



**Irish Standard**  
**I.S. EN 50122-1:2022**

**Version 3.00**

**Railway applications - Fixed installations - Electrical safety, earthing and the return circuit - Part 1: Protective provisions against electric shock**

## I.S. EN 50122-1:2022 V3.00

### The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) produces the following categories of formal documents:

I.S. xxx: Irish Standard — national specification based on the consensus of an expert panel and subject to public consultation.

S.R. xxx: Standard Recommendation — recommendation based on the consensus of an expert panel and subject to public consultation.

SWiFT xxx: A rapidly developed recommendatory document based on the consensus of the participants of an NSAI workshop.

NSAI/... xxx: A National adoption of a Technical Regulation (TR), Technical Specification (TS), CEN and/or CENELEC Workshop Agreement (CWA).

I.S. EN 50122-1:2022 V3.00 was published under the authority of the NSAI and came into effect on: 2022-09-07

ICS number(s): 29.280

NSAI  
1 Swift Square  
Northwood, Santry  
Dublin 9  
D09 A0E4  
+353 1 807 3800  
standards@nsai.ie  
[NSAI.ie](https://www.nsa.ie)

Sales  
+353 1 857 6730  
[Standards.ie](https://www.nsa.ie)

Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann

## **National Foreword**

I.S. EN 50122-1:2022 V3.00 is the version of the NSAI adopted European document EN 50122-1:2022, *Railway applications - Fixed installations - Electrical safety, earthing and the return circuit - Part 1: Protective provisions against electric shock*, including any Corrections, Amendments etc. to EN 50122-1:2022.

This normative document by CEN/CENELEC the elaboration of which includes a public enquiry, followed by a Formal Vote of CEN/CENELEC national members and final ratification. This European Standard is published as an identical national standard and every conflicting national standard will be withdrawn. The content of a European Standard does not conflict with the content of any other EN (and HD for CENELEC).

This document does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

For relationships with other publications refer to the NSAI web store.

**Compliance with this document does not of its self confer immunity from legal obligations.**

In line with international standards practice the decimal point is shown as a comma (,) throughout this document.
---

This page intentionally left blank

EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN 50122-1**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

September 2022

ICS 29.280

Supersedes EN 50122-1:2011; EN 50122-1:2011/A1:2011; EN 50122-1:2011/AC:2012; EN 50122-1:2011/A2:2016; EN 50122-1:2011/A3:2016; EN 50122-1:2011/A4:2017

English Version

## Railway applications - Fixed installations - Electrical safety, earthing and the return circuit - Part 1: Protective provisions against electric shock

Applications ferroviaires - Installations fixes - Sécurité électrique, mise à la terre et circuit de retour - Partie 1: Mesures de protection contre les chocs électriques

Bahnanwendungen - Ortsfeste Anlagen - Elektrische Sicherheit, Erdung und Rückleitung - Teil 1: Schutzmaßnahmen gegen elektrischen Schlag

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on 2022-07-25. CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CENELEC member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CENELEC members are the national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.



European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique  
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
European foreword .....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references .....	9
3 Terms and definitions .....	10
3.1 Electrical safety and hazards.....	10
3.2 Earthing and equipotential bonding.....	12
3.3 Return circuit.....	14
3.4 Electric traction power supply system .....	16
3.5 Contact line.....	17
3.6 Corrosion and corrosion protection .....	20
3.7 Current collection.....	20
3.8 Residual current devices .....	21
3.9 General terms.....	21
4 Contact line zone and current collector zone .....	24
4.1 Overhead contact line.....	24
4.2 Ground level conductor rail.....	27
4.3 Trolleybuses and road vehicles using an overhead contact line.....	27
4.4 Limitation of the zones.....	28
5 Protective provisions against direct contact .....	29
5.1 Preconditions .....	29
5.1.1 General.....	29
5.1.2 Design procedure .....	29
5.1.3 Electrical clearances.....	30
5.1.4 Standing surface.....	31
5.2 Protection by clearance .....	32
5.2.1 Calculation method for protection by clearance .....	32
5.2.2 Dimensions of clearances .....	33
5.2.3 Clearances for working persons.....	35
5.2.4 Warning signs.....	35
5.2.5 Minimum height of wires of an overhead contact line system above traffic areas .....	36
5.2.6 Clearances above standing surfaces on vehicles .....	36
5.2.7 Feeders above loading roads.....	36
5.2.8 Clearance between live parts of overhead contact line systems and trees and bushes .....	36
5.3 Protection by electrically protective obstacles.....	36
5.3.1 General.....	36
5.3.2 Common requirements for electrically protective obstacles.....	37
5.3.3 Methods for determining reach.....	38
5.3.4 Requirements for electrically protective obstacles.....	40
5.3.5 Specific requirements for electrically protective obstacles in restricted areas .....	46
5.3.6 Anti climbing provisions.....	47
5.4 Protection against direct contact with live parts mounted on vehicles .....	47
5.5 Protective provisions allowing working under live conditions.....	48
5.5.1 General.....	48
5.5.2 Overhead contact lines for railways beneath structures .....	49
5.5.3 Overhead contact lines for trolley busses and electric road vehicles beneath structures .....	49

5.6	Specific protective provisions against electric shock in ground level conductor rail systems .....	51
5.6.1	Location of conductor rail at platforms .....	51
5.6.2	Exceptions .....	51
5.6.3	Protection provisions in workshops and depots .....	51
5.6.4	Protective boarding for ground level conductor rails in restricted areas .....	52
5.6.5	Requirements for top contact ground level conductor rails in public areas .....	52
5.6.6	Requirements for top contact ground level conductor rails in restricted areas .....	52
5.7	Specific protective provisions against electric shock in systems in which the wheels of the vehicles are not used for return circuit .....	55
5.7.1	General .....	55
5.7.2	Railway systems .....	55
5.7.3	Trolleybus systems and systems for electric road vehicles .....	55
6	Protective provisions against indirect contact and non-galvanic coupling .....	56
6.1	General .....	56
6.2	Protective provisions for exposed-conductive-parts .....	56
6.2.1	AC railways .....	56
6.2.2	DC railways .....	57
6.2.3	Exceptions for low voltage electric traction power supply systems .....	57
6.2.4	Stays of non-conductive masts .....	58
6.3	Protective provisions for wholly or partly conductive structures in the overhead contact line zone or the current collector zone .....	58
6.3.1	Protective provisions by means of connection to the return circuit .....	58
6.3.2	Exceptions for small wholly and partly conductive parts .....	59
6.3.3	Exceptions for temporarily stored parts close to the rails .....	59
6.3.4	Protective provisions preventing contact between conductive parts and live parts .....	59
6.3.5	Protective provisions by means of bare conductive parts connected to the return circuit .....	60
6.3.6	Protective provisions by automatic disconnection of supply .....	60
6.4	Parts which can become hazardous due to inductive or capacitive coupling .....	60
7	Protective provisions for low voltage non-traction power supply systems .....	60
7.1	General .....	60
7.2	Protective provisions for electrical installations in the overhead contact line zone or the current collector zone .....	61
7.2.1	Equipment of protection Class I .....	61
7.2.2	Equipment of protection Class II .....	63
7.2.3	Cables .....	63
7.2.4	Low voltage connected equipment .....	63
7.3	Protective provisions for installations which are endangered by the traction power supply return circuit .....	63
7.3.1	Design of low voltage non-traction power supply .....	63
7.3.2	Low voltage power supply by a TT system on the railway side .....	64
7.3.3	Low voltage power supply by TN system .....	67
7.3.4	Low voltage power supply by IT system .....	69
7.3.5	Special provisions .....	71
8	Protective provisions where track systems, which are utilized for carrying traction return current, or/and overhead contact line systems pass through hazardous zones .....	74
8.1	General .....	74
8.2	Equipotential bonding .....	75
8.3	Parallel pipework .....	76

8.4	Insulating joints .....	76
8.5	Surge arrester .....	76
8.6	Overhead contact line of loading sidings .....	77
9	Limits for touch voltage and protective provisions against the danger of rail potential .....	77
9.1	General .....	77
9.1.1	Preconditions .....	77
9.1.2	Body voltage and touch voltage .....	77
9.1.3	Touch voltage at vehicles .....	77
9.1.4	Short-circuit duration .....	78
9.1.5	Voltage limits and time duration aspects .....	78
9.2	Touch voltage limits in AC railways .....	78
9.2.1	General .....	78
9.2.2	AC voltage limits for the safety of persons .....	79
9.3	Touch voltage limits in DC railways .....	82
9.3.1	General .....	82
9.3.2	DC voltage limits for the safety of persons .....	82
9.4	Access Control .....	85
10	Additional requirements .....	85
10.1	Traction substations and traction switching stations .....	85
10.2	Cables .....	85
10.2.1	General requirements .....	85
10.2.2	Cables in AC electric traction power supply systems .....	86
10.2.3	Cables in DC electric traction systems .....	86
10.3	Extended return circuit connections and earthing conductors .....	86
10.3.1	General requirements .....	86
10.3.2	Continuity of the extended return circuit .....	86
10.3.3	Cross bonding of the return circuit .....	87
10.3.4	Railway systems in which the traction current is confined within insulated conductors .....	87
10.4	Removing of decommissioned contact lines .....	87
10.5	Means of achieving safe isolation between sections .....	87
10.6	Lightning protection .....	87
Annex A (normative)	Clearances from standing surfaces for exceptional use on existing lines with restricted gauge .....	88
Annex B (informative)	Typical layouts of protective obstacles .....	90
B.1	General .....	90
B.2	Examples .....	92
Annex C (normative)	Warning sign .....	99
Annex D (informative)	Guiding values for rail potential gradient .....	100
D.1	AC railways .....	100
D.2	DC railways .....	101
Annex E (informative)	Effective touch voltage and body voltage with respect to the body current .....	102
E.1	Preconditions for the calculation .....	102
E.2	Impedances .....	102
E.3	Body current and related body voltage .....	105
Annex F (normative)	Measurement methods for effective touch voltages .....	108
Annex G (normative)	Use of voltage-limiting devices .....	109
G.1	General .....	109



G.2	Types.....	109
G.3	Technical requirements.....	109
	Bibliography.....	111

## Figures

Figure 1	— Overhead contact line zone and current collector zone.....	26
Figure 2	— Overhead contact line zone and current collector zone for trolley bus systems and electric road vehicles using a bipolar contact line.....	28
Figure 3	— Design procedure to achieve protection against direct contact.....	30
Figure 4	— Manikin model to be used for the analysis of the arm's reach.....	32
Figure 5	— Minimum distances to accessible live parts from standing surfaces accessible to persons.....	34
Figure 6	— Application of taut string line method compared with manikin method.....	39
Figure 7	— Minimum distance behind electrically protective obstacles with openings.....	42
Figure 8	— Example for a gap between a standing surface and an electrically protective obstacle, side view.....	44
Figure 9	— Effect of an electrically protective obstacle on arms reach of person including an object, top view.....	45
Figure 10	— Live parts below standing surfaces.....	46
Figure 11	— Method for the determination of clearances for live parts on the outside of vehicles.....	48
Figure 12	— Example of an insulated obstacle beneath a structure.....	49
Figure 13	— Example of an insulated electrically protective obstacle beneath a structure for an unearthed installation.....	50
Figure 14	— Example of an insulated electrically protective obstacle beneath a structure for a bipolar overhead contact line in which the negative contact wire is earthed or connected to the return circuit of a tramway system.....	51
Figure 15	— Public level crossing, private level crossing.....	52
Figure 16	— Trackside structures.....	53
Figure 17	— Track-side telephone mounted on a signal-post.....	53
Figure 18	— Authorized trackside walking route.....	54
Figure 19	— Railway controlled crossing (depots, goods yard, station crossing).....	54
Figure 20	— Protection Class I equipment installed outside the overhead contact line zone and the current collector zone.....	62
Figure 21	— Typical TT system for AC railways.....	65
Figure 22	— Typical TT system for DC railways.....	66
Figure 23	— Typical TN system for AC railways.....	68
Figure 24	— Typical TN system for DC railways.....	69
Figure 25	— Typical IT system for AC railways.....	70
Figure 26	— TN system for AC railways with interconnected earth system.....	72
Figure 27	— TN system for AC railways with multiple supply points.....	73
Figure 28	— Disposition of rail-to-rail cross bonds and track-to-track cross bonds (double-rail illustration) and connection of the contact line in case of the loading siding having a contact line.....	76
Figure 29	— Location of a surge arrester outside the overhead contact line zone of a loading siding if there is a possibility of flashovers of the insulating pieces through lightning strikes.....	76
Figure 30	— Design of return circuit, with regard to permissible effective touch voltage by checking the rail potential or the effective touch voltage.....	79
Figure A.1	— Alternative clearances for existing lines/networks.....	89
Figure B.1	— Typical protective obstacles and obstacle combinations and their dimensions and properties.....	91

Figure B.2 — Inclined protective obstacle, total height 1,00 m, solid-wall .....	92
Figure B.3 — Solid-wall protective obstacle, total height 1,69 m (balustrade wall).....	93
Figure B.4 — Combined protective obstacle with an inclined part on the top of the main protective obstacle, total height 1,50 m.....	94
Figure B.5 — Combined protective obstacle with an inclined part (0,50 m width) on the standing surface level, total height 1,00 m.....	95
Figure B.6 — Combined protective obstacle with an inclined part (1,60 m width) on the standing surface level, total height 1,00 m.....	96
Figure B.7 — Combined protective obstacle with a total height of 1,80 m.....	97
Figure B.8 — Arrangement of three protective obstacles.....	98
Figure C.1 — Warning sign .....	99
Figure D.1 — Guidance values for the rail potential gradient measured at the mast in a right angle to the track of an AC railway.....	100
Figure E.1 — Equivalent circuit for the calculation of the permissible touch voltage .....	104

## Tables

Table 1 — Electrical clearances .....	31
Table 2 — Protection clearances.....	31
Table 3 — Minimum vertical height $V$ of accessible live parts above standing surfaces for public areas.....	35
Table 4 — Minimum distance $d_G$ between live parts and an electrically protective obstacle .....	43
Table 5 — Maximum dimensions for small wholly and partly conductive parts .....	59
Table 6 — Types of low voltage non-traction supplies .....	64
Table 7 — Maximum permissible body voltages $U_{b, \max}$ in AC electric traction power supply systems as a function of time duration .....	80
Table 8 — Maximum permissible effective touch voltages $U_{te, \max}$ in AC electric traction power supply systems as a function of time duration.....	81
Table 9 — Maximum permissible body voltages $U_{b, \max}$ in DC electric traction power supply systems as a function of time duration .....	83
Table 10 — Maximum permissible effective touch voltages $U_{te, \max}$ in DC electric traction power supply systems as a function of time duration.....	83
Table D.1 — Guidance values for the rail potential gradient (see Figure D.1).....	101
Table E.1 — Body impedance $Z_b$ , body resistance $R_b$ and body current $I_b$ .....	103
Table E.2 — Example of the maximum permissible prospective touch voltage for AC railways for short-term conditions and $R_a = 1\ 150\ \Omega$ .....	105
Table E.3 — Body currents, body voltages and touch voltages as function of time duration in AC electric traction power supply systems.....	106
Table E.4 — Body currents, body voltages and touch voltages as function of time duration in DC electric traction power supply systems.....	107

## European foreword

This document (EN 50122-1:2022) has been prepared by CLC/SC 9XC “Electric supply and earthing systems for public transport equipment and ancillary apparatus (Fixed installations)”.

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which this document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2023-07-25
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with this document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2025-07-25

This document supersedes EN 50122-1:2011 and all of its amendments and corrigenda (if any).

EN 50122-1:2022 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 50122-1:2011:

- some definitions were modified;
- the dimensions for protection by clearance were modified, and there are now voltage dependent differences for high voltage electric traction power supply systems;
- methods for the use of protective obstacles were significantly changed.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CENELEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a Standardization Request given to CENELEC by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CENELEC website.

## **1 Scope**

This document specifies requirements for the protective provisions relating to electrical safety in fixed installations associated with AC and/or DC traction systems and to any installations that can be endangered by the electric traction power supply system. This also includes requirements applicable to vehicles on electrified lines.

It also applies to all aspects of fixed installations which are necessary to ensure electrical safety during maintenance work within electric traction power supply systems.

This document applies to new electric traction power supply systems and major revisions to electric traction power supply systems for:

- a) railways;
- b) guided mass transport systems such as
  - 1) tramways,
  - 2) elevated and underground railways,
  - 3) mountain railways,
  - 4) trolleybus systems,
  - 5) electric traction power supply systems for road vehicles, which use an overhead contact line system, and
  - 6) magnetically levitated systems, which use a contact line system;
- c) material transportation systems.

This document does not apply to:

- a) electric traction power supply systems in underground mines,
- b) cranes, transportable platforms and similar transportation equipment on rails, temporary structures (e.g. exhibition structures) in so far as these are not supplied directly or via transformers from the contact line system and are not endangered by the electric traction power supply system,
- c) suspended cable cars,
- d) funicular railways,
- e) existing vehicles.

This document does not specify working rules for maintenance.

The requirements within this document related to protection against electric shock are applicable to persons only.

This is a free preview. Purchase the entire publication at the link below:

[Product Page](#)

- 
- [Looking for additional Standards? Visit Intertek Inform Infostore](#)
  - [Learn about LexConnect, All Jurisdictions, Standards referenced in Australian legislation](#)
-