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IEC 61215-2:2021, IDT
(ICS 27.160)

SINGAPORE STANDARD

Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval

– Part 2: Test procedures

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National Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Working Group on Solar Photovoltaics Product and Accessories set up by the Technical Committee on Electrical and Electronic Products under the purview of the Electrical and Electronics Standards Committee.

This standard is an identical adoption of IEC 61215-2:2021, “Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 2: Test procedures” published by the International Electrotechnical Commission.

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IEC 61215-2

Edition 2.0 2021-02

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval –
Part 2: Test procedures**

**Modules photovoltaïques (PV) pour applications terrestres – Qualification de la
conception et homologation –
Partie 2: Procédures d'essai**



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IEC 61215-2

Edition 2.0 2021-02

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval –
Part 2: Test procedures**

**Modules photovoltaïques (PV) pour applications terrestres – Qualification de la
conception et homologation –
Partie 2: Procédures d'essai**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	6
INTRODUCTION	8
1 Scope	9
2 Normative references	9
3 Terms and definitions	11
4 Test procedures	12
4.1 Visual inspection (MQT 01)	12
4.1.1 Purpose	12
4.1.2 Procedure	12
4.1.3 Requirements	12
4.2 Maximum power determination (MQT 02)	12
4.2.1 Purpose	12
4.2.2 Apparatus	12
4.2.3 Procedure	13
4.3 Insulation test (MQT 03)	13
4.3.1 Purpose	13
4.3.2 Apparatus	14
4.3.3 Test conditions	14
4.3.4 Procedure	14
4.3.5 Test requirements	15
4.4 Measurement of temperature coefficients (MQT 04)	15
4.5 Placeholder section, formerly NMOT	15
4.6 Performance at STC (MQT 06.1)	15
4.6.1 Purpose	15
4.6.2 Apparatus	15
4.6.3 Procedure for measuring at STC (MQT 06.1)	16
4.7 Performance at low irradiance (MQT 07)	16
4.7.1 Purpose	16
4.7.2 Apparatus	16
4.7.3 Procedure	17
4.8 Outdoor exposure test (MQT 08)	17
4.8.1 Purpose	17
4.8.2 Apparatus	17
4.8.3 Procedure	17
4.8.4 Final measurements	18
4.8.5 Requirements	18
4.9 Hot-spot endurance test (MQT 09)	18
4.9.1 Purpose	18
4.9.2 Hot-spot effect	18
4.9.3 Classification of cell interconnection	19
4.9.4 Apparatus	20
4.9.5 Procedure	21
4.9.6 Final measurements	28
4.9.7 Requirements	28
4.10 UV preconditioning test (MQT 10)	28
4.10.1 Purpose	28

4.10.2	Apparatus	28
4.10.3	Procedure	29
4.10.4	Final measurements	29
4.10.5	Requirements	29
4.11	Thermal cycling test (MQT 11)	29
4.11.1	Purpose	29
4.11.2	Apparatus	29
4.11.3	Procedure	30
4.11.4	Final measurements	31
4.11.5	Requirements	31
4.12	Humidity-freeze test (MQT 12)	32
4.12.1	Purpose	32
4.12.2	Apparatus	32
4.12.3	Procedure	32
4.12.4	Final measurements	32
4.12.5	Requirements	32
4.13	Damp heat test (MQT 13)	33
4.13.1	Purpose	33
4.13.2	Apparatus	33
4.13.3	Procedure	33
4.13.4	Final measurements	34
4.13.5	Requirements	34
4.14	Robustness of terminations (MQT 14)	34
4.14.1	Purpose	34
4.14.2	Retention of junction box on mounting surface (MQT 14.1)	34
4.14.3	Test of cord anchorage (MQT 14.2)	34
4.15	Wet leakage current test (MQT 15)	35
4.15.1	Purpose	35
4.15.2	Apparatus	35
4.15.3	Procedure	35
4.15.4	Requirements	35
4.16	Static mechanical load test (MQT 16)	36
4.16.1	Purpose	36
4.16.2	Apparatus	36
4.16.3	Procedure	37
4.16.4	Final measurements	37
4.16.5	Requirements	37
4.17	Hail test (MQT 17)	37
4.17.1	Purpose	37
4.17.2	Apparatus	37
4.17.3	Procedure	38
4.17.4	Final measurements	39
4.17.5	Requirements	39
4.18	Bypass diode testing (MQT 18)	40
4.18.1	Bypass diode thermal test (MQT 18.1)	40
4.18.2	Bypass diode functionality test (MQT 18.2)	43
4.19	Stabilization (MQT 19)	44
4.19.1	General	44
4.19.2	Criterion definition for stabilization	44

4.19.3	Light induced stabilization procedures	45
4.19.4	Other stabilization procedures	46
4.19.5	Initial stabilization (MQT 19.1)	46
4.19.6	Final stabilization (MQT 19.2)	46
4.19.7	Stress-specific stabilization – BO LID (MQT 19.3)	47
4.20	Cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load test (MQT 20)	47
4.20.1	Purpose	47
4.20.2	Procedure	47
4.20.3	Final measurements	47
4.20.4	Requirements	48
4.21	Potential induced degradation test (MQT 21)	48
4.21.1	Purpose	48
4.21.2	Samples	48
4.21.3	Apparatus	48
4.21.4	Procedure	48
4.21.5	Final measurements	48
4.21.6	Requirements	49
4.22	Bending test (MQT 22)	49
4.22.1	Purpose	49
4.22.2	Apparatus	49
4.22.3	Procedure	49
4.22.4	Final measurements	49
4.22.5	Requirements	49
Annex A (informative) Recommended setup for managing weights during mechanical loading (MQT 16)		50
Bibliography		54
Figure 1 – Case S, series connection with optional bypass diode		19
Figure 2 – Case PS, parallel-series connection with optional bypass diode		19
Figure 3 – Case SP, series-parallel connection with optional bypass diode		20
Figure 4 – Module I - V characteristics with different cells totally shadowed		21
Figure 5 – Module I - V characteristics with the test cell shadowed at different levels		23
Figure 6 – Hot-spot effect in a MLI thin-film module with serially connected cells		24
Figure 7 – Thermal cycling test – Temperature and applied current profile		30
Figure 8 – Proper attachment of 5 N weight to junction box for module utilizing a) electrical termination leads, b) or wire for attachment, and c) only one junction box		31
Figure 9 – Humidity-freeze cycle – Temperature and humidity profile		33
Figure 10 – Hail-test equipment		38
Figure 11 – Hail test impact locations: top for wafer/cell based technologies, bottom for monolithic processed thin film technologies		40
Figure 12 – Bypass diode thermal test		42
Figure A.1 – 3D view (at left of figure), end view (at top right), and side view (at bottom right) of gantry crane over mounting jig and loading jig		50
Figure A.2 – 3D close up views of mounting jig (right) and loading jig (left)		51
Figure A.3 – 2D view of mounting jig and loading jig		52
Figure A.4 – 3D view of loading jig		52
Figure A.5 – Close-up view of loading jig		53

Table 1 – Voltage stress levels	14
Table 2 – Ice-ball masses and test velocities	38
Table 3 – Impact locations	39

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DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –****Part 2: Test procedures****FOREWORD**

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International Standard IEC 61215-2 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems.

This second edition of IEC 61215-2 cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC 61215-2 issued in 2016; it constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) Addition of cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load testing (MQT 20).
- b) Addition of a test for detection of potential-induced degradation (MQT 21).
- c) Addition of test methods required for bifacial PV modules.
- d) Addition of test methods required for flexible modules. This includes the addition of the bending test (MQT 22).
- e) Revision of simulator requirements to ensure uncertainty is both well-defined and minimized.

- f) Correction to the hot spot endurance test, where the procedure for monolithically integrated (MLI) thin film technologies (MQT 09.2) previously included two sections describing a procedure only appropriate for silicon modules.
- g) Selection of three diodes, rather than all, for testing in the bypass diode thermal test (MQT 18).
- h) Removal of the nominal module operating test (NMOT), and associated test of performance at NMOT, from the IEC 61215 series.

Informative Annex A of IEC 61215-1:2021 explains the background and reasoning behind some of the more substantial changes that were made in the IEC 61215 series in progressing from edition 1 to edition 2.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
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Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61215 series, published under the general title *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval*, can be found on the IEC website.

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

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INTRODUCTION

Whereas Part 1 of this standards series describes requirements (both in general and specific with respect to device technology), the sub-parts of Part 1 define technology variations and Part 2 defines a set of test procedures necessary for design qualification and type approval. The test procedures described in Part 2 are valid for all device technologies.

TERRESTRIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) MODULES – DESIGN QUALIFICATION AND TYPE APPROVAL –

Part 2: Test procedures

1 Scope

This document lays down requirements for the design qualification of terrestrial photovoltaic modules suitable for long-term operation in open-air climates. The useful service life of modules so qualified will depend on their design, their environment and the conditions under which they are operated. Test results are not construed as a quantitative prediction of module lifetime.

In climates where 98th percentile operating temperatures exceed 70 °C, users are recommended to consider testing to higher temperature test conditions as described in IEC TS 63126¹. Users desiring qualification of PV products with lesser lifetime expectations are recommended to consider testing designed for PV in consumer electronics, as described in IEC TS 63163 (under development). Users wishing to gain confidence that the characteristics tested in IEC 61215 appear consistently in a manufactured product may wish to utilize IEC 62941 regarding quality systems in PV manufacturing.

This document is intended to apply to all terrestrial flat plate module materials such as crystalline silicon module types as well as thin-film modules.

This document does not apply to modules used with concentrated sunlight although it may be utilized for low concentrator modules (1 to 3 suns). For low concentration modules, all tests are performed using the irradiance, current, voltage and power levels expected at the design concentration.

The objective of this test sequence is to determine the electrical characteristics of the module and to show, as far as possible within reasonable constraints of cost and time, that the module is capable of withstanding prolonged exposure outdoors. Accelerated test conditions are empirically based on those necessary to reproduce selected observed field failures and are applied equally across module types. Acceleration factors may vary with product design and thus not all degradation mechanisms may manifest. Further general information on accelerated test methods including definitions of terms may be found in IEC 62506.

Some long-term degradation mechanisms can only reasonably be detected via component testing, due to long times required to produce the failure and necessity of stress conditions that are expensive to produce over large areas. Component tests that have reached a sufficient level of maturity to set pass/fail criteria with high confidence are incorporated into the IEC 61215 series via addition to Table 1 in IEC 61215-1:2021. In contrast, the tests procedures described in this series, in IEC 61215-2, are performed on modules.

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.

¹ Information on 98th percentile operating temperature as a function of system location and mounting configuration is included in IEC TS 63126.

IEC 60068-1, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-21, *Environmental testing – Part 2-21: Tests – Test U: Robustness of terminations and integral mounting devices*

IEC 60068-2-78:2012, *Environmental testing – Part 2-78: Tests – Test Cab: Damp heat, steady state*

IEC 60891, *Photovoltaic devices – Procedures for temperature and irradiance corrections to measured I-V characteristics*

IEC 60904-1, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 1: Measurements of photovoltaic current-voltage characteristics*

IEC 60904-1-1, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 1-1: Measurement of current-voltage characteristics of multi-junction photovoltaic (PV) devices*

IEC TS 60904-1-2, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 1-2: Measurement of current-voltage characteristics of bifacial photovoltaic (PV) devices*

IEC 60904-2, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 2: Requirements for photovoltaic reference devices*

IEC 60904-3, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 3: Measurement principles for terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) solar devices with reference spectral irradiance data*

IEC 60904-7, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 7: Computation of the spectral mismatch correction for measurements of photovoltaic devices*

IEC 60904-8, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 8: Measurement of spectral responsivity of a photovoltaic (PV) device*

IEC 60904-9:2020, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 9: Classification of solar simulator characteristics*

IEC 60904-10, *Photovoltaic devices – Part 10: Methods of linearity measurement*

IEC TR 60904-14: *Photovoltaic devices – Part 14: Guidelines for production line measurements of single-junction PV module maximum power output and reporting at standard test conditions*

IEC 61140, *Protection against electric shock – Common aspects for installation and equipment*

IEC 61215-1:2021, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1: Test requirements*

IEC 61215-1-1, *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval – Part 1-1: Special requirements for testing of crystalline silicon photovoltaic (PV) modules*

IEC 61730-1:2016, *Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification – Part 1: Requirements for construction*

IEC 61730-2, *Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification – Part 2: Requirements for testing*

IEC TS 61836, *Solar photovoltaic energy systems – Terms, definitions and symbols*

IEC TS 62782, *Photovoltaic (PV) modules – Cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load testing*

IEC 62790, *Junction boxes for photovoltaic modules – Safety requirements and tests*

IEC TS 62804-1:2015, *Photovoltaic (PV) modules – Test methods for the detection of potential-induced degradation – Part 1: Crystalline silicon*

IEC TS 63163: –² *Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules for consumer products – Design qualification and type approval*