c	V	 BN ^d or	
	Line 3	L3 ^c	W	 GY ^d	
	Mid-point conductor	M	M	 BU ^e	No recommendation
	Neutral conductor	N	N		
DC conductors		DC	DC	-	---
	Positive	L+	+	 RD	
	Negative	L-	-	 WH	
	Mid-point conductor	M	M	 BU ^e	No recommendation
	Neutral conductor	N	N		
Protective conductor		PE	PE	 GNYE	
	PEN conductor	PEN	PEN	 GNYE ^f	No recommendation
	PEL conductor	PEL	PEL		
	PEM conductor	PEM	PEM		
Protective bonding conductor ^g		PB	PB	 GNYE	
	– earthed	PBE	PBE		No recommendation
	– unearthed	PBU	PBU		
Functional earthing conductor ^{h,g}		FE	FE	 PK	
Functional bonding conductor		FB	FB	No recommendation	
System-referencing-conductor		SRC	SRC	No recommendation	No recommendation

^a See Clause 7.

^b The graphics shown correspond to the following symbol numbers in IEC 60417.

	IEC 60417-5032 (2002-10)		IEC 60417-5019 (2006-08)
	IEC 60417-5031 (2002-10)		IEC 60417-5018 (2006-10/2011-07)
	IEC 60417-5005 (2002-10)		IEC 60417-5020 (2002-10)
	IEC 60417-5006 (2002-10)		IEC 60417-5021 (2002-10)

^c Only necessary in systems with more than one phase.

^d This sequence of colour codes is in alphabetical order in the English language. It does not represent recommended phasing or a direction of rotation.

^e See 6.2.2.

^f See 6.3.3 to 6.3.5.

^g ~~A protective bonding conductor will in most cases be a protective bonding conductor earthed. It is not necessary to designate it with PBE. In those cases where a distinction between a protective bonding conductor earthed and a protective bonding conductor unearthed is used, a clear distinction between them shall be made (for example, within electro-medical installations) and the designations PBE and PBU should be applied.~~

^{h g} Neither the designation FE nor the graphical symbol 5018 of IEC 60417 shall be applied for conductors or terminals having a protective function. Bi-colour insulation GREEN-AND-YELLOW ~~cannot~~ shall not be used for conductors that do not have a protective function (i.e. for conductors other than PE, PEN, PEL, PEM, PB, PBE, PBU). See Clause 5.

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Annex B (informative)

List of notes concerning particular conditions in certain countries

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Nature (permanent or less permanent according to IEC Directives)	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
RU	Clause 3		The earthed line conductors are used in single-phase 2-wire AC electrical systems, in three-phase 3-wire AC electrical systems without the neutral point and in 2-wire DC electrical systems. In the Russian Federation terms "phase conductor" and "pole conductor" are used for the identification of line conductors in AC systems and DC systems, respectively.	In the Russian Federation, the following definitions apply: earthed line conductor (identification: LE) line conductor which has an electrical connection with the earth electrode phase conductor line conductor which is used in an AC electrical circuit pole conductor line conductor which is used in an DC electrical circuit
RU	3.1			In the Russian Federation, the term "electrical equipment" is defined differently: electric equipment item intended for generation, transmission and variation of characteristics of electric energy, change its characteristics and also for convert electric energy into another form of energy
RU	3.8			In the Russian Federation, the term "functional earthing" is defined differently: functional earthing earthing for functional purposes other than electrical safety
RU	3.10			In the Russian Federation, the term "functional earthing" is defined differently: functional-equipotential-bonding equipotential bonding for operational reasons functional purposes other than electrical safety
RU	3.11		The term "normal conditions" is used in the fundamental rule of protection against electric shock (see IEC 61140:2016, Clause 4). Therefore, it should be used in definitions.	In the Russian Federation, the term "line conductor" is defined differently: line conductor (identification: L) conductor which is energized under normal conditions and used for the transmission of electric energy but which is not a neutral conductor or a mid-point conductor
RU	3.13			In the Russian Federations, the following definition apply: mid-part common live parts between two symmetrical circuit elements the opposite ends of which are electrically connected to different line conductors of the same circuit

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Nature (permanent or less permanent according to IEC Directives)	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
RU	3.14		The definition of the term "mid-point conductor" in IEC 60050-195 is given so that the area of use of this conductor is uncertain. In the Russian Federation the definition of the mid-point conductor taken from IEC 60050-195 has been executed more precisely to state unambiguously its application in the DC electrical circuits.	In the Russian Federation, the term "mid-point conductor" is defined differently: mid-point conductor (identification: M) conductor electrically connected to the mid-point part of the DC electrical system and used for the transmission of electric energy
RU	3.15		The definition of the term "neutral conductor" in IEC 60050-195 is given so that the area of use of this conductor is uncertain. In the Russian Federation the definition of the neutral conductor taken from IEC 60050-195 has been executed more precisely to state unambiguously its application in the AC electrical circuits.	In the Russian Federation, the term "neutral conductor" is defined differently: neutral conductor (identification: N) conductor electrically connected to the neutral point or the mid-point of the AC electrical system and used for the transmission of electric energy
US	3.15		In the United States, while the term "neutral conductor" is used, this conductor is often also or alternatively identified as "grounded conductor".	In the United States identification of the terminal for connection of the grounded conductor is by a white colour, or by the word "white" or the letter "W" adjacent to the terminal.
RU	3.16			In the Russian Federation, the term "neutral point" is defined differently: neutral common live part of a star-connected polyphase AS system or mid part of a single-phase AC system
RU	3.18			In the Russian Federation, the term " protective PEM conductor" is defined differently: protective conductor (identification PE) conductor provided for the purposes of electrical safety, for example protection against electric shock PEM conductor conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a mid conductor
RU	3.27			In the Russian Federation, the term " protective earthing terminal" is defined differently: protective earthing earthing for the purposes of electrical safety terminal conductive part of electrical equipment provided for connecting electrical equipment to external conductors

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Nature (permanent or less permanent according to IEC Directives)	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
RU	3-18			In the Russian Federation, the term "protective equipotential bonding" is defined differently: protective-equipotential bonding equipotential bonding for the purposes of electrical safety
RU	6.2.1			In the Russian Federation, it is not permitted to use separately the GREEN colour and YELLOW colour for identification of conductors.
US	6.2.1			In the United States, the use of the single colour GREEN is permitted for identification of protective earth conductors.
CA	6.2.2			In Canada, the colour identification WHITE or NATURAL GREY for the mid-point or neutral conductor is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE.
JP	6.2.2			In Japan, the colour identification WHITE or NATURAL GREY for the mid-point or neutral conductor is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE.
RU	6.2.2			In the Russian Federation, the BLUE colour should be used only for identification of the neutral conductors, the mid-point conductors and the earthed line conductors.
US	6.2.2			In the United States, the colour identification WHITE or NATURAL GREY for the mid-point or neutral conductor is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE.
US	6.2.2			In the United States, the use of the colour BLUE is permitted for phase conductors. Neutral conductors are permitted to be WHITE, GREY or with three WHITE stripes on insulation other than GREEN.
AU	6.2.3			In Australia, the colour BLACK shall not be used for identification of line conductors of installation wiring. The colour BROWN is acceptable for a single-phase line conductor and BROWN, BROWN and BROWN is acceptable for line conductors L1, L2 and L3.
CA	6.2.3			In Canada, where the colour GREY is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE for neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for identification of line conductors in AC systems if confusion is likely.
CA	6.2.3			In Canada, the colour GREY can be applied as identification of the neutral or mid-point conductor; the colour GREY shall not be used for any other purpose than that specified in the Note of this subclause.
JP	6.2.3			In Japan, where the colour GREY is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE for the neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for identification of line conductors in AC-systems if confusion is likely.

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Nature (permanent or less permanent according to IEC Directives)	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
JP	6.2.3			In Japan, the colour GREY can be applied as identification of the neutral or mid-point conductor; the colour GREY shall not be used for any other purpose than specified in the Note of this subclause.
RU	6.2.3			In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the phase conductor of a single-phase electrical circuit is BROWN. When the single-phase electrical circuit is branched from a three-phase electrical circuit, the colour identification of the phase conductor of the single-phase electrical circuit should coincide with the colour identification of that phase conductor of the three-phase electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.
RU	6.2.3			In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the earthed phase conductor is BLUE. If confusion with the neutral conductor, the mid-point conductor or the earthed pole conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation shall be indicated at the terminations of the earthed phase conductors and in points of their connections.
US	6.2.3			In the United States, where the colour GREY is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE for the neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for identification of line conductors in AC systems if confusion is likely.
US	6.2.3			In the United States, the colour GREY can be applied as identification of neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for any other purpose than specified in the Note of this subclause.
RU	6.2.4			In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the positive pole conductor is BROWN, the preferred colour of the negative pole conductor is GREY. When the two-wire DC electrical circuit is branched from a three-wire DC electrical circuit, the colour identification of the pole conductor of the two-wire electrical circuit should coincide with the colour identification of that pole conductor of the three-wire electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.
RU	6.2.4			In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the earthed pole conductor is BLUE. If confusion with the neutral conductor, the mid-point conductor or the earthed phase conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation shall be indicated at the terminations of the earthed pole conductors and in points of their connections.
CA	6.3.2			In Canada, the colour identification GREEN for the protective conductor is used as a replacement for the colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Nature (permanent or less permanent according to IEC Directives)	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
JP	6.3.2			In Japan, GREEN or GREEN-AND-YELLOW can be used as the colour identification GREEN for the protective conductor is used as a replacement for the colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.
US	6.3.2			In the United States, the colour identification GREEN for the protective conductor is used as a replacement for the colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.
US	6.3.2			In the United States, the use of the single colour GREEN is permitted for identification of protective earth conductors.
US	7.3.2		In the United States, identification of the terminal for the grounded conductor is by coloration.	In the US identification of the terminal for connection of the grounded conductor is by a white colour or by the word "white" or the letter "W" adjacent to the terminal.
US	7.3.3		In the United States, identification of the equipment grounding conductor is only by coloration of green or green with yellow stripes.	In the US, identification of the equipment grounding conductor is made by GREEN or GREEN with one or more YELLOW stripes for the insulation, other means of coloration, coloured tape or adhesive labels, or stripping the insulation or covering from the entire exposed length of the conductor.
RU	7.3.11			In the Russian Federation, the alphanumeric identification of the phase conductor of a single-phase electrical circuit shall be "L". The alphanumeric identification of the phase conductors of a three-phase electrical circuit shall be "L1", "L2" and "L3". When the single-phase electrical circuit is branched from a three-phase electrical circuit, the alphanumeric identification of the phase conductor of the single-phase electrical circuit should coincide with the alphanumeric identification of that phase conductor of the three-phase electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.
RU	7.3.11			In the Russian Federation, the alphanumeric identification of the positive pole conductor shall be "L+", and of the negative pole conductor shall be "L-". When the two-wire DC electrical circuit is branched from a three-wire DC electrical circuit, the alphanumeric identification of the pole conductor of the two-wire electrical circuit should coincide with the alphanumeric identification of that pole conductor of the three-wire electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.
RU	7.3.11			In the Russian Federation, the alphanumeric identification of the earthed phase conductor of a single-phase electrical circuit shall be "LE", and of a three-phase electrical circuit shall be "LE1", "LE2" or "LE3". The alphanumeric identification of the earthed positive pole conductor shall be "LE+", the earthed negative pole conductor shall be "LE-".
AU	Table A.1			In Australia, the colour PINK is the preferred colour for identification of a functional earthing conductor ("FE"), but the colour WHITE is also accepted.

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Nature (permanent or less permanent according to IEC Directives)	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
US	Table A.1		Identification of the terminal for equipment grounding conductors, grounding electrode conductors and bonding conductors is not as indicated.	In the US, identification of the terminal for connection of the equipment grounding conductor, grounding electrode conductor or bonding conductors shall be by one of the following: a) Green, not readily removable terminal screw with hexagonal head. b) Green, not readily removable and hexagonal terminal nut. c) Green pressure wire connector. d) If the terminal is not readily visible, marking of the word "green" or "ground", the letters "G" or "GR", a grounding symbol or identification by green colour. [see NFPA 70 National Electrical Code for additional information]

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

PUBLICATION FONDAMENTALE DE SÉCURITÉ

Basic and safety principles for man-machine interface, marking and identification – Identification of equipment terminals, conductor terminations and conductors

Principes fondamentaux et de sécurité pour les interfaces homme-machine, le marquage et l'identification – Identification des bornes de matériels, des extrémités de conducteurs et des conducteurs

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references.....	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Methods of identification	10
5 Application of identification means	10
6 Identification by colours	11
6.1 General.....	11
6.2 Use of single colours.....	11
6.2.1 The use of the single colours GREEN and YELLOW	11
6.2.2 Neutral or mid-point conductor	12
6.2.3 Line conductor in AC system	12
6.2.4 Line conductor in DC system.....	12
6.2.5 Functional earthing conductor	12
6.3 Use of bi-colour combinations.....	12
6.3.1 Permitted colours	12
6.3.2 Protective conductor	12
6.3.3 PEN conductor.....	13
6.3.4 PEL conductor	13
6.3.5 PEM conductor	14
6.3.6 Protective bonding conductor.....	14
7 Identification by alphanumeric notation.....	14
7.1 General.....	14
7.2 Equipment terminal identification – Marking principles.....	14
7.3 Identification of certain designated conductors.....	17
7.3.1 General	17
7.3.2 Neutral conductor.....	17
7.3.3 Protective conductor	17
7.3.4 PEN conductor.....	17
7.3.5 PEL conductor	17
7.3.6 PEM conductor	17
7.3.7 Protective bonding conductor	17
7.3.8 Functional earthing conductor	18
7.3.9 Functional bonding conductor.....	18
7.3.10 Mid-point conductor	18
7.3.11 Line conductor	18
7.3.12 System-referencing-conductor.....	18
Annex A (informative) Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals	19
Annex B (informative) List of notes concerning particular conditions in certain countries	21
Bibliography	26
Figure 1 – Single element with two terminals	15

Figure 2 – Single element with four terminals: Two endpoints and two intermediate points	15
Figure 3 – Three-phase equipment with six terminals.....	15
Figure 4 – Three-element equipment with twelve terminals: Six endpoints and six intermediate points	16
Figure 5 – Equipment with groups of elements.....	16
Figure 6 – Interconnection of equipment terminals and certain designated conductors.....	17
 Table A.1 – Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals	 19

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**BASIC AND SAFETY PRINCIPLES FOR MAN-MACHINE
INTERFACE, MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION –
IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT TERMINALS,
CONDUCTOR TERMINATIONS AND CONDUCTORS**

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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IEC 60445 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 3: Documentation, graphical symbols and representations of technical information. It is an International Standard.

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

This seventh edition cancels and replaces the sixth edition published in 2017. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) the definitions have been aligned with IEC 60050-195:2021 and IEC 60050-826:—¹;

¹ Third edition under preparation. Stage at time of publication: IEC FDIS 60050-826:2021.

- b) the provisions for colour to be used for identification of certain designated conductors are made requirements and not only recommendations;
- c) introduction of a new subclause on marking of protective terminals for multiple power supply inputs on equipment.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
3/1491/FDIS	3/1517/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

The reader's attention is drawn to the fact that Annex B lists all of the "in-some-country" clauses on differing practices of a less permanent nature relating to the subject of this standard.

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

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

BASIC AND SAFETY PRINCIPLES FOR MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE, MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION – IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT TERMINALS, CONDUCTOR TERMINATIONS AND CONDUCTORS

1 Scope

This document applies to the identification and marking of terminals of electrical equipment such as resistors, fuses, relays, contactors, transformers, rotating machines and, wherever applicable, to combinations of such equipment (e.g. assemblies), and it also applies to the identification of terminations of certain designated conductors. It also provides general rules for the use of certain colours or alphanumeric notations to identify conductors with the aim of avoiding ambiguity and ensuring safe operation. These conductor colours and alphanumeric notations are intended to be applied on cores, busbars, and electrical equipment, and in cables or installations.

This basic safety publication focusing on safety essential requirements is primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

It is not intended for use by manufacturers or certification bodies. One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. The requirements of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant publications.

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 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment* (available at <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>)

IEC 60617, *Graphical symbols for diagrams* (available at <http://std.iec.ch/iec60617>)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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>

NOTE The terms are sorted in alphabetical order in the English language.

3.1**earthing
grounding, US**

electric connections between conductive parts and local earth

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-24]

3.2**earthed protective bonding conductor**

protective bonding conductor which has a conductive path to local earth

3.3**electrical equipment**

item used for generation, conversion, transmission, distribution or utilization of electric energy

Note 1 to entry: Examples of such items are electric machines, transformers, switchgear and controlgear, measuring instruments, protective devices, wiring systems, current-using equipment.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:—, 826-16-01]

3.4**electrical safety**

freedom from risk that is not tolerable and which is caused by electricity

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-20]

3.5**equipotential bonding**

set of electric connections intended to achieve equipotentiality between conductive parts

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-10]

3.6**equipotentiality**

state when conductive parts are at a substantially equal electric potential

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-09]

3.7**functional bonding conductor**

conductor provided for functional-equipotential-bonding

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-16]

3.8**functional earthing****functional grounding, US**

earthing for purposes other than electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-13]

3.9**functional earthing conductor****functional grounding conductor, US**

conductor provided for functional earthing

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-15]

3.10

functional-equipotential-bonding

equipotential bonding for reasons other than electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-16]

3.11

line conductor

conductor intended to be energized and capable of contributing to the transmission or distribution of electric energy but which is not a neutral conductor or mid-point conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-08, modified – Note 1 to entry removed.]

3.12

local earth

local ground, US

part of the Earth that is in electric contact with an earth electrode and that has an electric potential not necessarily equal to zero

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-03]

3.13

mid-point

common point between two symmetrical circuit elements of which the opposite ends are electrically connected to different line conductors of the same circuit

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-04]

3.14

mid-point conductor

conductor electrically connected to the mid-point and capable of contributing to the distribution of electric energy

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-07]

3.15

neutral conductor

conductor electrically connected to the neutral point and capable of contributing to the distribution of electric energy

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-06]

3.16

neutral point

common point of a star-connected polyphase system

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-05]

3.17

PEL conductor

conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a line conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-14]

3.18**PEM conductor**

conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a mid-point conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-13]

3.19**PEN conductor**

conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a neutral conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-12]

3.20**protective bonding conductor**

protective conductor provided for protective-equipotential-bonding

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-10]

3.21**protective conductor**

equipment grounding conductor, US

grounding electrode conductor, US

conductor provided for purposes of electrical safety

Note 1 to entry: The terms "equipment grounding conductor" and "grounding electrode conductor" are used in the US depending on their application.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-09, modified – Two synonyms and Note 1 to entry have been added.]

3.22**protective earthing**

protective grounding, US

earthing for purposes of electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-11]

3.23**protective earthing conductor****PE conductor**

protective grounding conductor, US

protective conductor provided for protective earthing

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-11]

3.24**protective-equipotential-bonding**

equipotential bonding for the purposes of electrical safety

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-15]

3.25

protective terminal

terminal provided on equipment and intended for the electric connection with a protective conductor

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-43]

3.26

system-referencing-conductor

conductor between a live conductor and the earthing arrangement to enable the live conductor to be substantially at the same potential as the Earth

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826: —, 826-13-38]

3.27

terminal

conductive part of electrical equipment provided for connecting that electrical equipment to one or more external conductors

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-12-12, modified – "device, electric circuit or electric network" is replaced by "electrical equipment", and Note 1 to entry is removed.]

3.28

unearthed protective bonding conductor

protective bonding conductor which is isolated from the Earth

4 Methods of identification

Where the identification of equipment terminals and of terminations of certain designated conductors is considered necessary, it shall be effected by the use of one or more of the following methods:

- the physical or relative location of the equipment terminals or of terminations of certain designated conductors;
- a colour code for equipment terminals and terminations of certain designated conductors in accordance with Clause 6;
- graphical symbols in accordance with IEC 60417. If additional symbols are required, these shall be consistent with IEC 60617;
- an alphanumeric notation in accordance with the system laid down in Clause 7.

To keep consistency with the documentation, conductor and equipment terminal designation, the alphanumeric notation is recommended.

NOTE 1 It is recognised that for complex systems and installations additional marking and labelling are used for reasons other than safety, see for example IEC 62491.

NOTE 2 Annex A contains Table A.1 which provides an overview of identifications of certain designated conductors and equipment terminals to which these conductors are likely to be connected.

5 Application of identification means

The identifying colour, graphical symbol or alphanumeric notation shall be located on, or adjacent to, the corresponding terminal.

When more than one identification method is used and confusion is possible, the correlation between the methods shall be clarified in the associated documentation.

When no confusion is possible, the juxtaposition of numerical and alphanumeric notation may be applied.

Terminals and conductors used for earthing or equipotential bonding are divided according to their purpose of earthing/bonding into the two basic concepts of protective purposes and functional purposes:

- If a terminal or conductor fulfils the requirements for both protective purposes and functional purposes, it shall be designated as a protective terminal or protective conductor, respectively.
- If the requirements for protective purposes are not met by a terminal or conductor intended for functional purposes, the terminal or conductor shall not be marked with an identification of a protective terminal or protective conductor, respectively.
- The requirements for functional earthing or functional-equipotential-bonding shall be defined by the manufacturer or the relevant product committee and should be specified within the documentation of the equipment.

NOTE 1 For example, requirements for handling electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues.

NOTE 2 Annex A contains Table A.1 which provides an overview of identifications of certain designated conductors and equipment terminals to which these conductors are likely to be connected.

6 Identification by colours

6.1 General

For identification of conductors, only the following colours shall be used:

BLACK, BROWN, RED, ORANGE, GREEN, YELLOW, BLUE, VIOLET, GREY, WHITE, PINK, TURQUOISE.

NOTE This list of colours is derived from IEC 60757.

The identification by colour shall be used at terminations and preferably throughout the length of the conductor either by the colour of the insulation or by colour markers, except for bare conductors where the colour identification shall be at termination and connection points.

Identification by colour or marking is not required for:

- concentric conductors of cables,
- metal sheath or armour of cables when used as a protective conductor,
- bare conductors where permanent identification is not practicable,
- extraneous-conductive-parts used as a protective conductor,
- exposed-conductive-parts used as a protective conductor.

Additional markings, for example alphanumeric, are allowed, provided that the colour identification remains unambiguous.

Where conductors shall be identified by colours, the requirements of 6.2 and 6.3 apply.

6.2 Use of single colours

6.2.1 The use of the single colours GREEN and YELLOW

The single colours GREEN and YELLOW shall only be used where confusion with the colouring of the conductors in accordance with 6.3.2 to 6.3.6 is not likely to occur.

6.2.2 Neutral or mid-point conductor

A neutral or mid-point conductor shall be identified by the colour BLUE. In order to avoid confusion with other colours it is recommended to use an unsaturated colour BLUE, often called "light blue".

Where a neutral or mid-point conductor is present, the colour BLUE shall not be used for identifying any other conductor. In the absence of a neutral or mid-point conductor within the whole wiring system, the colour BLUE may be used for identifying a conductor with any other purpose, except as a protective conductor.

Bare conductors used as neutral or mid-point conductors shall be either coloured by a BLUE stripe, 15 mm to 100 mm wide in each unit or enclosure and at each accessible position, or coloured BLUE throughout their length.

NOTE In IEC 60079-11, the colour BLUE is used for the marking by colour of terminals, terminal boxes, plugs and sockets of intrinsically-safe circuits.

6.2.3 Line conductor in AC system

Line conductors in AC systems shall be identified by the colours BLACK, BROWN or GREY.

NOTE The sequence of colour codes in 6.2.3 is in alphabetical order in the English language, and does not indicate any preferred phasing or direction of rotation.

6.2.4 Line conductor in DC system

Line conductors in DC systems shall be identified by the colour:

- RED for the positive line conductor,
- WHITE for the negative line conductor.

6.2.5 Functional earthing conductor

A functional earthing conductor shall be identified by the colour PINK. It is only necessary to apply the identification at the terminations and at points of connection.

6.3 Use of bi-colour combinations

6.3.1 Permitted colours

Any two of the colours listed in 6.1 may be combined, provided there is no risk of confusion.

To avoid any such confusion, the colour GREEN and the colour YELLOW shall not be used in colour combinations other than the combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.

The colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW shall only be used for the purposes specified in 6.3.2 to 6.3.6.

6.3.2 Protective conductor

The protective conductor shall be identified by the bi-colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.

GREEN-AND-YELLOW is the only colour combination recognized for identifying the protective conductor.

For a PEN, PEM, and PEL conductor, additional requirements are given in 6.3.3 to 6.3.5.

The colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW shall be such that, on any 15 mm length of the conductor where colour coding is applied, one of these colours covers at least 30 % and not more than 70 % of the surface of the conductor, the other colour covering the remainder of that surface.

If bare conductors used as protective conductors are provided with colouring they shall be coloured GREEN-AND-YELLOW, either throughout the whole length of each conductor or in each compartment or unit or at each accessible position. If adhesive tape is used, only bi-coloured GREEN-AND-YELLOW tape shall be applied.

Where the protective conductor can be easily identified by its shape, construction or position, for example a concentric conductor, colour coding throughout its length is not necessary but the ends or accessible positions should be clearly identified by the graphical symbol IEC 60417-5019 (2006-08) "Protective earth; protective ground", , or the bi-colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW or the alphanumeric notation PE.

If extraneous conductive parts are used as a protective conductor, identification by colours is not necessary.

6.3.3 PEN conductor

A PEN conductor, when insulated, shall be identified by one of the following methods:

- GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation throughout its length and with BLUE colour markings at the terminations and points of connection; or
- BLUE coloured insulation throughout its length and with GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured markings at the terminations and points of connection.

The method to be applied within a country should be decided by the National Committee and not on an individual basis.

The BLUE coloured markings at the termination and points of connection may be omitted provided one of the following two conditions is met:

- in electrical equipment, if relevant requirements are included in specific product standards or within a country;
- in the case of wiring systems, for example those used in industry, if decided by the relevant committee.

6.3.4 PEL conductor

A PEL conductor, when insulated, shall be identified by GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation throughout its length and with BLUE coloured markings at its terminations and points of connection of the PEL conductor.

The BLUE coloured markings at the termination and points of connection may be omitted provided one of the following two conditions is met:

- in electrical equipment, if relevant requirements are included in specific product standards or within a country;
- in the case of wiring systems, for example those used in industry, if decided by the relevant committee.

If confusion with a PEN or PEM conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation as given in 7.3.5 shall be indicated at the terminations and points of connection.

6.3.5 PEM conductor

A PEM conductor, when insulated, shall be identified by GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation throughout its length and with BLUE coloured markings at its terminations and points of connection of the PEM conductor.

The BLUE coloured markings at the termination and points of connection may be omitted provided one of the following two conditions is met:

- in electrical equipment, if relevant requirements are included in specific product standards or within a country;
- in the case of wiring systems, for example those used in industry, if decided by the relevant committee.

If confusion with a PEN or PEL conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation given in 7.3.6 shall be indicated at the terminations and points of connection.

6.3.6 Protective bonding conductor

A protective bonding conductor shall be identified by the bi-colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW as specified in 6.3.2.

7 Identification by alphanumeric notation

7.1 General

If letters and/or numerals are used for identification, letters shall be uppercase Latin characters only and numerals shall be Arabic numerals.

It is recommended that the reference letters for DC elements be chosen from the first part of the alphabet and reference letters for AC elements from the second part.

Letters "I" and "O" shall not be used for identification to prevent confusion with the numerals "1" and "0"; the alphanumeric signs "+" and "-" may be used.

In order to avoid any confusion, unattached numerals 6 and 9 shall be underlined.

All alphanumeric notations shall be in strong contrast to the colour of the background (e.g. insulation).

The alphanumeric identification shall be clearly legible and durable.

NOTE For evaluation of the durability, see IEC 60227-2.

The alphanumeric system applies to identification of conductors and of conductors in a group of conductors. Conductors with GREEN-AND-YELLOW coloured insulation shall only be identified as a certain designated conductor in accordance with 7.3.3 to 7.3.9.

The alphanumeric identifications specified in 7.3 shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified.

Where no confusion is possible, parts of the complete alphanumeric notation laid down in the marking principles set out in 7.2 may be omitted.

7.2 Equipment terminal identification – Marking principles

7.2.1 Marking of equipment terminals should be based on the principles provided in 7.2.2 to 7.2.5.

7.2.2 The two endpoints of an element should be distinguished by consecutive reference numbers, the odd number being lower than the even number, for example 1 and 2 (see Figure 1).

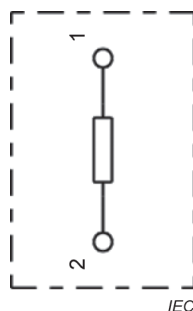


Figure 1 – Single element with two terminals

7.2.3 The intermediate points of a single element should be distinguished by reference numbers, preferably in a numerical order, for example 3, 4, 5, etc. The reference numbers chosen for intermediate points shall be higher than those chosen for the endpoints; their numbering commences at the point which lies closest to the endpoint with the lower reference number. Thus, for example, the intermediate points of an element with the endpoints 1 and 2 will be denoted by the reference numbers 3 and 4 (see Figure 2).

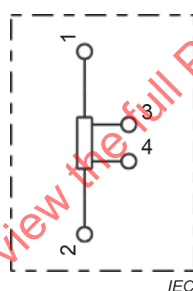


Figure 2 – Single element with four terminals: Two endpoints and two intermediate points

7.2.4 If several similar elements are combined in a group of elements, then one of the following methods for marking the elements shall be used:

- the two endpoints and intermediate points, if any, are distinguished by letters preceding the reference numbers referred to in 7.2.2 and 7.2.3, for example U, V, W corresponding to the phases of a three-phase AC system (see Figure 3);

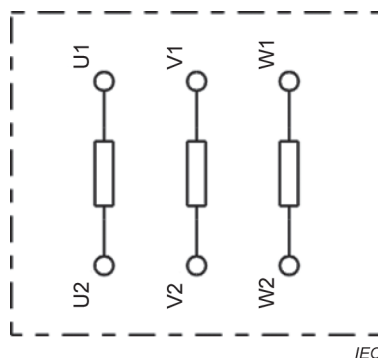
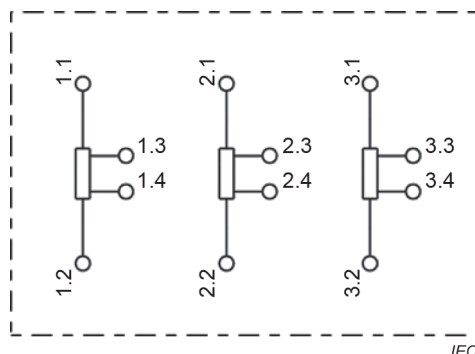


Figure 3 – Three-phase equipment with six terminals

- the two endpoints and intermediate points, if any, should be distinguished by numbers preceding the reference numbers referred to in 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 where a phase identification is not necessary or possible. To avoid confusion, these numbers shall be separated by a full stop. For example, the endpoints of one element may be marked 1.1 and 1.2, those of another element, 2.1 and 2.2 (see Figure 4);

NOTE For examples of an unambiguous terminal designation with respect to the object to which the terminal belongs, see IEC 61666:2010, Annex A.

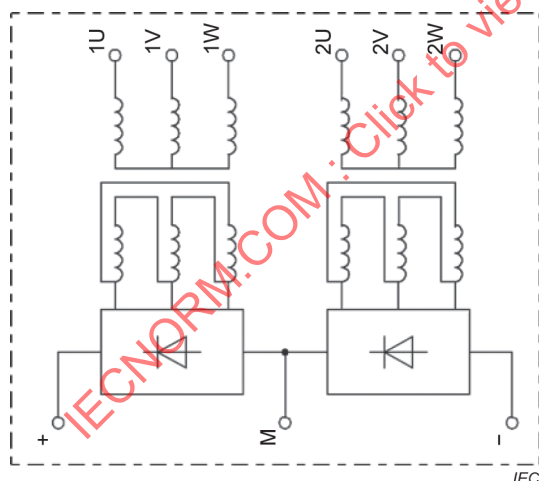


**Figure 4 – Three-element equipment with twelve terminals:
Six endpoints and six intermediate points**

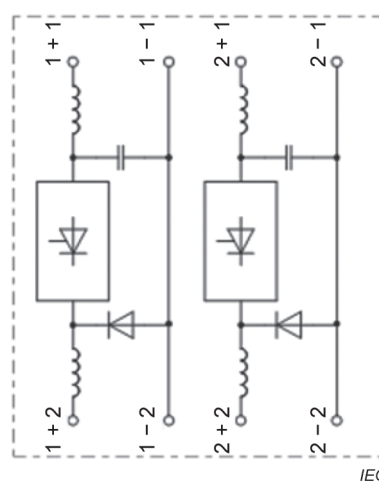
- in the case of terminal blocks, the numerical identification should be in numerical order.

Further detailed requirements on terminal markings and identification may be given by relevant product committees.

7.2.5 Similar groups of elements having the same reference letters should be distinguished by a numerical prefix to the reference letters (see Figure 5 a) and Figure 5 b)).



**a) Three-phase equipment
with two groups of elements**



**b) Two-phase equipment with two groups of
elements with four terminals each not intended to
be connected to certain designated conductors**

Figure 5 – Equipment with groups of elements

Figure 6 illustrates the interconnection of equipment terminals and certain designated conductors, marked in accordance with the alphanumeric notation.

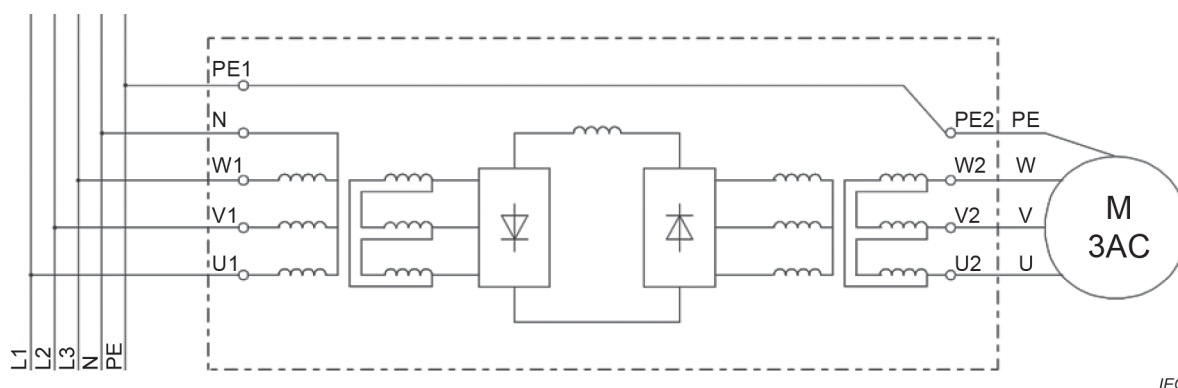


Figure 6 – Interconnection of equipment terminals and certain designated conductors

7.2.6 Where a piece of equipment has more than one incoming supply point, the terminal at the supply points for connection to an external protective conductor shall be marked with the designation "PE".

7.3 Identification of certain designated conductors

7.3.1 General

Equipment terminals which are intended to be connected directly or indirectly to certain designated conductors, and terminations of certain designated conductors shall be marked with reference letters or graphical symbols or both reference letters and graphical symbols according to Table A.1.

7.3.2 Neutral conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a neutral conductor shall be "N".

7.3.3 Protective conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a protective conductor shall be "PE". This identification also applies for a protective earthing conductor.

7.3.4 PEN conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a PEN conductor shall be "PEN".

7.3.5 PEL conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a PEL conductor shall be "PEL".

7.3.6 PEM conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a PEM conductor shall be "PEM".

7.3.7 Protective bonding conductor

7.3.7.1 General

The alphanumeric identification of a protective bonding conductor shall be "PB".

A protective bonding conductor will in most cases be an earthed protective bonding conductor. In those cases where a distinction between an earthed protective bonding conductor and an unearthed protective bonding conductor is necessary (for example, within electro-medical installations), the earthed protective bonding conductor shall be identified in accordance with 7.3.7.2 and the unearthed protective bonding conductor shall be identified in accordance with 7.3.7.3.

7.3.7.2 Earthed protective bonding conductor

If it is necessary to distinguish between an earthed protective bonding conductor and an unearthed protective bonding conductor, the alphanumeric identification of the earthed protective bonding conductor shall be "PBE".

7.3.7.3 Unearthed protective bonding conductor

If it is necessary to distinguish between an earthed protective bonding conductor and an unearthed protective bonding conductor, the alphanumeric identification of the unearthed protective bonding conductor shall be "PBU".

7.3.8 Functional earthing conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a functional earthing conductor shall be "FE".

7.3.9 Functional bonding conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a functional bonding conductor shall be "FB".

7.3.10 Mid-point conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a mid-point conductor shall be "M".

7.3.11 Line conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a line conductor shall start with the letter "L" suffixed by:

- in AC systems, a sequential number of line conductors, starting with the digit one "1";
- in DC systems, with the sign "+" (PLUS SIGN) for the positive line conductor and with the sign "-" (MINUS SIGN) for the negative line conductor.

If no more than one line conductor is used, the suffix may be omitted.

7.3.12 System-referencing-conductor

The alphanumeric identification of a system-referencing-conductor shall be "SRC".

Annex A

(informative)

Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals

Table A.1 – Colours, alphanumeric notations and graphical symbols used for identification of conductors and terminals

Designated conductors/terminals		Identification of conductors/terminals by			
		Alphanumeric notations ^a		Colours	Graphical symbols ^b
		Conductors	Terminals		
AC conductors		AC	AC	-	
	Line 1	L1	U	BK ^d or	
	Line 2	L2 ^c	V	BN ^d or	
	Line 3	L3 ^c	W	GY ^d	
	Mid-point conductor	M	M	BU ^e	No recommendation
	Neutral conductor	N	N		
DC conductors		DC	DC	-	---
	Positive	L+	+	RD	
	Negative	L-	-	WH	
	Mid-point conductor	M	M	BU ^e	No recommendation
	Neutral conductor	N	N		
Protective conductor		PE	PE	GNYE	
	PEN conductor	PEN	PEN	GNYE ^f	No recommendation
	PEL conductor	PEL	PEL		
	PEM conductor	PEM	PEM	BU ^f	
Protective bonding conductor		PB	PB	GNYE	
	– earthed	PBE	PBE		No recommendation
	– unearthed	PBU	PBU		
Functional earthing conductor ^g		FE	FE	PK	
Functional bonding conductor		FB	FB	No recommendation	
System-referencing-conductor		SRC	SRC	No recommendation	No recommendation

- a See Clause 7.
- b The graphics shown correspond to the following symbol numbers in IEC 60417.
- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | IEC 60417-5032 (2002-10) |  | IEC 60417-5019 (2006-08) |
|  | IEC 60417-5031 (2002-10) |  | IEC 60417-5018 (2011-07) |
|  | IEC 60417-5005 (2002-10) |  | IEC 60417-5020 (2002-10) |
|  | IEC 60417-5006 (2002-10) |  | IEC 60417-5021 (2002-10) |
- c Only necessary in systems with more than one phase.
- d This sequence of colour codes is in alphabetical order in the English language. It does not represent recommended phasing or a direction of rotation.
- e See 6.2.2.
- f See 6.3.3 to 6.3.5.
- g Neither the designation FE nor the graphical symbol 5018 of IEC 60417 shall be applied for conductors or terminals having a protective function. Bi-colour insulation GREEN-AND-YELLOW shall not be used for conductors that do not have a protective function (i.e. for conductors other than PE, PEN, PEL, PEM, PB, PBE, PBU). See Clause 5.

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Annex B (informative)

List of notes concerning particular conditions in certain countries

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
RU	Clause 3	The earthed line conductors are used in single-phase 2-wire AC electrical systems, in three-phase 3-wire AC electrical systems without the neutral and in 2-wire DC electrical systems. In the Russian Federation terms "phase conductor" and "pole conductor" are used for the identification of line conductors in AC systems and DC systems, respectively.	In the Russian Federation, the following definitions apply: earthed line conductor (identification: LE) line conductor which has an electrical connection with the earth electrode phase conductor line conductor which is used in an AC electrical circuit pole conductor line conductor which is used in an DC electrical circuit
RU	3.1		In the Russian Federation, the term "electrical equipment" is defined differently: electric equipment item intended for generation, transmission and variation of characteristics of electric energy, change its characteristics and also for convert electric energy into another form of energy
RU	3.8		In the Russian Federation, the term "functional earthing" is defined differently: functional earthing earthing for functional purposes other than electrical safety
RU	3.10		In the Russian Federation, the term "functional earthing" is defined differently: functional-equipotential-bonding equipotential bonding for functional purposes other than electrical safety
RU	3.11		In the Russian Federation, the term "line conductor" is defined differently: line conductor (identification: L) conductor which is energized under normal conditions and used for the transmission of electric energy but which is not a neutral conductor or a mid conductor
RU	3.13		In the Russian Federations, the following definition apply: mid-part common live parts between two symmetrical circuit elements the opposite ends of which are electrically connected to different line conductors of the same circuit
RU	3.14		In the Russian Federation, the term "mid-point conductor" is defined differently: mid conductor (identification: M) conductor electrically connected to the mid part of the DC electrical system and used for the transmission of electric energy

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
RU	3.15		In the Russian Federation, the term "neutral conductor" is defined differently: neutral conductor (identification: N) conductor electrically connected to the neutral point or the mid-point of the AC electrical system and used for the transmission of electric energy
US	3.15	In the United States, while the term "neutral conductor" is used, this conductor is often also or alternatively identified as "grounded conductor".	In the United States identification of the terminal for connection of the grounded conductor is by a white colour, or by the word "white" or the letter "W" adjacent to the terminal.
RU	3.16		In the Russian Federation, the term "neutral point" is defined differently: neutral common live part of a star-connected polyphase AS system or mid part of a single-phase AC system
RU	3.18		In the Russian Federation, the term "PEM conductor" is defined differently: PEM conductor conductor combining the functions of both a protective earthing conductor and a mid conductor
RU	3.27		In the Russian Federation, the term "terminal" is defined differently: terminal conductive part of electrical equipment provided for connecting electrical equipment to external conductors
RU	6.2.1		In the Russian Federation, it is not permitted to use separately the GREEN colour and YELLOW colour for identification of conductors.
US	6.2.1		In the United States, the use of the single colour GREEN is permitted for identification of protective earth conductors.
CA	6.2.2		In Canada, the colour identification WHITE or NATURAL GREY for the mid-point or neutral conductor is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE.
JP	6.2.2		In Japan, the colour identification WHITE or NATURAL GREY for the mid-point or neutral conductor is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE.
RU	6.2.2		In the Russian Federation, the BLUE colour should be used only for identification of the neutral conductors, the mid conductors and the earthed line conductors.
US	6.2.2		In the United States, the colour identification WHITE or NATURAL GREY for the mid-point or neutral conductor is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE.
US	6.2.2		In the United States, the use of the colour BLUE is permitted for phase conductors. Neutral conductors are permitted to be WHITE, GREY or with three WHITE stripes on insulation other than GREEN.

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
AU	6.2.3		In Australia, the colour BLACK shall not be used for identification of line conductors of installation wiring. The colour BROWN is acceptable for a single-phase line conductor and BROWN, BROWN and BROWN is acceptable for line conductors L1, L2 and L3.
CA	6.2.3		In Canada, where the colour GREY is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE for neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for identification of line conductors in AC systems if confusion is likely.
CA	6.2.3		In Canada, the colour GREY can be applied as identification of the neutral or mid-point conductor; the colour GREY shall not be used for any other purpose than that specified in the Note of this subclause.
JP	6.2.3		In Japan, where the colour GREY is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE for the neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for identification of line conductors in AC-systems if confusion is likely.
JP	6.2.3		In Japan, the colour GREY can be applied as identification of the neutral or mid-point conductor; the colour GREY shall not be used for any other purpose than specified in the Note of this subclause.
RU	6.2.3		In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the phase conductor of a single-phase electrical circuit is BROWN. When the single-phase electrical circuit is branched from a three-phase electrical circuit, the colour identification of the phase conductor of the single-phase electrical circuit should coincide with the colour identification of that phase conductor of the three-phase electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.
RU	6.2.3		In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the earthed phase conductor is BLUE. If confusion with the neutral conductor, the mid conductor or the earthed pole conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation shall be indicated at the terminations of the earthed phase conductors and in points of their connections.
US	6.2.3		In the United States, where the colour GREY is used as a replacement for the colour identification BLUE for the neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for identification of line conductors in AC systems if confusion is likely.
US	6.2.3		In the United States, the colour GREY can be applied as identification of neutral or mid-point conductor, the colour GREY shall not be used for any other purpose than specified in the Note of this subclause.

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
RU	6.2.4		In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the positive pole conductor is BROWN, the preferred colour of the negative pole conductor is GREY. When the two-wire DC electrical circuit is branched from a three-wire DC electrical circuit, the colour identification of the pole conductor of the two-wire electrical circuit should coincide with the colour identification of that pole conductor of the three-wire electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.
RU	6.2.4		In the Russian Federation, the preferred colour of the earthed pole conductor is BLUE. If confusion with the neutral conductor, the mid conductor or the earthed phase conductor is likely, the alphanumeric designation shall be indicated at the terminations of the earthed pole conductors and in points of their connections.
CA	6.3.2		In Canada, the colour identification GREEN for the protective conductor is used as a replacement for the colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.
JP	6.3.2		In Japan, GREEN or GREEN-AND-YELLOW can be used as the colour identification for the protective conductor.
US	6.3.2		In the United States, the colour identification GREEN for the protective conductor is used as a replacement for the colour combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW.
US	6.3.2		In the United States, the use of the single colour GREEN is permitted for identification of protective earth conductors.
US	7.3.2	In the United States, identification of the terminal for the grounded conductor is by coloration.	In the US identification of the terminal for connection of the grounded conductor is by a white colour, or by the word "white" or the letter "W" adjacent to the terminal.
US	7.3.3	In the United States, identification of the equipment grounding conductor is only by coloration of green or green with yellow stripes.	In the US, identification of the equipment grounding conductor is made by GREEN or GREEN with one or more YELLOW stripes for the insulation, other means of coloration, coloured tape or adhesive labels, or stripping the insulation or covering from the entire exposed length of the conductor.
RU	7.3.11		In the Russian Federation, the alphanumeric identification of the phase conductor of a single-phase electrical circuit shall be "L". The alphanumeric identification of the phase conductors of a three-phase electrical circuit shall be "L1", "L2" and "L3". When the single-phase electrical circuit is branched from a three-phase electrical circuit, the alphanumeric identification of the phase conductor of the single-phase electrical circuit should coincide with the alphanumeric identification of that phase conductor of the three-phase electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.
RU	7.3.11		In the Russian Federation, the alphanumeric identification of the positive pole conductor shall be "L+", and of the negative pole conductor shall be "L-". When the two-wire DC electrical circuit is branched from a three-wire DC electrical circuit, the alphanumeric identification of the pole conductor of the two-wire electrical circuit should coincide with the alphanumeric identification of that pole conductor of the three-wire electrical circuit to which it is connected electrically.

Country	Clause/ subclause no.	Rationale (detailed justification for the requested country note)	Wording
RU	7.3.11		In the Russian Federation, the alphanumeric identification of the earthed phase conductor of a single-phase electrical circuit shall be "LE", and of a three-phase electrical circuit shall be "LE1", "LE2" or "LE3". The alphanumeric identification of the earthed positive pole conductor shall be "LE+", the earthed negative pole conductor shall be "LE–".
AU	Table A.1		In Australia, the colour PINK is the preferred colour for identification of a functional earthing conductor ("FE"), but the colour WHITE is also accepted.
US	Table A.1	Identification of the terminal for equipment grounding conductors, grounding electrode conductors and bonding conductors is not as indicated.	In the US, identification of the terminal for connection of the equipment grounding conductor, grounding electrode conductor or bonding conductors shall be by one of the following: a) Green, not readily removable terminal screw with hexagonal head. b) Green, not readily removable and hexagonal terminal nut. c) Green pressure wire connector. d) If the terminal is not readily visible, marking of the word "green" or "ground", the letters "G" or "GR", a grounding symbol or identification by green colour. [see NFPA 70 National Electrical Code for additional information]

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Bibliography

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IEC 60050-826:—², *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 826: Electrical installations*

IEC 60079-11, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety "i"*

IEC 60227-2, *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated voltages up to and including 450/750 V – Part 2: Test methods*

IEC 60757, *Code for designation of colours*

IEC 61666:2010, *Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products – Identification of terminals within a system*

IEC 62491, *Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products – Labelling of cables and cores*

IEC Guide 104, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

ISO/IEC Guide 51, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*

National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*

² Third edition under preparation. Stage at time of publication: IEC FDIS 60050-826:2021.

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SOMMAIRE

AVANT-PROPOS.....	30
1 Domaine d'application.....	32
2 Références normatives	32
3 Termes et définitions	32
4 Méthodes d'identification	36
5 Application des moyens d'identification	36
6 Identification par des couleurs	37
6.1 Généralités	37
6.2 Utilisation de couleurs uniques	37
6.2.1 Utilisation des couleurs uniques VERT et JAUNE.....	37
6.2.2 Conducteur de neutre ou de point milieu.....	37
6.2.3 Conducteur de ligne dans un réseau en courant alternatif.....	38
6.2.4 Conducteur de ligne dans un réseau en courant continu.....	38
6.2.5 Conducteur de mise à la terre fonctionnelle	38
6.3 Utilisation de combinaisons bicolores	38
6.3.1 Couleurs autorisées	38
6.3.2 Conducteur de protection	38
6.3.3 Conducteur PEN	39
6.3.4 Conducteur PEL.....	39
6.3.5 Conducteur PEM.....	40
6.3.6 Conducteur de liaison de protection.....	40
7 Identification par des caractères alphanumériques	40
7.1 Généralités	40
7.2 Identification d'une borne de matériel – Principes de marquage	41
7.3 Identification de certains conducteurs désignés	43
7.3.1 Généralités	43
7.3.2 Conducteur de neutre.....	44
7.3.3 Conducteur de protection	44
7.3.4 Conducteur PEN	44
7.3.5 Conducteur PEL.....	44
7.3.6 Conducteur PEM.....	44
7.3.7 Conducteur de liaison de protection.....	44
7.3.8 Conducteur de mise à la terre fonctionnelle	44
7.3.9 Conducteur de liaison fonctionnelle	44
7.3.10 Conducteur de point milieu.....	44
7.3.11 Conducteur de ligne.....	45
7.3.12 Conducteur de référencement de réseau	45
Annexe A (informative) Couleurs, caractères alphanumériques et symboles graphiques utilisés pour l'identification des conducteurs et des bornes	46
Annexe B (informative) Liste des notes concernant certains pays	48
Bibliographie	53
Figure 1 – Élément simple à deux bornes	41
Figure 2 – Élément simple à quatre bornes: Deux extrémités et deux points intermédiaires.....	41

Figure 3 – Matériel triphasé à six bornes	42
Figure 4 – Matériel composé de trois éléments à douze bornes: Six extrémités et six points intermédiaires.....	42
Figure 5 – Matériels à groupes d'éléments	43
Figure 6 – Interconnexion des bornes de matériels et de certains conducteurs désignés.....	43
Tableau A.1 – Couleurs, caractères alphanumériques et symboles graphiques utilisés pour l'identification des conducteurs et des bornes	46

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COMMISSION ÉLECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

PRINCIPES FONDAMENTAUX ET DE SÉCURITÉ POUR LES INTERFACES HOMME-MACHINE, LE MARQUAGE ET L'IDENTIFICATION – IDENTIFICATION DES BORNES DE MATÉRIELS, DES EXTRÉMITÉS DE CONDUCTEURS ET DES CONDUCTEURS

AVANT-PROPOS

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Elle a le statut d'une publication fondamentale de sécurité, conformément au Guide 104 de l'IEC.

Cette septième édition annule et remplace la sixième édition parue en 2017. Cette édition constitue une révision technique.

Cette édition inclut les modifications techniques majeures suivantes par rapport à l'édition précédente:

- a) les définitions ont été harmonisées avec l'IEC 60050-195:2021 et l'IEC 60050-826:—¹;
- b) les dispositions relatives aux couleurs à utiliser pour l'identification de certains conducteurs désignés sont à présent des exigences et ne sont plus de simples recommandations;
- c) introduction d'un nouveau paragraphe sur le marquage des bornes de protection pour des entrées d'alimentation multiples sur un matériel.

Le texte de cette Norme internationale est issu des documents suivants:

FDIS	Rapport de vote
3/1491/FDIS	3/1517/RVD

Le rapport de vote indiqué dans le tableau ci-dessus donne toute information sur le vote ayant abouti à son approbation.

La langue employée pour l'élaboration de cette Norme internationale est l'anglais.

Le présent document a été rédigé selon les Directives ISO/IEC, Partie 2, il a été développé selon les Directives ISO/IEC, Partie 1 et les Directives ISO/IEC, Supplément IEC, disponibles sous www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. Les principaux types de documents développés par l'IEC sont décrits plus en détail sous www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

L'attention du lecteur est attirée sur le fait que l'Annexe B énumère tous les articles traitant des différences à caractère moins permanent inhérentes à certains pays, concernant le sujet de la présente norme.

Le comité a décidé que le contenu du présent document ne sera pas modifié avant la date de stabilité indiquée sur le site web de l'IEC sous webstore.iec.ch dans les données relatives au document recherché. À cette date, le document sera

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¹ Troisième édition en cours d'élaboration. Stade au moment de la publication: IEC FDIS 60050-826:2021.

PRINCIPES FONDAMENTAUX ET DE SÉCURITÉ POUR LES INTERFACES HOMME-MACHINE, LE MARQUAGE ET L'IDENTIFICATION – IDENTIFICATION DES BORNES DE MATÉRIELS, DES EXTRÉMITÉS DE CONDUCTEURS ET DES CONDUCTEURS

1 Domaine d'application

Le présent document s'applique à l'identification et au marquage des bornes de matériels électriques, tels que résistances, coupe-circuits à fusibles, relais, contacteurs, transformateurs, machines tournantes et, chaque fois que cela est possible, à des combinaisons de tels matériels (par exemple des ensembles). Il s'applique également à l'identification des extrémités de certains conducteurs désignés. Il prévoit également des règles générales concernant l'utilisation de certaines couleurs ou de certains caractères alphanumériques pour identifier les conducteurs dans le but d'éviter toute ambiguïté et d'assurer la sécurité de fonctionnement. Ces couleurs et caractères alphanumériques destinés aux conducteurs sont prévus pour être appliqués aux noyaux, aux barres omnibus et aux matériels électriques, ainsi qu'aux câbles ou installations.

La présente publication fondamentale de sécurité axée sur les exigences de sécurité essentielles est principalement destinée à être utilisée par les comités d'études lors de l'élaboration des normes conformément aux principes énoncés dans le Guide 104 de l'IEC et le Guide ISO/IEC 51.

Elle n'est pas destinée à être utilisée par les fabricants ou les organismes de certification. L'une des responsabilités d'un comité d'études est, le cas échéant, d'avoir recours aux publications fondamentales relatives à la sécurité lors de l'élaboration de ses publications. Les exigences de la présente publication fondamentale de sécurité ne s'appliquent pas, sauf mention spécifique ou intégration dans les publications en question.

2 Références normatives

Les documents suivants sont cités dans le texte de sorte qu'ils constituent, pour tout ou partie de leur contenu, des exigences du présent document. Pour les références datées, seule l'édition citée s'applique. Pour les références non datées, la dernière édition du document de référence s'applique (y compris les éventuels amendements).

IEC 60417, *Symboles graphiques utilisables sur le matériel* (disponible sur <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>)

IEC 60617, *Symboles graphiques pour schémas* (disponible sur <http://std.iec.ch/iec60617>)

3 Termes et définitions

Pour les besoins du présent document, les termes et définitions suivants s'appliquent.

L'ISO et l'IEC tiennent à jour des bases de données terminologiques destinées à être utilisées en normalisation, consultables aux adresses suivantes:

- IEC Electropedia: disponible à l'adresse <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: disponible à l'adresse <http://www.iso.org/obp>

NOTE Les termes sont triés dans l'ordre alphabétique de l'anglais.

3.1**mise à la terre**

liaisons électriques entre des parties conductrices et une terre locale

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-24]

3.2**conducteur de liaison de protection mis à la terre**

conducteur de liaison de protection équipé d'un chemin conducteur vers la terre locale

3.3**matériel électrique**

matériel utilisé pour la production, la transformation, le transport, la distribution ou l'utilisation de l'énergie électrique

Note 1 à l'article: Des exemples de tels matériels sont des machines, des transformateurs, un appareillage, des appareils de mesure, des dispositifs de protection, des canalisations électriques, des matériels d'utilisation.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826:—, 826-16-01]

3.4**sécurité électrique**

absence de risque inacceptable dû à l'électricité

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-20]

3.5**liaison équipotentielle**

ensemble de liaisons électriques pour réaliser l'équipotentialité entre parties conductrices

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-10]

3.6**équipotentialité**

état des parties conductrices ayant un potentiel électrique sensiblement égal

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-09]

3.7**conducteur de liaison fonctionnelle**

conducteur prévu pour réaliser une liaison équipotentielle fonctionnelle

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-16]

3.8**mise à la terre fonctionnelle**

action de mettre à la terre pour des raisons autres que la sécurité électrique

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-13]

3.9**conducteur de mise à la terre fonctionnelle**

conducteur utilisé pour la mise à la terre fonctionnelle

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-15]

3.10

liaison équipotentielle fonctionnelle

liaison équipotentielle réalisée à des fins autres que la sécurité électrique

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-16]

3.11

conducteur de ligne

conducteur destiné à être sous tension et capable de participer au transport ou à la distribution de l'énergie électrique, mais qui n'est ni un conducteur de neutre ni un conducteur de point milieu

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-08, modifié – Suppression de la Note 1 à l'article.]

3.12

terre (locale)

partie de la Terre en contact électrique avec une prise de terre, et dont le potentiel électrique n'est pas nécessairement égal à zéro

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-03]

3.13

point milieu

point commun à deux éléments symétriques d'un circuit, dont les extrémités sont reliées électriquement à des conducteurs de ligne différents du même circuit

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-04]

3.14

conducteur de point milieu

conducteur relié électriquement au point milieu et capable de participer à la distribution de l'énergie électrique

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-07]

3.15

conducteur de neutre

conducteur relié électriquement au point neutre et capable de contribuer à la distribution de l'énergie électrique

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-06]

3.16

point neutre

point commun d'un réseau polyphasé connecté en étoile

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-05]

3.17

conducteur PEL

conducteur assurant à la fois les fonctions de conducteur de mise à la terre de protection et de conducteur de ligne

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-14]

3.18**conducteur PEM**

conducteur assurant à la fois les fonctions de conducteur de mise à la terre de protection et de conducteur de point milieu

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-13]

3.19**conducteur PEN**

conducteur assurant à la fois les fonctions de conducteur de mise à la terre de protection et de conducteur de neutre

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-12]

3.20**conducteur de liaison de protection****conducteur d'équipotentialité**

conducteur de protection prévu pour réaliser une liaison équipotentielle de protection

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-10]

3.21**conducteur de protection****conducteur de mise à la terre du matériel****conducteur d'électrode de mise à la terre**

conducteur prévu à des fins de sécurité électrique

Note 1 à l'article: Les termes "conducteur de mise à la terre du matériel" et "conducteur d'électrode de mise à la terre" sont utilisés aux Etats-Unis en fonction de leur application.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-09, modifié – Deux synonymes et la Note 1 à l'article ont été ajoutés.]

3.22**mise à la terre de protection**

action de mettre à la terre à des fins de sécurité électrique

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-11]

3.23**conducteur de mise à la terre de protection**

conducteur de protection prévu pour réaliser la mise à la terre de protection

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-11]

3.24**liaison équipotentielle de protection**

liaison équipotentielle réalisée à des fins de sécurité électrique

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-01-15]

3.25**borne de protection**

borne dont un matériel est équipé, et destinée à être connectée électriquement à un conducteur de protection

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-43]

3.26

conducteur de référencement de réseau

conducteur situé entre un conducteur sous tension et l'installation de mise à la terre, en vue de permettre au conducteur sous tension d'être sensiblement au même potentiel que la terre

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-826: —, 826-13-38]

3.27

borne

partie conductrice d'un matériel électrique, destinée à le connecter à un ou plusieurs conducteurs extérieurs

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-12-12, modifié – "d'un dispositif, d'un circuit électrique ou d'un réseau électrique" est remplacé par "d'un matériel électrique" et la Note 1 à l'article est supprimée.]

3.28

conducteur de liaison de protection non mis à la terre

conducteur de liaison de protection qui est isolé de la terre

4 Méthodes d'identification

Dans le cas où l'identification des bornes de matériels et des extrémités de certains conducteurs désignés est considérée comme nécessaire, celle-ci doit être réalisée au moyen de l'une ou de plusieurs des méthodes suivantes:

- l'emplacement physique ou relatif des bornes de matériels ou des extrémités de certains conducteurs désignés;
- un code de couleurs pour les bornes de matériels et les extrémités de certains conducteurs désignés conformément à l'Article 6;
- des symboles graphiques conformes à l'IEC 60417. Si des symboles supplémentaires sont exigés, ils doivent être cohérents avec l'IEC 60617;
- des caractères alphanumériques conformément au système détaillé à l'Article 7.

Pour préserver la cohérence avec la documentation et la désignation des bornes de matériels, les caractères alphanumériques sont recommandés.

NOTE 1 Il est reconnu que pour des systèmes et des installations complexes, un marquage et un étiquetage supplémentaires sont utilisés pour des raisons autres que la sécurité, voir par exemple l'IEC 62491.

NOTE 2 L'Annexe A présente le Tableau A.1 qui offre une vue d'ensemble des identifications de certains conducteurs désignés et bornes de matériel auxquelles ces conducteurs sont susceptibles d'être connectés.

5 Application des moyens d'identification

La couleur, le symbole graphique ou les caractères alphanumériques d'identification doivent se trouver sur la borne correspondante ou à proximité.

Lorsque plusieurs méthodes d'identification sont utilisées, la corrélation entre ces méthodes doit être clarifiée dans la documentation associée, chaque fois qu'il y a risque de confusion.

Lorsqu'aucune confusion n'est possible, la juxtaposition de caractères numériques et alphanumériques peut être appliquée.

Les bornes et les conducteurs utilisés pour la mise à la terre ou liaison équipotentielle sont divisés selon leur objectif de mise à la terre/liaison équipotentielle en deux concepts de base: ceux ayant des fins de protection et ceux ayant des fins fonctionnelles.

- Si une borne ou un conducteur est conforme aux exigences relatives à la fois à des fins de protection et à des fins fonctionnelles, ils doivent être respectivement désignés comme une borne de protection ou un conducteur de protection.
- Si les exigences relatives à la protection ne sont pas respectées par une borne ou un conducteur destiné à des fins fonctionnelles, la borne ou le conducteur ne doit pas être marqué comme étant une borne ou un conducteur de protection.
- Les exigences relatives à la mise à la terre fonctionnelle ou à la liaison équipotentielle fonctionnelle doivent être définies par le fabricant ou le comité de produit en question et il convient qu'elles soient spécifiées dans la documentation de l'appareil.

NOTE 1 Par exemple, les exigences relatives à la gestion des problèmes de compatibilité électromagnétique (CEM).

NOTE 2 L'Annexe A présente le Tableau A.1 qui offre une vue d'ensemble des identifications de certains conducteurs désignés et bornes de matériel auxquelles ces conducteurs sont susceptibles d'être connectés.

6 Identification par des couleurs

6.1 Généralités

Pour l'identification des conducteurs, seules les couleurs suivantes doivent être utilisées:

NOIR, BRUN, ROUGE, ORANGE, VERT, JAUNE, BLEU, VIOLET, GRIS, BLANC, ROSE, TURQUOISE.

NOTE Cette liste de couleurs provient de l'IEC 60757.

L'identification par couleur doit être utilisée au niveau des extrémités et de préférence sur toute la longueur du conducteur, soit par la couleur de l'isolation, soit par des marqueurs de couleur, excepté pour les conducteurs nus, pour lesquels l'identification par couleur doit s'effectuer au niveau des points d'extrémité et de raccordement.

L'identification par couleur ou par marquage n'est pas exigée pour:

- les conducteurs concentriques de câbles;
- la gaine ou l'armure métallique des câbles en cas d'utilisation comme un conducteur de protection;
- les conducteurs nus lorsqu'une identification permanente est impossible dans la pratique;
- les éléments conducteurs étrangers utilisés comme un conducteur de protection;
- les parties conductrices accessibles utilisées comme un conducteur de protection.

Des marquages additionnels, par exemple un marquage alphanumérique, sont autorisés, à condition que l'identification par couleur reste sans ambiguïté.

Lorsque les conducteurs doivent être identifiés par des couleurs, les exigences de 6.2 et 6.3 s'appliquent.

6.2 Utilisation de couleurs uniques

6.2.1 Utilisation des couleurs uniques VERT et JAUNE

Les couleurs uniques VERT et JAUNE doivent être utilisées uniquement lorsqu'aucune confusion avec le code couleur des conducteurs conformément à 6.3.2 jusqu'à 6.3.6 n'est pas susceptible de se produire.

6.2.2 Conducteur de neutre ou de point milieu

Un conducteur de neutre ou de point milieu doit être identifié par du BLEU. Afin d'éviter toute confusion avec d'autres couleurs, il est recommandé d'utiliser un BLEU non saturé, souvent appelé "bleu clair".

En présence d'un conducteur de neutre ou de point milieu, la couleur BLEUE ne doit pas être utilisée pour identifier un autre conducteur. En l'absence de conducteur de neutre ou de point milieu dans l'ensemble des canalisations électriques, le BLEU peut être utilisé pour identifier un conducteur utilisé à toute fin, autre que celle de conducteur de protection.

Les conducteurs nus utilisés comme des conducteurs de neutre ou de point milieu doivent être soit marqués par une bande BLEUE de 15 mm à 100 mm de largeur dans chaque unité ou enveloppe et dans chaque position accessible, soit de couleur BLEUE sur toute leur longueur.

NOTE Dans l'IEC 60079-11, la couleur BLEUE est utilisée pour le marquage par la couleur des bornes, des boîtes à bornes, des fiches et des socles de circuits de sécurité intrinsèque.

6.2.3 Conducteur de ligne dans un réseau en courant alternatif

Les conducteurs de ligne dans des réseaux en courant alternatif doivent être identifiés par les couleurs BRUNE, GRISE ou NOIRE.

NOTE L'ordre des codes de couleur donné en 6.2.3 est dans l'ordre alphabétique de l'anglais et n'indique aucune préférence dans l'ordre des phases ou le sens de rotation.

6.2.4 Conducteur de ligne dans un réseau en courant continu

Les conducteurs de ligne dans des réseaux en courant continu doivent être identifiés par les couleurs suivantes:

- le ROUGE pour le conducteur de ligne positif;
- le BLANC pour le conducteur de ligne négatif.

6.2.5 Conducteur de mise à la terre fonctionnelle

Un conducteur de mise à la terre fonctionnelle doit être identifié par la couleur ROSE. L'application de cette identification est uniquement nécessaire au niveau des extrémités et des points de connexion.

6.3 Utilisation de combinaisons bicolores

6.3.1 Couleurs autorisées

Deux couleurs parmi celles répertoriées en 6.1 peuvent être combinées, à condition que tout risque de confusion soit impossible.

Afin d'éviter toute confusion, la couleur VERTE et la couleur JAUNE ne doivent pas être utilisées dans des combinaisons de couleurs autres que la combinaison VERT ET JAUNE.

La combinaison VERT ET JAUNE doit être réservée aux cas spécifiés en 6.3.2 à 6.3.6.

6.3.2 Conducteur de protection

Le conducteur de protection doit être identifié par la combinaison bicolore VERT ET JAUNE.

Le VERT ET JAUNE est la seule combinaison de couleurs reconnue pour identifier le conducteur de protection.

Pour un conducteur PEN, PEM et PEL, des exigences supplémentaires sont données de 6.3.3 à 6.3.5.

La combinaison de couleur VERT ET JAUNE doit être telle que, sur une longueur de 15 mm du conducteur auquel le codage couleur est appliqué, l'une de ces couleurs recouvre au moins 30 % et au plus 70 % de la surface du conducteur, l'autre couleur recouvrant le reste de cette même surface.