IEC 60800

Edition 4.1 2026-06

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

CONSOLIDATED VERSION

Heating cables with a rated voltage up to and including 300/500 V for comfort heating and prevention of ice formation

ICS 29.060.20

ISBN 978-2-8327-1360-0

IEC 60800:2021-11+AMD1:2026-06 CSV(en)

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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Heating cables with a rated voltage up to and including 300/500 V for comfort heating and prevention of ice formation

FOREWORD

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This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.

IEC 60800 edition 4.1 contains the fourth edition (2021-11) [documents 20/1972/FDIS and 20/1991/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2026-06) [documents 20/2288/FDIS and 20/2294/RVD].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

IEC 60800 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables. It is an International Standard.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2009. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) modification of the title: "up to and including", has been introduced;
b) update of IEC 60811 references;
c) introduction of a test for mechanical properties of sheaths after the water immersion and temperature cycling test;
d) introduction of a weathering and UV resistance test according to ISO 4892-2:2013, Annex A.

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

Draft	Report on voting
20/1972/FDIS	20/1991/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 committee has decided that the contents of this document and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

– reconfirmed,
– withdrawn, or
– revised.

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the essential requirements and testing appropriate to electrical resistance heating cables used for comfort heating and prevention of ice formation. While some of this work already exists in national standards or international standards, this document has collated much of this existing work.

This document provides a means to verify the electrical, thermal and mechanical durability of resistive heating cables, so that in normal use their performance is without danger to the user or surroundings. Compliance is checked by carrying out all the tests specified in this document.

1 Scope

This document is applicable to, and specifies requirements for resistive heating cables for low temperature applications such as comfort heating and the prevention of ice formation. These heating cables and heating cable sets can comprise either factory assembled or field (work-site) assembled units, and are heating cables assembled in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Bare conductors and protected conductors to be supplied at voltages equal to, or less than, 50 V are excluded from the scope of this document.

Typical applications include, but are not limited to:

- surface heating installed in or under surfaces;
- direct and storage heating;
- snow melting and frost protection of roofs, gutters, pipes, etc.

Electrical resistance trace heating systems for industrial and commercial applications are specified in the IEC 62395 series [1][1] and for explosive atmospheres applications in the IEC/IEEE 60079-30 series [2], as are mineral insulated heating cables.

Applications in which the sheath temperature exceeds 100 °C are outside the scope of this document.

The object of this document is to ensure that electrical resistance heating cables operate safely under their normal defined conditions of use. This is achieved by:

- employing heating cables of the appropriate construction that meet the test criteria detailed in this document;
- including, for heating cables with an electrical protective component, a metallic braid, concentric wires or sheath, or other suitable electrically conductive material for protective purposes in case of fault;
- ensuring that the heating cables operate at safe temperatures with respect to the materials used in the construction of the cables and their installations according to national regulations.

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 60050-461, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 461: Electric cables* (available at http://www.electropedia.org)

IEC 60228, *Conductors of insulated cables*

IEC 60332-1-1, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-1: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Apparatus*

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1 Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable – Procedure for 1 kW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60364-7-701, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 7-701: Requirements for special installations or locations – Locations containing a bath or shower*

IEC 60364-7-753, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 7-753: Requirements for special installations or locations – Heating cables and embedded heating systems*

IEC 62230, *Electric cables – Spark test method*

IEC 60811-201, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 201: General tests – Measurement of insulation thickness*

IEC 60811-202, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 202: General tests – Measurement of thickness of non-metallic sheath*

IEC 60811-401, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 401: Miscellaneous tests – Thermal ageing methods – Ageing in air oven*

IEC 60811-404, *Electric and optical fibre cables - Test methods for non-metallic materials - Part 404: Miscellaneous tests - Mineral oil immersion tests for sheaths*

IEC 60811-501, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 501: Mechanical tests – Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulating and sheathing compounds*

IEC 60811-502, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials- Part 502: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for insulations*

IEC 60811-503, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 503: Mechanical tests – Shrinkage test for sheaths*

IEC 60811-506, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 506: Mechanical tests – Impact test at low temperature for insulations and sheaths*

IEC 60811-507, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 507: Mechanical tests – Hot set test for cross-linked materials*

IEC 60811-508, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 508: Mechanical tests – Pressure test at high temperature for insulation and sheaths*

IEC 60811-509, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 509: Mechanical tests – Test for resistance of insulations and sheaths to cracking (heat shock test)*

IEC 62395-1:2013, *Electrical resistance trace heating systems for industrial and commercial applications – Part 1: General and testing requirements*

ISO 4892-3:2016, *Plastics – Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources – Part 3: Fluorescent UV lamps*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-461 and the following 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

3.1
armouring
mechanical reinforcement of the heating cable

Note 1 to entry: The reinforcement can be made of one or more layers of steel wires or braid, or of a metallic sheath or other suitable material.

3.2
cold lead
electrically insulated conductor or conductors used to connect a heating cable to the branch circuit and designed so that it does not produce significant heat

3.3
connection splice
sealed splice, connecting the heating cable to the cold lead, or an identical heating cable

3.4
earthing conductor
uninsulated conductor (drain wire) which is in good electric contact with the electrical screen along the length

3.5
electrically conductive screen
metallic braid, concentric wires, metallic sheath, or alternative covering with sufficient conductivity so that, when bonded to ground, will cause a residual current device (RCD) to operate under fault conditions

3.6
end termination
sealed termination, which may be heat producing, connected to the heating cable at the end opposite to that where the power is supplied

3.7
factory assembled heating cable set
heating cable set (unit) supplied with components, which are assembled by the manufacturer

3.8
field assembled heating cable
heating cable supplied in bulk with components to be assembled during installation

3.9
heating cable
cable, with or without an electrically conductive screen, metallic or equivalent, sheath or armour intended for emitting heat for heating purposes