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GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION
PUBLICATION GROUPÉE DE SÉCURITÉ

Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 031: Safety requirements for hand-held and hand-manipulated probe assemblies for electrical test and measurement

Exigences de sécurité pour appareils électriques de mesurage, de régulation et de laboratoire – Partie 031: Exigences de sécurité pour sondes équipées tenues à la main et manipulées pour mesurage et essais électriques



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CONTENTS

FOREWORD 7
1 Scope 10
2 Normative references 10
3 Terms and definitions 11
3.1 Parts and accessories 11
3.2 Quantities 12
3.3 Tests 12
3.4 Safety terms 13
3.5 Insulation 14
4 General 15
4.1 Type of probe assemblies 15
4.2 Safety aspects 19
4.2.1 Identified HAZARDS 19
4.2.2 Aspects excluded 19
4.3 Verification 19
4.4 Environmental conditions 20
4.4.1 Normal environmental conditions 20
4.4.2 Extended environmental conditions 20
5 Tests 20
5.1 General 20
5.2 Sequence of tests 21
5.3 Reference test conditions 21
5.3.1 Environmental conditions 21
5.3.2 State of probe assemblies 21
5.3.3 Position of the probe assembly 21
5.3.4 Accessories 21
5.3.5 Covers and removable parts 21
5.3.6 Input and output voltages 22
5.3.7 Controls 22
5.3.8 Connections 22
5.3.9 Short-term or intermittent operation 22
5.4 Testing in SINGLE FAULT CONDITION 22
5.4.1 General 22
5.4.2 Application of fault conditions 22
5.4.3 Duration of tests 23
5.4.4 Conformity after application of fault conditions 23
5.5 Tests in REASONABLY FORESEEABLE MISUSE 23
5.5.1 General 23
5.5.2 Fuses 23
6 Marking and documentation 24
6.1 Marking 24
6.1.1 General 24
6.1.2 Identification 24
6.1.3 Fuses 25
6.1.4 CONNECTORS and operating devices 25
6.1.5 RATING 26

6.2 Warning markings 26
6.3 Durability of markings 26
6.4 Documentation 27
6.4.1 General 27
6.4.2 Probe assembly RATING 27
6.4.3 Probe assembly operation 27
6.4.4 Probe assembly maintenance and service 28
7 Protection against electric shock 28
7.1 General 28
7.2 Determination of ACCESSIBLE parts 29
7.2.1 General 29
7.2.2 Examination 29
7.2.3 Openings for pre-set controls 30
7.3 Limit values for ACCESSIBLE parts 30
7.3.1 General 30
7.3.2 Levels in NORMAL CONDITION 31
7.3.3 Levels in SINGLE FAULT CONDITION 31
7.3.4 Measurement of voltage and touch current 33
7.4 Means of protection against electric shock 36
7.4.1 General 36
7.4.2 CONNECTORS 37
7.4.3 PROBE TIPS 39
7.4.4 Impedance 42
7.4.5 PROTECTIVE IMPEDANCE 42
7.4.6 BASIC INSULATION, SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION, DOUBLE INSULATION and REINFORCED INSULATION 42
7.5 Insulation requirements 43
7.5.1 The nature of insulation 43
7.5.2 CLEARANCES 43
7.5.3 CREEPAGE DISTANCES 48
7.5.4 Solid insulation for probe assemblies 50
7.6 Procedure for voltage tests 55
7.6.1 General 55
7.6.2 Humidity preconditioning 56
7.6.3 Conduct of tests 56
7.6.4 Test voltages 57
7.6.5 Test procedures 59
7.7 Constructional requirements for protection against electric shock 60
7.7.1 General 60
7.7.2 Insulating materials 60
7.7.3 ENCLOSURES of probe assemblies with DOUBLE INSULATION or REINFORCED INSULATION 60
7.7.4 PROBE WIRE attachment 61
8 Protection against mechanical HAZARDS 64
9 Resistance to mechanical stresses 64
9.1 General 64
9.2 Rigidity test 65
9.3 Drop test 65
9.4 Impact swing test 65

10 Temperature limits 66
11 Protection against HAZARDS from fluids 67
11.1 Cleaning 67
11.2 Specially protected probe assemblies 67
12 Components 67
12.1 General 67
12.2 Fuses 67
12.3 PROBE WIRE 68
12.3.1 General 68
12.3.2 RATING of PROBE WIRE 68
12.3.3 Pressure test at high temperature for insulations 68
12.3.4 Tests for resistance of insulation to cracking 70
12.3.5 Voltage test 70
12.3.6 Tensile test 71
13 Prevention of HAZARD from arc flash and short-circuits 73
13.1 General 73
13.2 Exposed conductive parts 73
Annex A (normative) Measuring circuits for touch current (see 7.3) 74
A.1 Measuring circuits for AC with frequencies up to 1 MHz and for DC 74
A.2 Measuring circuits for AC with sinusoidal frequencies up to 100 Hz and for DC 74
A.3 Current measuring circuit for electrical burns at frequencies above 100 kHz 75
A.4 Current measuring circuit for WET LOCATIONS 76
Annex B (normative) Standard test fingers 78
Annex C (normative) Measurement of CLEARANCES and CREEPAGE DISTANCES 81
Annex D (normative) Routine spark tests on PROBE WIRE 83
D.1 General 83
D.2 Spark test procedure 83
D.3 Routine spark test method for PROBE WIRE 85
Annex E (informative) 4 mm CONNECTORS 87
E.1 General 87
E.2 Dimensions 87
Annex F (normative) MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 89
F.1 General 89
F.2 MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 89
F.2.1 MEASUREMENT CATEGORY II 89
F.2.2 MEASUREMENT CATEGORY III 89
F.2.3 MEASUREMENT CATEGORY IV 89
F.2.4 Probe assemblies without a MEASUREMENT CATEGORY RATING 90
Annex G (informative) Determination of CLEARANCES for Table 2 92
Annex H (informative) Line-to-neutral voltages for common mains supply systems 93
Annex I (informative) Index of defined terms 95
Bibliography 97

Figure 1 – Example of a STACKABLE CONNECTOR with a male CONNECTOR and a female TERMINAL 12
Figure 2 – Examples of Type A probe assemblies 16

Figure 3 – Example of Type B probe assemblies 17
Figure 4 – Examples of Type D probe assemblies 18
Figure 5 – Examples of Type E probe assemblies 18
Figure 6 – Examples of Type F probe assemblies 19
Figure 7 – Methods for determination of ACCESSIBLE parts 30
Figure 8 – Capacitance level versus voltage in NORMAL CONDITION and SINGLE FAULT CONDITION (see 7.3.2 c) and 7.3.3 c)) 32
Figure 9 – Voltage and touch current measurement 33
Figure 10 – Voltage and touch current measurement for the REFERENCE CONNECTOR 34
Figure 11 – Voltage and touch current measurement with shielded test probe 35
Figure 12 – Maximum test probe input voltage for 70 mA touch current 36
Figure 13 – Protection by a PROTECTIVE FINGERGUARD 40
Figure 14 – Protection by distance 40
Figure 15 – Protection by tactile indicator 41
Figure 16 – Example of probe assembly with IP2X PROBE TIP 41
Figure 17 – Example of recurring peak voltage 47
Figure 18 – Distance between conductors on an interface between two layers 52
Figure 19 – Distance between adjacent conductors along an interface of two layers 53
Figure 20 – Distance between adjacent conductors located between the same two layers 54
Figure 21 – Flexing test 62
Figure 22 – Rotational flexing test 64
Figure 23 – Impact swing test 66
Figure 24 – Indentation device 69
Figure A.1 – Measuring circuit for AC with frequencies up to 1 MHz and for DC 74
Figure A.2 – Measuring circuits for AC with sinusoidal frequencies up to 100 Hz and for DC 75
Figure A.3 – Current measuring circuit for electrical burns 76
Figure A.4 – Current measuring circuit for high frequency test probes 76
Figure A.5 – Current measuring circuit for WET LOCATIONS 77
Figure B.1 – Rigid test finger 78
Figure B.2 – Jointed test finger 79
Figure D.1 – Bead chain configuration (if applicable) 84
Figure E.1 – Recommended dimensions of 4 mm CONNECTORS 88
Figure F.1 – Example to identify the locations of MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 90

Table 1 – Symbols 25
Table 2 – CLEARANCES for unmated CONNECTORS 38
Table 3 – Multiplication factors for CLEARANCES of probe assembly RATED for operation at altitudes up to 5 000 m 44
Table 4 – CLEARANCES for probe assemblies RATED for MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 44
Table 5 – CLEARANCE values for the calculation of 7.5.2.3.2 46
Table 6 – CLEARANCES for BASIC INSULATION in probe assemblies subjected to recurring peak voltages or WORKING VOLTAGES with frequencies above 30 kHz 48
Table 7 – CREEPAGE DISTANCES for BASIC INSULATION or SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION 49

Table 8 – Impulse test voltages for testing electric strength of solid insulation for probe assemblies RATED for MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 51
Table 9 – AC test voltages for testing electric strength of solid insulation for probe assemblies RATED for MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 51
Table 10 – Minimum values for distance or thickness of solid insulation for probe assemblies RATED for MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 53
Table 11 – Test voltages based on CLEARANCES 58
Table 12 – Correction factors according to test site altitude for test voltages for CLEARANCES 59
Table 13 – Pull forces for PROBE WIRE attachment tests 63
Table 14 – Surface temperature limits in NORMAL CONDITION 66
Table 15 – Diameter of mandrel and numbers of turns 70
Table C.1 – Dimension of *X* 81
Table C.2 – Methods of measuring CLEARANCES and CREEPAGE DISTANCES 81
Table D.1 – Maximum centre-to-centre spacings of bead chains 83
Table D.2 – Formula for maximum speed of wire in terms of electrode length *L* of link- or bead-chain electrode 85
Table F.1 – Characteristics of MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES 91
Table G.1 – CLEARANCES values for Table 2 92
Table H.1 – Line-to-neutral voltages for common mains supply systems 94

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR MEASUREMENT, CONTROL, AND LABORATORY USE –

Part 031: Safety requirements for hand-held and hand-manipulated probe assemblies for electrical test and measurement

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IEC 61010-031 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 66: Safety of measuring, control and laboratory equipment. It is an International Standard.

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

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2015, and Amendment 1:2018. IEC 61010-031 is a stand-alone standard.

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

a) the scope has been made succinct. General information from the scope of Edition 2 has been moved to a new Clause 4. Consequently, Clause 4 to Clause 8 of Edition 2 have been renumbered. Clause 9 of Edition 2 has been deleted;

b) in Clause 2, normative references have been dated and new normative references have been added;

c) in 3.1.4, the definition of PROBE TIP has been modified;

d) in 4.1, there is no longer any differentiation between high voltage and low voltage probe assemblies. Type C probe assemblies have been merged with Type B probe assemblies;

e) in 4.1 d) "Kelvin" probes have been added to the list of probe assemblies as a new Type E and a new Figure 5;

f) in 4.1 e), probes for voltage measurement without electrical connection to conductors have been added to the list of probe assemblies as a new Type F and a new Figure 6;

g) in 4.2.1, spread of fire is no longer considered as a HAZARD;

h) Subclause 4.4.2.5 from Edition 2 has been deleted;

i) Subclause 4.4.4.3 from Edition 2 has been deleted;

j) in 5.4.4.1 consideration has been given to SPACINGS and impedance;

k) in 6.1.1, removable parts of PROBE TIPS which bear markings are allowed;

l) in 6.1.5, the voltage to be marked for MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES is the AC line-to-neutral or DC voltage;

m) in 7.4.2, requirements for unmated CONNECTORS have been modified as follows:

   1) Table 2 has been modified and expanded,

   2) a calculation method for CLEARANCES of CONNECTORS above 20 kV has been defined,

   3) CREEPAGE DISTANCES have been aligned with CLEARANCES;

n) in 7.4.3.1 and 7.4.3.5, requirements for IP2X PROBE TIPS with retractable sleeve have been added;

o) in 7.4.3.2, PROBE TIPS are now applicable to non-contact probe assemblies;

p) in 7.5.2.3.2, the values of Table 5 have been modified;

q) in 7.6.2, voltage tests of CLEARANCES are done without humidity preconditioning;

r) pre-treatments for rigidity test from Clause 10 of Edition 2 have been moved to 9.2;

s) Subclause 11.1 of Edition 2 has been deleted;

t) addition of an exception for Type E probe assembly in 13.2. Removable parts of PROBE TIPS which bear markings are allowed;

u) Figure F.1 has been modified;

v) Annex G has been added, for determination of CLEARANCES for Table 2**;**

w) Annex H has been added, covering line-to-neutral voltages for common mains supply systems.

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

Draft	Report on voting
66/770/FDIS	66/771/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/publications.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61010 series, published under the general title, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use*, can be found on the IEC website.

In this document the following print types are used:

– requirements and definitions: in roman type;

– NOTES and EXAMPLES: in smaller roman type;

– *conformity and tests: in italic type;*

– terms used throughout this document which have been defined in Clause 3: SMALL ROMAN CAPITALS.

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SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR MEASUREMENT, CONTROL, AND LABORATORY USE –

Part 031: Safety requirements for hand-held and hand-manipulated probe assemblies for electrical test and measurement

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61010 specifies safety requirements for hand-held and hand-manipulated probe assemblies for electrical test and measurement, and their related accessories. These probe assemblies are for non-contact or direct electrical connection between a part and electrical test and measurement equipment. They can be fixed to the equipment or be detachable accessories for the equipment.

This group safety publication focusing on safety essential requirements is primarily intended to be used as a product safety standard for the products mentioned in the scope, but is also intended to be used by technical committees in the preparation of publications for products similar to those mentioned in the scope of this group safety publication, in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications and/or group safety publications in the preparation of its 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 60027-1:1992, *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology – Part 1: General*
IEC 60027-1:1992/AMD1:1997
IEC 60027-1:1992/AMD2:2005

IEC 60027-2:2019, *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology – Part 2: Telecommunications and electronics*

IEC 60027-4:2006, *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology – Part 4: Rotating electric machines*

IEC 60529:1989, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*
IEC 60529:1989/AMD1:1999
IEC 60529:1989/AMD2:2013

IEC 61010-1:2010, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 1: General requirements*
IEC 61010-1:2010/AMD1:2016

IEC 61180:2016, *High-voltage test techniques for low-voltage equipment – Definitions, test and procedure requirements, test equipment*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply (see Annex I for index of defined terms).

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

3.1 Parts and accessories

3.1.1
TERMINAL
component provided for the connection of a device (equipment) to external conductors

Note 1 to entry: TERMINALS can contain one or several contacts and the term includes sockets, pins, etc.

3.1.2
ENCLOSURE
part providing protection of a probe assembly against certain external influences and, in any direction, protection against direct contact

3.1.3
PROTECTIVE FINGERGUARD
part of the ENCLOSURE that indicates the limit of safe access and that reduces the risk of the OPERATOR touching HAZARDOUS LIVE parts

3.1.4
PROBE TIP
part of a probe assembly or accessory which can touch the point being measured or tested

3.1.5
CONNECTOR
component which is attached to the PROBE WIRE, to connect the probe assembly to a TERMINAL of the equipment or to another probe assembly

3.1.6
REFERENCE CONNECTOR
CONNECTOR for connection to a reference point

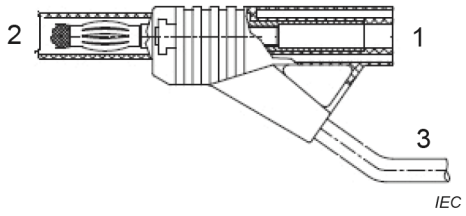
3.1.7
TOOL
external device, including a key or coin, used to aid a person performing a mechanical function

3.1.8
PROBE WIRE
flexible wire or cable used as part of the probe assembly or its accessories, consisting of one or more conductors and associated insulation

3.1.9
SPRING-LOADED CLIP
probe or probe accessory with one or more hooks or jaws forced by a spring to grip the part being measured or tested

3.1.10
STACKABLE CONNECTOR
CONNECTOR assembly which contains an additional TERMINAL

EXAMPLE Figure 1 is an example of a STACKABLE CONNECTOR with a male CONNECTOR and a female TERMINAL.



Key

1 TERMINAL for ADDITIONAL CONNECTOR

2 CONNECTOR

3 PROBE WIRE

Figure 1 – Example of a STACKABLE CONNECTOR with a male CONNECTOR and a female TERMINAL

3.2 Quantities

3.2.1
RATED
RATED value
condition or quantity value assigned, generally by a manufacturer, for a specified operating condition of a component, device, or probe assembly

3.2.2
RATING
set of RATED values and operating conditions

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-16-11]

3.2.3
WORKING VOLTAGE
highest RMS value of the AC or DC voltage across any particular insulation which can continuously appear during NORMAL USE

Note 1 to entry: Transients and voltage fluctuations are not considered to be part of the WORKING VOLTAGE.

3.3 Tests

3.3.1
TYPE TEST
test of one or more samples of a probe assembly (or parts of a probe assembly) made to a particular design, to show that the design and construction meet the requirements of this document

Note 1 to entry: This is an enlargement of the IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-16-16 definition to cover design as well as construction.

3.3.2
ROUTINE TEST
conformity test made on each individual item during or after manufacture

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-16-17]

3.4 Safety terms

3.4.1
ACCESSIBLE
able to be touched with a standard test finger or test pin, when used as specified in 7.2

3.4.2
HAZARDOUS LIVE
capable of rendering an electric shock or electric burn

3.4.3
HAZARD
potential source of harm

3.4.4
PROTECTIVE IMPEDANCE
component or assembly of components whose impedance, construction and reliability are suitable to provide protection against electric shock

3.4.5
NORMAL USE
operation, including stand-by, according to the instructions for use or for the obvious intended purpose

3.4.6
NORMAL CONDITION
condition in which all means for protection against HAZARDS are intact

3.4.7
SINGLE FAULT CONDITION
condition in which one means for protection against a HAZARD is defective or one fault is present which could cause a HAZARD

Note 1 to entry: If a SINGLE FAULT CONDITION results unavoidably in one or more other fault conditions, all the failures are considered as one SINGLE FAULT CONDITION.

3.4.8
OPERATOR
person operating the probe assembly for its intended purpose

3.4.9
RESPONSIBLE BODY
individual or group responsible for the safe use and maintenance of probe assemblies

3.4.10
WET LOCATION
location where water or another conductive liquid may be present and is likely to cause reduced human body impedance due to wetting of the contact between the human body and the probe assembly, or wetting of the contact between the human body and the environment

3.4.11
MEASUREMENT CATEGORY
classification of testing and measuring circuits according to the types of mains to which they are intended to be connected

Note 1 to entry: MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES take into account overvoltage categories, short-circuit current levels, the location where the test or measurement is to be made and some forms of energy limitation or transient protection included in the building installation (see Annex F for more information).

3.4.12
REASONABLY FORESEEABLE MISUSE
use of a product in a way not intended by the supplier, but which may result from readily predictable human behaviour

3.5 Insulation

3.5.1
BASIC INSULATION
insulation which provides basic protection

Note 1 to entry: This concept does not apply to insulation used exclusively for functional purposes.

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

3.5.2
SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION
independent insulation applied in addition to BASIC INSULATION that provides fault protection

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-06-07]

3.5.3
DOUBLE INSULATION
insulation comprising both BASIC INSULATION and SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-06-08]

3.5.4
REINFORCED INSULATION
insulation that provides a degree of protection against electric shock equivalent to DOUBLE INSULATION

Note 1 to entry: REINFORCED INSULATION can comprise several layers that cannot be tested singly as BASIC INSULATION or SUPPLEMENTARY INSULATION.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-06-09]

3.5.5
POLLUTION
addition of foreign matter, solid, liquid or gaseous (ionized gases), that can produce a reduction of dielectric strength or surface resistivity

3.5.6
POLLUTION DEGREE
numeral indicating the level of POLLUTION that can be present in the environment

3.5.7
POLLUTION DEGREE 1
no POLLUTION or only dry, non-conductive POLLUTION occurs, which has no influence

3.5.8
POLLUTION DEGREE 2
only non-conductive POLLUTION occurs except that occasionally a temporary conductivity caused by condensation is expected

3.5.9
POLLUTION DEGREE 3
conductive POLLUTION occurs, or dry, non-conductive POLLUTION occurs which becomes conductive due to condensation which is expected

Note 1 to entry: In such conditions, probe assembly is normally protected against exposure to direct sunlight, precipitation, and full wind pressure, but neither temperature nor humidity is controlled.

3.5.10
CLEARANCE
shortest distance in air between two conductive parts

3.5.11
CREEPAGE DISTANCE
shortest distance along the surface of a solid insulating material between two conductive parts

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-151:2001, 151-15-50]

3.5.12
SPACING
any combination of CLEARANCES and CREEPAGE DISTANCES

4 General

4.1 Type of probe assemblies

The safety of the following types of probe assemblies are covered by this document.

a) Type A: non-attenuating probe assemblies. Non-attenuating probe assemblies that are RATED for direct connection to voltages exceeding 30 V AC RMS, 42,4 V peak, or 60 V DC, but not exceeding 63 kV. They do not incorporate components which are intended to provide a voltage divider function or a signal conditioning function, but they can contain non-attenuating components such as fuses (see Figure 2).

b) Type B: attenuating or divider probe assemblies. Attenuating or divider probe assemblies that are RATED for direct connection to voltages exceeding 30 V AC RMS, 42,4 V peak, or 60 V DC but not exceeding 63 kV. The divider function can be carried out wholly within the probe assembly, or partly within the test or measurement equipment to be used with the probe assembly (see Figure 3 a) and Figure 3 b)).

c) Type D: attenuating, non-attenuating or other signal conditioning probe assemblies that are RATED for direct connection only to voltages not exceeding 30 V AC RMS, 42,4 V peak, or 60 V DC, and are suitable for currents exceeding 8 A (see Figure 4).

d) Type E: non-attenuating probe assemblies for 4-pole precise resistance measurements (see Figure 5).

   EXAMPLE: Kelvin probes.

e) Type F: probe assemblies for non-contact AC voltage test and measurement. These probe assemblies are intended for use on insulated or non-insulated conductors without electrical contact (see Figure 6).

   NOTE Type F probe assemblies can be stand-alone probes or connected by a PROBE WIRE to equipment.