



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN 61009-1:2012

# Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCBOs) -- Part 1: General rules (IEC 61009-1:2010 (MOD))

## I.S. EN 61009-1:2012

*Incorporating amendments/corrigenda issued since publication:*

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+ A14:2012 + AC:2012

English version

**Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent  
protection for household and similar uses (RCBOs) -  
Part 1: General rules  
(IEC 61009-1:2010, modified)**

Interrupteurs automatiques à courant  
différentiel résiduel avec dispositif de  
protection contre les surintensités  
incorporé pour usages domestiques et  
analogues (DD) -  
Partie 1: Règles générales  
(CEI 61009-1:2010, modifiée)

Fehlerstrom-/Differenzstrom-  
Schutzschalter mit eingebautem  
Überstromschutz (RCBOs) für  
Hausinstallationen und für ähnliche  
Anwendungen -  
Teil 1: Allgemeine Anforderungen  
(IEC 61009-1:2010, modifiziert)

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

**Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B - 1000 Brussels**

## Foreword

This document (EN 61009-1:2012) consists of the text of IEC 61009-1:2010 prepared by IEC/TC 23E "Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use", together with the common modifications prepared by CLC/TC 23E "Circuit breakers and similar devices for household and similar applications".

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which this document has to be implemented (dop) 2013-06-18  
at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with this document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2017-06-18

This document supersedes EN 61009-1:2004 + corr.Jul.2006 + A11:2008 + A12:2009 + A13:2009 + A14:2012 + AC:2012.

- complete revision of EMC sequences, including the new test T.2.6, already approved in EN 61543;
- clarification of RCDs current/time characteristics reported in Tables 2 and 3;
- revision of test procedure for  $I_{\Delta n}$  between 5 A and 200 A;
- tests for the use of RCBOs in IT systems;
- testing procedure regarding the 6mA d.c. current superimposed to the fault current;
- improvement highlighting RCDs with multiple sensitivity;
- some alignments with EN 60898-1.

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

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CENELEC by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

For the relationship with EU Directive(s) see informative Annex ZZ, which is an integral part of this document.

Clauses, subclauses, notes, tables, figures and annexes which are additional to those in IEC 61009-1:2010 are prefixed "Z".

## Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 61009-1:2010 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard with agreed common modifications.

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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### **RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS WITH INTEGRAL OVERCURRENT PROTECTION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USES (RCBOs) –**

#### **Part 1: General rules**

#### **FOREWORD**

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as “IEC Publication(s)”). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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International Standard IEC 61009-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 23E: Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use, of IEC technical committee 23: Electrical accessories.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition, published in 1996, amendment 1 (2002) and amendment 2 (2006). It constitutes a technical revision.

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

- complete revision of EMC sequences, including the new test T.2.6, already approved in IEC 61543;
- clarification of RCDs current/time characteristics reported in Tables 2 and 3;
- revision of test procedure for  $I_{\Delta n}$  between 5 A and 200 A;

- tests for the use of RCBOs in IT systems;
- testing procedure regarding the 6mA d.c. current superimposed to the fault current;
- improvement highlighting RCDs with multiple sensitivity;
- some alignments with IEC 60898-1.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
23E/682/FDIS	23E/686/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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

A list of all the parts in the IEC 61009 series, under the general title *Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCBOs)*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

## INTRODUCTION

This part includes definitions, requirements and tests covering all types of RCBOs. For applicability to a specific type, this part applies in conjunction with the relevant part, as follows:

Part 2-1: Applicability of the general rules to RCBOs functionally independent of line voltage.

Part 2-2: Applicability of the general rules to RCBOs functionally dependent on line voltage.

# **RESIDUAL CURRENT OPERATED CIRCUIT-BREAKERS WITH INTEGRAL OVERCURRENT PROTECTION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND SIMILAR USES (RCBOs) –**

## **Part 1: General rules**

### **1 Scope**

This International Standard applies to residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection functionally independent of, or functionally dependent on, line voltage for household and similar uses (hereafter referred to as RCBOs), for rated voltages not exceeding 440 V a.c. with rated frequencies of 50 Hz, 60 Hz or 50/60 Hz and rated currents not exceeding 125 A and rated short-circuit capacities not exceeding 25 000 A for operation at 50 Hz or 60 Hz.

These devices are intended to protect people against indirect contact, the exposed conductive parts of the installation being connected to an appropriate earth electrode and to protect against overcurrents the wiring installations of buildings and similar applications. They may be used to provide protection against fire hazards due to a persistent earth fault current, without the operation of the overcurrent protective device.

RCBOs having a rated residual operating current not exceeding 30 mA are also used as a means for additional protection in the case of failure of the protective means against electric shock.

This standard applies to devices performing simultaneously the function of detection of the residual current, of comparison of the value of this current with the residual operating value and of opening of the protected circuit when the residual current exceeds this value, and also of performing the function of making, carrying and breaking overcurrents under specified conditions.

NOTE 1 The content of the present standard related to operation under residual current conditions is based on IEC 61008-1. The content of the present standard related to protection against overcurrents is based on IEC 60898-1.

NOTE 2 RCBOs are essentially intended to be operated by uninstructed persons and designed not to require maintenance. They may be submitted for certification purposes.

NOTE 3 Installation and application rules of RCBOs are given in the IEC 60364 series.

They are intended for use in an environment with pollution degree 2.

NOTE 4 For more severe overvoltage conditions, circuit-breakers complying with other standards (e.g. IEC 60947-2) should be used.

NOTE 5 For environments with higher pollution degrees, enclosures giving the appropriate degree of protection should be used.

RCBOs of the general type are resistant to unwanted tripping, including the case where surge voltages (as a result of switching transients or induced by lightning) cause loading currents in the installation without occurrence of flashover.

RCBOs of type S are considered to be sufficiently proof against unwanted tripping even if the surge voltage causes a flashover and a follow-on current occurs.

NOTE 6 Surge arresters installed downstream of the general type of RCBOs and connected in common mode may cause unwanted tripping.

RCBOs are suitable for isolation.

RCBOs complying with this standard, with the exception of those with an uninterrupted neutral, are suitable for use in IT systems.

Special precautions (e.g. lightning arresters) may be necessary when excessive overvoltages are likely to occur on the supply side (for example in the case of supply through overhead lines) (see IEC 60364-4-44).

NOTE 7 For RCBOs having a degree of protection higher than IP20 special constructions may be required.

This standard also applies to RCBOs obtained by the assembly of an adaptable residual current device with a circuit-breaker. The mechanical assembly shall be effected in the factory by the manufacturer, or on site, in which case the requirements of Annex G shall apply. It also applies to RCBOs having more than one rated current, provided that the means for changing from one discrete rating to another is not accessible in normal service and that the rating cannot be changed without the use of a tool.

Supplementary requirements may be necessary for RCBOs of the plug-in type.

Particular requirements are necessary for RCBOs incorporated in or intended only for association with plugs and socket-outlets or with appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes and if intended to be used at frequencies other than 50 Hz or 60 Hz.

NOTE 8 For the time being, for RCBOs incorporated in, or intended only for plugs and socket-outlets, the requirements of this standard in conjunction with the requirements of IEC 60884-1 may be used, as far as applicable.

NOTE 9 In DK, plugs and socket-outlets shall be in accordance with the requirements of the heavy current regulations section 107.

NOTE 10 In the UK, the plug part associated with an RCBO shall comply with BS 1363-1 and the socket-outlet(s) associated with an RCBO shall comply with BS 1363-2. In the UK, the plug part and the socket-outlet(s) associated with an RCBO need not comply with any IEC 60884-1 requirements.

This standard does not apply to:

- RCBOs intended to protect motors;
- RCBOs the current setting of which is adjustable by means accessible to the user in normal service.

The requirements of this standard apply for normal environmental conditions (see 7.1). Additional requirements may be necessary for RCBOs used in locations having severe environmental conditions.

RCBOs including batteries are not covered by this standard.

A guide for the coordination of RCBOs with fuses is given in Annex F.

## **2 Normative references**

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60051 (all parts), *Direct acting indicating analogue electrical measuring instruments and their accessories*

IEC 60060-1:1989, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*



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