

**Electrical safety;  
Classification of interfaces for equipment  
to be connected to telecommunication networks**

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**CENELEC**



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## Foreword

This joint CENELEC Report / ETSI Guide (EG) has been produced under the joint responsibility of the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) TC74 WG1 and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), and is now submitted for the ETSI standards Membership Approval Procedure and for approval by the CENELEC Technical Board.

This document is a guide to the determination of the interface requirements for equipment in terms of safety. It lists a number of interfaces and indicates the safety category of each listed interface. This document does not contain sufficient detail for conformance testing purposes, except when used in conjunction with product standards such as EN 60950.

This document replaces ETSI Technical Report (ETR) 012 (1992).

The information herein aligns with changes made to EN 60950 since time of publication of ETR 012.

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## Introduction

The equipment safety standard EN 60950 specifies the requirements for categories of CIRCUITS as SELV CIRCUITS, TNV CIRCUITS and HAZARDOUS VOLTAGE circuits (among others). For stand-alone equipment it is a relatively simple matter to determine the different categories of circuits. However, equipment having data port interfaces is intended to be connected to other equipment, locally or via a network. In this case, the safety categories of the interfaces which will be connected together have to be compatible with each other. Furthermore, the category of the interface of the remote equipment may be unknown. This is the case in systems where telecommunication equipment and data processing equipment are connected together via different types of interfaces and networks.

To overcome this situation, it is necessary to classify the interfaces of equipment in such configurations according to the application, and to select the safety category for the interfaces of the equipment and for the type of the network. Similarly, the interfaces have to be classified for protection against damage of the equipment and of the network. Aspects of protection are dealt with in certain ETSI documents and the ITU-T K series of Recommendations.

The present document only covers equipment appropriately interconnected. Furthermore, it does not address damage caused by one equipment to other equipment with which it is connected. Exceptionally, interfaces may be designed for higher or lower levels of protection for special applications. In such cases one has to ensure that only interfaces having compatible safety categories and protection levels are connected together. These are based on the available specifications of the equipment manufacturers and network providers, and on information regarding the installation category of the mains interface.

The present document is intended to be used by: Equipment Designers, Network Operators (NOs), Network Regulators/Authorities, Standards Writers and Network Installers. The present document is applicable to various interfaces of equipment. Networks are not "equipment" within the meaning of EN 60950 and so are not covered by this document. However, it is necessary to consider the characteristics, installation and presentation of TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS when determining what equipment interface requirements apply (e.g. SELV CIRCUIT, TNV-1 CIRCUIT, TNV-2 CIRCUIT, TNV-3 CIRCUIT etc. See EN 60950, annex V, abbreviated in this document as annex D).

If there is a conflict between the present document and a more detailed specification, the latter prevails.

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# 1 Scope

The present document applies to equipment interfaces. These interfaces within the equipment may be connected to TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, or they may form part of the TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK infrastructure, or they may provide localized transfer of data. The present document provides guidance on the classification of interfaces in accordance with the circuit types defined in EN 60950 and EN 41003 following an analysis of the telecommunication network's characteristics.

If a standard other than EN 60950 is used for designing the equipment and its interface (e.g. EN 41003 in conjunction with other product safety standards), then the corresponding requirements of these other standards are to be preferred.

The present document applies regardless of ownership or responsibility for installation and maintenance of the equipment or network.

Examples of equipment covered by the present document include, but are not limited to:

facsimile machines, key telephone systems, network billing equipment, PABXs, network supervisory equipment, telephone answering machines, network switching equipment, network transmission equipment, network terminating equipment, modems, telephone sets, and network power feeding equipment.

NOTE: Terminal Equipment is often connected to customer premises cabling when used in a business environment and there are ENs covering such cabling.

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# 2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, subsequent revisions do apply.
- A non-specific reference to an ETS shall also be taken to refer to later versions published as an EN with the same number.

EN 60950: 1992, including A1: 1993, A2: 1993, A3: 1995, A4: 1997 and A11: 1997: "Safety of information technology equipment".

EN 60065: 1993, including Corrigendum: 1993 + A.11:1997 "Safety requirements for mains operated electronic and related apparatus for household and similar general use".

EN 41003: "Particular safety requirements for equipment to be connected to Telecommunications Networks".

HD 384 series: "Electrical installation of buildings".

HD 625.1 S1: "Insulation co-ordination for equipment within low voltage systems; Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests".

prEN 50174-1: "Information technology - cabling system installation; Part 1: Quality assurance planning".

prEN 50174-2: "Information technology - cabling system installation; Part 2: Installation planning and practices internal to buildings".

prEN 50174-3: "Information technology - cabling system installation; Part 3: Installation planning and practices external to buildings".

- ETS 300 253: "Equipment Engineering (EE); Earthing and bonding of telecommunication equipment in telecommunication centres".
- ETS 300 001: "Attachments to Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); General technical requirements for equipment connected to an analogue subscriber interface in the PSTN; Chapter 1: General".
- ETS 300 012: "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Basic user-network interface Layer 1 specification and test principles".
- ETS 300 132-2: "Equipment Engineering (EE); Power supply interface at the input to telecommunications equipment; Part 2: Operated by direct current (dc)".
- ETS 300 247: "Business Telecommunications (BT); Open Network Provision (ONP) technical requirements; 2 048 kbit/s digital unstructured leased line (D2048U) Connection characteristics".
- ETS 300 418: "Business Telecommunications (BTC); 2 048 kbit/s digital unstructured and structured leased lines (D2048U and D2048S); Network interface presentation".
- TBR 3: "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Attachment requirements for terminal equipment to connect to an ISDN using ISDN basic access".
- IEC 661312-1: "Protection against lightning electromagnetic impulse; Part 1: General principles".
- CA/1209/DV (1998): "Guide on the Safety of Multimedia Equipment" (Draft IEC Guide 112).
- ISO/IEC 8802-3: "Information technology - Telecommunications and information exchange between systems - Local and metropolitan area networks - Specific requirements - Part 3: Carrier sense multiple access with collision detection (CSMA/CD) access method and physical layer specifications".
- ITU-T Recommendation K.20: "Resistibility of telecommunication switching equipment to overvoltages and overcurrents".
- ITU-T Recommendation K.21: "Resistibility of subscribers' terminals to overvoltages and overcurrents".
- ITU-T Recommendation K.27: "Bonding configurations and earthing inside a telecommunication building".
- ITU-T Recommendation K.31: "Bonding configurations and earthing of telecommunication installations inside a subscriber's building".
- ITU-T Recommendation G.703: "Physical/electrical characteristics of hierarchical digital interfaces".
- ITU-T Recommendation V.28: "Electrical characteristics for unbalanced doubled-current interchange circuits".

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## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

NOTE 1: In common with EN 60950, defined terms are shown throughout in SMALL CAPITALS.

For the purposes of the present document, the following definitions apply in addition to the following definitions of EN 60950:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, SELV CIRCUIT, SECONDARY CIRCUIT, PRIMARY CIRCUIT, TNV CIRCUIT (including TNV-1 CIRCUIT, TNV-2 CIRCUIT, TNV-3 CIRCUIT), HAZARDOUS VOLTAGE.

**ANTENNA INTERFACE:** A port for connection of a radio frequency antenna to equipment.

**COAXIAL CABLE INTERFACE:** A port for connection of a coaxial cable (providing for asymmetrical transmission) to equipment.

NOTE 2: In the present document, indoor and outdoor coaxial cables are considered separately.

**SYMMETRICAL CABLE INTERFACE:** A port for connection of a cable providing for symmetrical transmission (e.g. twisted pair) to equipment.

NOTE 3: For the purposes of the present document, the use of both indoor and outdoor twisted pair cables is considered separately.

**NETWORK TERMINATION POINT:** The physical point at the boundary of a network intended to accept the connection of a terminal equipment or to be interconnected to another network.

**TERMINAL CONNECTION POINT:** The physical point of the terminal equipment intended to be connected to a network.

**A.C. MAINS SUPPLY:** The external A.C. power distribution system supplying power to the equipment. Sources of power include public or private utilities and, unless otherwise specified in EN 60950, equivalent sources such as motor-driven generators and uninterruptible power supplies.

NOTE 4: The above definition has been derived from the draft 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of IEC 950/EN 60950.

## 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

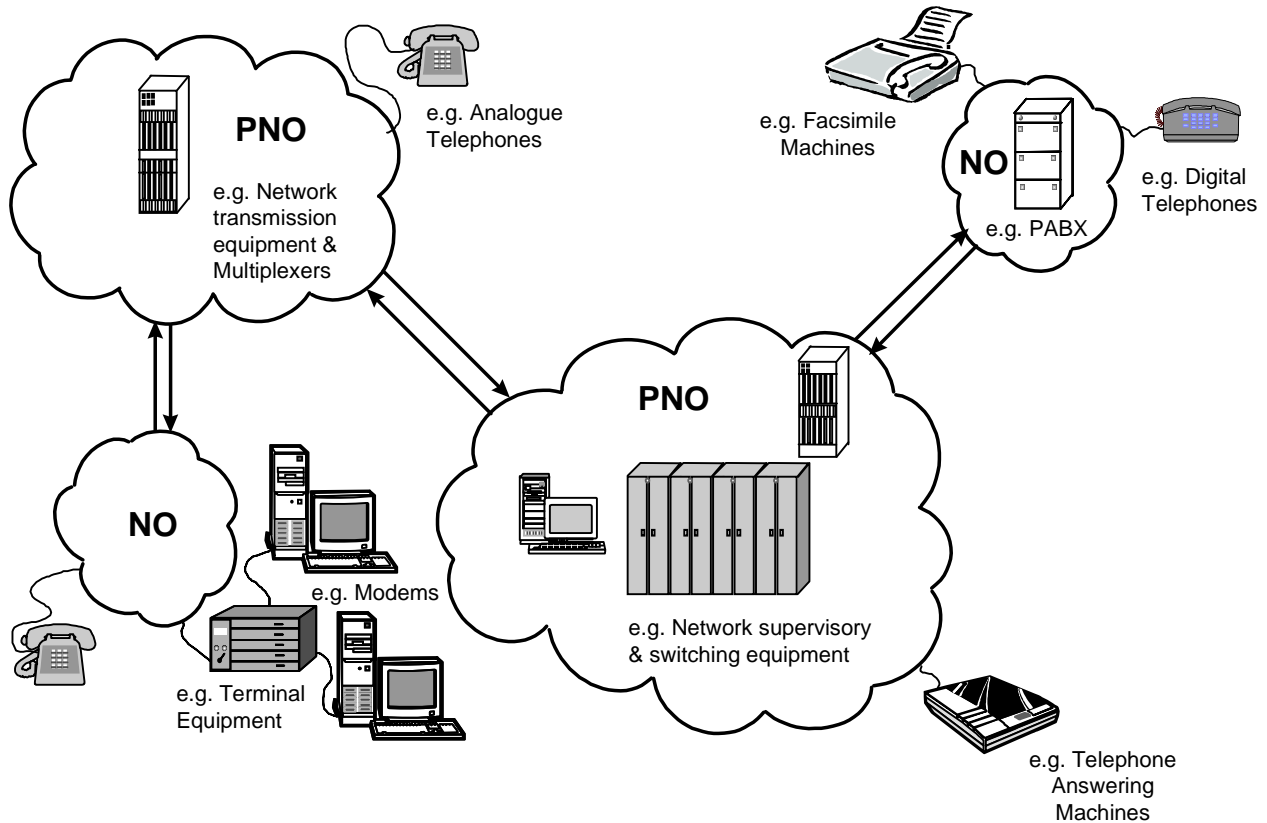
A.C.	Alternating Current
D.C.	Direct Current
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
LAN	Local Area Network
LPZ	Lightning Protection Zone
NO	Network Operator
NCP	Network Connection Point
NT	Network Termination
NTP	Network Termination Point
NTU	Network Terminating Unit
PABX	Private Automatic Branch Exchange
PNO	Public Network Operator
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
SDH	Synchronous Digital Hierarchy
TA	Terminal Adapter
TCP	Terminal Connection Point
TE	Terminal Equipment

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## 4 Reference configuration

Figure 1 illustrates a hypothetical configuration of "network clouds" giving examples of the types of equipments covered by the present document. Certain of these equipments will only have one or two interface types, others may have many. Certain of the "network clouds" will be elements within the PSTN (where the possibility of more than one network operator exists) and others may be private networks. The equipment connected to this "network cloud" and part of the "network cloud" itself can be any type covered by the scope of the present document.

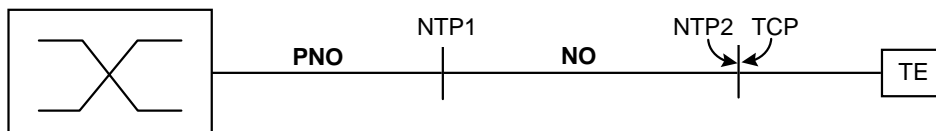
The present document provides a framework for safety requirements and protection levels by reference to the particular examples given in figures 1, 2, 3 and 4. Configurations not covered should be treated using the same principles.



**Figure 1: Reference configuration**

Where, in a practical situation, an equipment has two or more interfaces of different types, it is normally necessary to provide safety separation within the equipment between those interfaces in accordance with EN 60950.

Figures 2, 3 and 4 illustrate possible network configurations. Included are some of the network elements involved in such networks and an indication of the various commercial organizations, both Public Network Operators (PNOs) and Network Operators (NOs) generally (who could be public or private) that are involved in providing network infrastructures to service the end customer.



**Figure 2: Example network configuration**



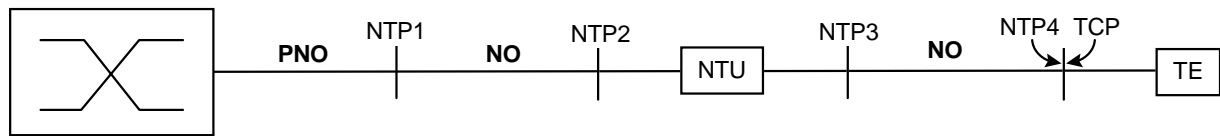


Figure 3: Example network configuration

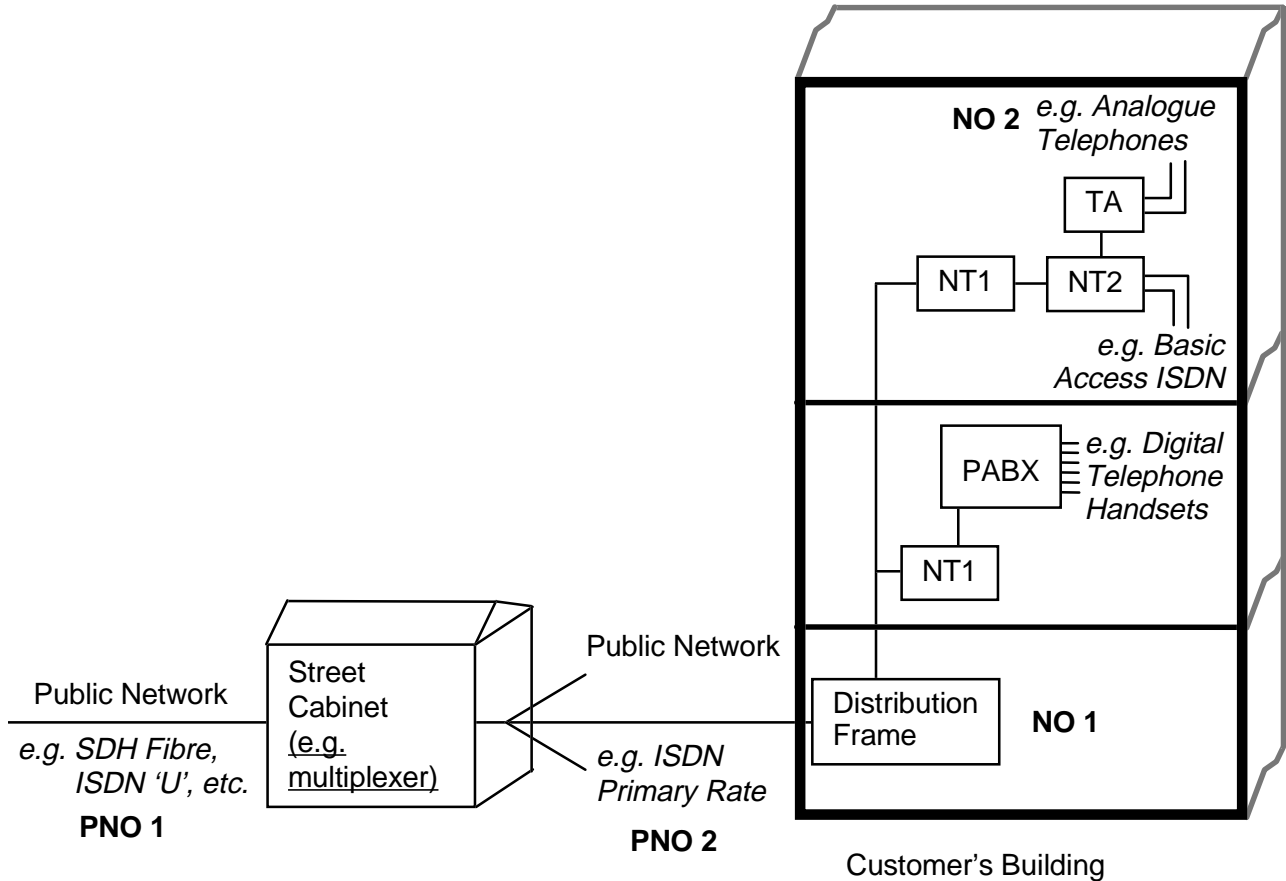


Figure 4: Example network configuration

## 5 Safety categories of interfaces provided for connection to a Telecommunications Network

NOTE: Both PRIMARY CIRCUITS and SECONDARY CIRCUITS can be subject to transient overvoltages. Refer to EN 60950.

### 5.1 SELV circuits

The requirements for SELV CIRCUITS are as specified in EN 60950.

### 5.2 TNV circuits

The requirements for TNV CIRCUITS are as specified in EN 60950. TNV CIRCUITS are further sub-divided into TNV-1 CIRCUITS, TNV-2 CIRCUITS and TNV-3 CIRCUITS, depending on their nominal operating voltage and on the likelihood of their being subject to overvoltages.

## 5.3 User Information

The safety status (e.g. SELV CIRCUIT, TNV-1 CIRCUIT, TNV-2 CIRCUIT or TNV-3 CIRCUIT) of ports for networks, and any restrictions applicable to the network topology (e.g. whether they are in an exposed environment or unexposed environment, see subclauses 6.1 and 6.2) are to be stated in the manufacturer's documentation supplied with the equipment if confusion could result in a safety hazard, see subclause 1.7.2 of EN 60950).

NOTE: Depending on the design of the interface, it is possible for one port to be suitable for connection to more than one type of circuit in other equipment. For example, consider circuitry in an equipment which meets the requirements for a SELV CIRCUIT and where the telecommunications interface port is separated from this circuitry in accordance with subclause 6.4.1 of EN 60950; this telecommunications interface port would be suitable for connection to either a SELV CIRCUIT or a TNV-1 CIRCUIT.

For equipment intended to be installed by the USER it is recommended to either:

- provide telecommunication interface ports with circuitry intended for connection to an exposed environment (i.e. TNV-1 instead of SELV or TNV-3 instead of TNV-2); or
- provide sufficient information in the USER instructions to avoid connection to a TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK in an exposed environment.

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## 6 Phenomena affecting the safety of interface ports

Annex A identifies a number of phenomena, some of which can affect a TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK in such a way that an overvoltage can be induced and transmitted to the interface port of the equipment. These phenomena are typically independent of the normal operating voltage on the circuit, but can be affected by the circuit impedance.

To determine the safety status of circuits within the equipment for connection to a particular network it is necessary to know:

- the normal operating voltage on the circuit (due to the circuit under consideration and any voltages coming from the TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK); and
- the severity and frequency of overvoltages occurring on the TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

### 6.1 Unexposed environment

A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK is considered to be in an unexposed environment if the following conditions apply to all parts of that network:

- a) the possible effect of indirect lightning has been reduced (for details see annex C, point 1); and
- b) the possibility of having different earth potentials has been reduced (for details see annex C, point 2); and
- c) the possibility of power cross/contact has been reduced (for details see annex C, point 3); and
- d) the possibly of induced transients and voltages has been reduced (for details see annex C, points 4 and 5).

### 6.2 Exposed environment

A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK is considered to be in an exposed environment if one or more of the requirements for an unexposed environment are not fulfilled.

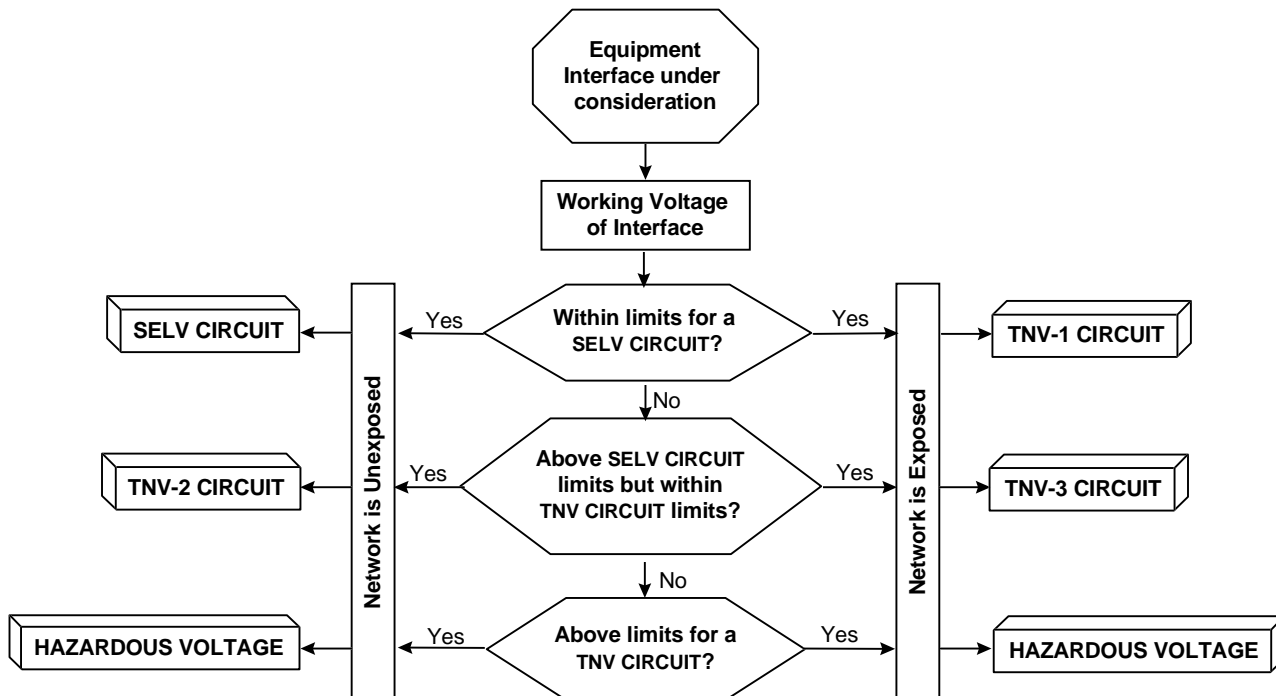
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## 7 Determination of Circuit Type

In order to determine which circuit type is applicable to a particular interface it is necessary to know:

- the operating voltage (or current for certain circuits) under normal and single fault conditions within the equipment; and
- if the network is operating in an exposed or unexposed electromagnetic environment.

This is shown in figure 5:



NOTE 1: Within IEC TC74, requirements for remote power feeding circuits are under consideration (at the time of publication of the present document, IEC 74/491/CD). This will enable remote power feeding circuits, that are presently considered to be HAZARDOUS VOLTAGE circuits, to be re-classified.

NOTE 2: The requirements for separating SELV CIRCUITS and TNV CIRCUITS from HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES are as specified in EN 60950. A HAZARDOUS VOLTAGE can exist on a PRIMARY CIRCUIT or a SECONDARY CIRCUIT, as defined in EN 60950.

Figure 5

## Annex A: Consideration of interface phenomenon

Table A.1

Phenomenon	Interface port to be covered	Existing/Other standards	Safety considerations
Operating Voltage	Outdoor symmetrical cable		TNV-1 (if within SELV limits) or TNV-3 (if within TNV limits), due to induced overvoltages
	Outdoor coaxial cable		TNV-1 (if within SELV limits) or TNV-3 (if within TNV limits), due to induced overvoltages
	Indoor symmetrical cable		Could be SELV, TNV-1, TNV-2, TNV-3 or HAZARDOUS VOLTAGE
	Indoor coaxial cable		Could be SELV, TNV1, TNV2, TNV-3 or HAZARDOUS VOLTAGE
	AC MAINS SUPPLY		PRIMARY CIRCUIT, HAZARDOUS VOLTAGE
	Outdoor antenna	IEC CA/1209/DV	Covered by the surge test of subclause 10.1 of EN 60065. Could be TNV-1 (if within SELV limits) or TNV-3 (if within TNV limits).
Induced disturbance due to lightning	Outdoor symmetrical cable		Network installation must limit transients to 1,5 kV per EN 60950.
	Outdoor coaxial cable		Network installation must limit transients to 1,5 kV per EN 60950.
	Indoor symmetrical cable	IEC 61312-1	Covered by 1,5 kV transient requirement of EN 60950 for TNV-1 and TNV-3 CIRCUITS provided the installation provides adequate protection means.
	Indoor coaxial cable	IEC 61312-1	Covered by 1,5 kV transient requirement of EN 60950 for TNV-1 and TNV-3 CIRCUITS provided the installation provides adequate protection means.
	AC MAINS SUPPLY		Assume this is covered by HD 625.1 S1.
Direct lightning stroke	Outdoor symmetrical cable		The voltages expected as a result of a direct lightning stroke on a cable are in excess of those considered by EN 60950 and so are beyond the scope of the present document.
	Outdoor coaxial cable.		The voltages expected as a result of a direct lightning stroke on a cable are in excess of those considered by EN 60950 and so are beyond the scope of the present document.
	Antenna		The voltages expected as a result of a direct lightning stroke on an antenna are in excess of those considered by EN 60950 and so are beyond the scope of the present document.
Induced by electric traction systems	Outdoor symmetrical cable		Requirements of ITU-T Directives, volume VI, were considered when writing EN 60950 and so no further action is required for TNV-1 and TNV3 CIRCUITS.
	Outdoor coaxial cable		Requirements of ITU-T Directives, volume VI, were considered when writing EN 60950 and so no further action is required for TNV-1 and TNV-3 CIRCUITS.
ESD			Considered by ad hoc, but not regarded as a safety issue
Surges due to high voltage switching	AC MAINS SUPPLY	IEC 60664 series	Covered by IEC 60664 series

Phenomenon	Interface port to be covered	Existing/Other standards	Safety considerations
Differences in earth potential	Outdoor symmetrical cable		Ensure interfaces are separated from ground in accordance with EN 60950 subclause 6.4.1 c).
	Outdoor coaxial cable		Ensure that either the installation meets prEN 50174-3 or that interfaces are separated from ground in accordance with EN 60950 subclause 6.4.1 c).
	Indoor Symmetrical Cable		Covered by consideration of "exposed" and "unexposed" environment, which cross-refers to equipotential bonding per HD 384. For exposed environments the interfaces should be treated as for outdoor symmetrical cables.
	Indoor Coaxial Cable		Covered by consideration of "exposed" and "unexposed" environment, which cross-refers to equipotential bonding per HD 384. For exposed environments the interfaces should be treated as for outdoor coaxial cables.
Power Cross (Direct Contact)	Outdoor symmetrical cable	ITU-T Recommendations K20, K.21	
	Outdoor coaxial cable		
Mains induced	Outdoor symmetrical cable		Ensure that the installation meets prEN 50174-3.
	Outdoor coaxial cable		Ensure that the installation meets prEN 50174-3
	Indoor symmetrical Cable		Ensure that the installation meets prEN 50174-2
	Indoor coaxial cable		Ensure that the installation meets prEN 50174-2

## Annex B: Worked examples of certain network interfaces

Table B.1 provides some worked examples of common network interfaces. It is not intended for this list to be exhaustive.

**Table B.1**

Interface or Connection Point	Documents defining the interface	Approximate Operating Voltage	Network is in exposed environment? (see clause 6)	Safety circuit category
RS 232 / V.28	ITU-T Recommendation V.28	±12 V D.C.	No	SELV
Ethernet 10Base5	ISO/IEC 8802-3	±2 V D.C.	Yes	TNV-1
Ethernet 10Base10	ISO/IEC 8802-3	±2 V D.C.	No	SELV
Ethernet 10BaseT	ISO/IEC 8802-3	±2 V D.C.	No	SELV
G.703	ITU-T Recommendation G.703	±3 V D.C.	No	SELV *
G.703	ITU-T Recommendation G.703	±3 V D.C.	Yes	TNV-1
[Un-structured] E1	ETS 300 418 and ETS 300 247	±2 V D.C.	No	SELV *
[Un-structured] E1	ETS 300 418 and ETS 300 247	±2 V D.C.	Yes	TNV-1
ISDN S bus	ETS 300 012-X and TBR 003	40 V D.C.	No	SELV *
ISDN S bus	ETS 300 012-X and TBR 003	40 V D.C.	Yes	TNV-1
ISDN U		100 V D.C.	Yes	TNV-3
"48 Volt" Station Battery	ETS 300 132-2	Max 57 V D.C.	No	SELV
"60 Volt" Station Battery	ETS 300 132-2	Max 75 V D.C.	No	TNV-2
Analogue telephone port of PSTN	ETS 300 001	48 V D.C. and Ringing signal (e.g. 80 V A.C).	Yes	TNV-3
* Additional information may need to be provided by manufacturers, see subclause 5.3.				

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## Annex C: Conditions for an unexposed environment

- 1) The possible affect of indirect lightning (i.e. lightning that does not directly strike the network conductors but which nevertheless induces a voltage in them) has been reduced by measures described in IEC 661312-1, protection zone LPZ 1.
- 2) The possibility of having different earth potentials existing at different points on the network has been reduced to a level where electric shock is unlikely e.g. by connecting all equipment within the network to the same equipotential bonding system (see HD 384) .

NOTE: Although an equipotential zone provides protection of people from electric shock, it does not necessarily protect the interconnecting cables from over-currents: these over-currents can cause over-heating with the resultant risk of fire. Examples of measures that may be applied to prevent such over-currents include reducing the level of potential difference by suitable building cable practice (see prEN 50174-2 and prEN 50174-3, ETS 300 253, ITU-T Recommendation K.27 and ITU-T Recommendation K.31 as applicable to the installation) and isolation of the equipment interfaces from earth.

- 3) The possibility of power cross/contact between the network and the AC MAINS SUPPLY is unlikely, e.g. by preventing such an occurrence by appropriate installation practices or by ensuring that either the conductors of the AC MAINS SUPPLY, or the conductors of the network, or both, are insulated for the highest working voltage of the AC MAINS SUPPLY, as described in HD 384.
- 4) The possibility of mains-induced transients, surges and power faults, due to capacitive, inductive or common impedance coupling is unlikely due to electrical isolation from, and physical co-ordination of, the network conductors and the wiring of the AC MAINS SUPPLY, as described in prEN 50174-2 and prEN 50174-3.
- 5) The possibility of voltages induced by electrical traction is unlikely due to there being sufficient distance between the TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK and such traction systems.

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## Annex D: Voltage ranges of SELV and TNV CIRCUITS

Table D.1

Overvoltage from telecommunication network possible?	Normal operating voltage	
	Within SELV CIRCUIT limits	Exceeding SELV CIRCUIT limits but within TNV CIRCUIT limits
Yes	TNV-1 CIRCUIT	TNV-3 CIRCUIT
No	SELV CIRCUIT	TNV-2 CIRCUIT

NOTE: Refer to EN 60950 for further information.



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- IEC 60664 series: "Insulation coordination within low-voltage systems".
- ITU-T Recommendation K.11: "Principles of protection against overvoltages and overcurrents".
- ITU-T Recommendation K.17: "Test on power-fed repeaters using solid-state devices in order to check the arrangements for protection from external interference".
- ITU-T Recommendation K.22: "Overvoltage resistibility of equipment connected to an ISDN T/S bus".
- ETS 300 001 (1997): "Attachments to Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); General technical requirements for equipment connected to an analogue subscriber interface in the PSTN; Chapter 1: General".
- ETS 300 012 (1992): "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Basic user-network interface Layer 1 specification and test principles".
- ETS 300 132-2 (1996): "Equipment Engineering (EE); Power supply interface at the input to telecommunications equipment; Part 2: Operated by direct current (dc)".
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- TBR 003 (1995): "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Attachment requirements for terminal equipment to connect to an ISDN using ISDN basic access".

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## History

<b>Document history</b>		
V1.2.1	September 1998	Membership Approval Procedure MV 9844: 1998-09-01 to 1998-10-30