

# Photovoltaic inverter lightning protection test standard

Does a PV inverter have overvoltage protection?

The inverter is manufactured with internal overvoltage protection on the AC and DC (PV) sides. If the PV system is installed on a building with an existing lightning protection system, the PV system must also be properly included in the lightning protection system.

Can a PV system be installed on a building with a lightning protection system?

If the PV system is installed on a building with an existing lightning protection system, the PV system must also be properly included in the lightning protection system. The inverters are classified as having Type III (class D) protection (limited protection).

How do you test a PV inverter?

To test a PV inverter according to IEC 62093, identify a suite of accelerated tests to identify potential reliability weaknesses. Develop recommendations for how the tests are to be performed, including sample size, environmental test conditions, duration, power and monitor, etc. Provide a baseline for comparison of reliability performance between PV inverter manufacturers.

Are PV systems vulnerable to lightning?

Similar to other power systems [,,,], PV systems are vulnerable to lightning because they are always installed in unsheltered open areas. Recent studies on lightning protection of PV systems have drawn much attention [9].

What is a photovoltaic inverter test?

Tests cover the inverter operation, performance and safety, the photovoltaic array installation, the system operation and applicable instrumentation. The tests described are suitable for inverter and/or system acceptance purposes or can be performed at any time for troubleshooting or to evaluate inverter/system performance and operation.

What is a Recommended Practice for photovoltaic systems?

Recommended Practice document for the electrical design of photovoltaic systems. As part of that project, the National Institute of Standards and Technology is contributing the lightning, surge protection, and grounding recommendations for these systems, based on known characteristics of surge protective devices and on field experience.

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