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TECHNICAL REPORT

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High-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems – Guidance to the specification and design evaluation of AC filters – Part 5: AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for HVDC systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

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HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS – GUIDANCE TO THE SPECIFICATION AND DESIGN EVALUATION OF AC FILTERS –

Part 5: AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for HVDC systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

FOREWORD

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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 document is English.

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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.

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INTRODUCTION

The IEC TR 62001 series is structured in five parts:

IEC TR 62001-1 – Overview

This part concerns specifications of AC filters for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems with line-commutated converters, permissible distortion limits, harmonic generation, filter arrangements, filter performance calculation, filter switching and reactive power management and customer specified parameters and requirements.

IEC TR 62001-2 – Performance

This part deals with current-based interference criteria, field measurements and verification.

IEC TR 62001-3 – Modelling

This part addresses the harmonic interaction across converters, pre-existing harmonics, AC network impedance modelling, simulation of AC filter performance.

IEC TR 62001-4 – Equipment

This part concerns steady-state and transient ratings of AC filters and their components, power losses, audible noise, design issues and special applications, filter protection, seismic requirements, equipment design and test parameters.

IEC TR 62001-5 – AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

This part concerns specific issues of AC filter design related to VSC HVDC systems. The rapid proliferation, increasing power, and technical advances of voltage source converter (VSC) HVDC technology in recent years has had a revolutionary impact on large-scale electrical power transmission. In the sphere of harmonics and filtering, the introduction of VSC technology has been highly significant. The harmonic signature of these converters is not only smaller in magnitude than equivalent line commutated converter (LCC) HVDC schemes, but also radically different in nature. Due to the switching and control methods which may be used for VSC, the generation of non-integer harmonics (interharmonics) may be an inherent characteristic of the conversion process. The frequency range of interest has also extended upwards.

The existing national and international regulations and recommendations governing harmonics were originally written considering the types of converters and associated harmonics relevant at the time of their production. With the arrival of new conversion technologies, the guidelines available are proving inadequate to deal with new harmonic profiles. Individual regulatory bodies are hastening to adapt their practices to the new technology and this document aims to aid them by providing a firm basis of appropriate technical knowledge.

The implications of VSC transmission for harmonic generation are perhaps not widely enough understood throughout the industry in terms of the frequencies and magnitudes produced and the necessity (or otherwise) of having dedicated filters. The modelling of a VSC as a harmonic voltage source rather than a current source may also not be fully appreciated in its implications for regulatory methodologies. The generation of interharmonics due to the control techniques used by some VSC HVDC converters also has profound implications.

A further topic of interest is the effect of VSC installations on pre-existing (background) harmonics. Some designs of VSC now produce a waveform so clean that it is quasi-sinusoidal and in many applications harmonic filters may not be required for mitigation of the harmonics generated by the converter. However, the converter will have a harmonic impedance as seen from the network, and it is important to be able to assess this harmonic impedance and calculate its impact in terms of possible amplification (or damping) of the pre-existing network harmonics. In some instances, this amplification of pre-existing harmonics may be the only reason for having to install filtering for a HVDC VSC.

The above aspects mainly refer to steady-state power quality issues. A separate topic is the interaction of the VSC HVDC control system with physical resonances in the connected power system. Electric power grid development is tending towards an increasing installation of underground and submarine cables, especially in the context of dispersed renewable generation. In addition, the phase-out of conventional generation together with the increasing installation of new generation sources coupled via converters and the changing characteristics of network loads will result in a reduction of harmonic damping in the system. Some converter control loops can have a bandwidth of several hundred hertz, and thus are able to interact with grid resonances. As a consequence, oscillations related to system harmonic resonances might appear and new mitigation techniques and assessment methods may become a challenge. Depending on system damping, such oscillations may be damped, sustained in steady-state or increase until some form of tripping or shutdown occurs. This phenomenon has become widely known as "harmonic stability" and although the suitability of this name may be questioned, it has been adopted in this document.

HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) SYSTEMS – GUIDANCE TO THE SPECIFICATION AND DESIGN EVALUATION OF AC FILTERS –

Part 5: AC side harmonics and appropriate harmonic limits for HVDC systems with voltage sourced converters (VSC)

1 Scope

This part of IEC TR 62001, which is a Technical Report, provides guidance on the state-of-the art of VSC technology in relation to harmonics and predicted future developments, on the harmonic profile of present and predicted future VSC architectures and how they are characterised and modelled – as voltage sources, current sources, or otherwise. It also assesses the harmonic impedance of VSC and the possible impact on pre-existing background harmonics emanating from loads or generation units in the supply network and considers how VSC harmonics are assessed under current IEC standards and national regulations, and identify areas where improvements could be made, research can be needed, or other bodies consulted, for example when considering interharmonics. This document can be a reference source on the subject, which will also contain recommendations for use by those charged with modifying existing standards to adapt to VSC HVDC systems.

Issues relating to harmonics on the DC side of the converters, including DC grids, are deliberately not covered in this document, but are addressed by a separate CIGRE Technical Brochure [1][1].

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 TR 62543, *High-voltage direct current (HVDC) power transmission using voltage sourced converters (VSC)*

IEC 62747, *Terminology for voltage-sourced converters (VSC) for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems*

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1 Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.