NEMA ICS 61131-1-2005 (R2013)

IEC Publication 61131-1

Programmable Controllers
Part 1: General Information

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Foreword

This Standards Publication is a NEMA Adoptive Standard based on Part 1 of IEC 61131, *Programmable Controllers*.

This Standards Publication was prepared by a technical committee of the NEMA Automation Products and Systems Section. It was approved in accordance with the bylaws of NEMA and supersedes NEMA Standards Publication ICS 3-1988, Part 3-304.

This Standards Publication provides practical information concerning ratings, construction, test, performance, and manufacture of industrial control equipment. These standards are used by the electrical industry to provide guidelines for the manufacture and proper application of reliable products and equipment and to promote the benefits of repetitive manufacturing and widespread product availability.

NEMA Standards represent the result of many years of research, investigation, and experience by the members of NEMA, its predecessors, its Sections and Committees. They have been developed through continuing consultation among manufacturers, users and national engineering societies and have resulted in improved serviceability of electrical products with economies to manufacturers and users.

One of the primary purposes of this Standards Publication is to encourage the production of reliable control equipment which, in itself, functions in accordance with these accepted standards. Some portions of these standards, such as electrical spacings and interrupting ratings, have a direct bearing on safety; almost all of the items in this publication, when applied properly, contribute to safety in one way or another.

Properly constructed industrial control equipment is, however, only one factor in minimizing the hazards which may be associated with the use of electricity. The reduction of hazard involves the joint efforts of the various equipment manufacturers, the system designer, the installer, and the user. Information is provided herein to assist users and others in the proper selection of control equipment.

The industrial control manufacturer has limited or no control over the following factors which are vital to safe installation:

- environmental conditions
- system design
- equipment selection and application
- installation
- operating practices
- maintenance

This publication is not intended to instruct the user of control equipment with regard to these factors except insofar as suitable equipment to meet needs can be recognized in this publication and some application guidance is given.

This Standards Publication is necessarily confined to defining the construction requirements for industrial control equipment and to providing recommendations for proper selection for use under normal or certain specific conditions. Since any piece of industrial control equipment can be installed, operated, and maintained in such a manner that hazardous conditions may result, conformance with this publication does not by itself assure a safe installation. When, however, equipment conforming with these standards is properly selected and is installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code and properly maintained, the hazards to persons and property will be reduced.

To continue to serve the best interests of users, NEMA is actively cooperating with other standardization organizations in the development of simple and more universal metrology practices. In this Standards Publication, the U.S. customary units are gradually being supplemented by those of the modernized metric system known as the International Systems of Units (SI). This transition involves no changes in standard dimensions, tolerances, or performance specifications.

NEMA Standards Publications are subject to periodic review. They are revised frequently to reflect user input and to meet changing conditions and technical progress. Users should secure the latest editions.

Inquiries, comments, and proposed or recommended revisions should be submitted to the concerned NEMA product subdivision by contacting the:

Senior Technical Director, Operations
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Rosslyn, Virginia 22209

Referenced Standards

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this NEMA Standards Publication. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below.

International Electrotechnical Commission
1, rue de Varembé
Geneva, Switzerland

IEC 61131-1 *Programmable Controllers—Part 1: General Information*

National Fire Protection Association
Publication Sales Department
Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269

ANSI/NFPA 70 *National Electrical Code®*

Amendments

IEC 61131-1, *Programmable Controllers—Part 1: General Information*, is adopted with the amendments noted below.

Subclause 2.18:

Replace the definition in subclause 2.18 of IEC 61131-1 with the definition of device given in ANSI/NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*.
NEMA Standard

Where a conflict exists between the provisions of ICS 2.1 and other NEMA Standards Publications, the provisions of ICS 2.1 shall govern in the area of programmable controllers and their associated peripherals.
NEMA Standard

Where a conflict exists between the provisions of ICS 2.1 and ANSI/NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*, the provisions of ANSI/NFPA 70 shall govern.
NEMA Standard

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

IEC 61131-1

Second edition
2003-05

Programmable controllers –

Part 1: General information

Automates programmables –

Partie 1:
Informations générales

Reference number
IEC 61131-1:2003(E)

Publication numbering

As from 1 January 1997 all IEC publications are issued with a designation in the 60000 series. For example, IEC 34-1 is now referred to as IEC 60034-1.

Consolidated editions

The IEC is now publishing consolidated versions of its publications. For example, edition numbers 1.0, 1.1 and 1.2 refer, respectively, to the base publication, the base publication incorporating amendment 1 and the base publication incorporating amendments 1 and 2.

Further information on IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC, thus ensuring that the content reflects current technology. Information relating to this publication, including its validity, is available in the IEC Catalogue of publications (see below) in addition to new editions, amendments and corrigenda. Information on the subjects under consideration and work in progress undertaken by the technical committee which has prepared this publication, as well as the list of publications issued, is also available from the following:

- **IEC Web Site (www.iec.ch)**

- **Catalogue of IEC publications**

  The on-line catalogue on the IEC web site (http://www.iec.ch/searchpub/cur_fut.htm) enables you to search by a variety of criteria including text searches, technical committees and date of publication. On-line information is also available on recently issued publications, withdrawn and replaced publications, as well as corrigenda.

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International Electrotechnical Commission
Международная Электротехническая Комиссия

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For price, see current catalogue

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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PROGRAMMABLE CONTROLLERS

Part 1: General information

FOREWORD

1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the 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, the IEC publishes International Standards. 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. The IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested National Committees.
3) The documents produced have the form of recommendations for international use and are published in the form of standards, technical specifications, technical reports or guides and they are accepted by the National Committees in that sense.
4) In order to promote international unification, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC International Standards transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional standards. Any divergence between the IEC Standard and the corresponding national or regional standard shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
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6) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. The IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 61131-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 65B: Devices, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement and control.

This second edition of IEC 61131-1 cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1992 and constitutes a technical revision.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
65B/484/FDIS	65B/487/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.

IEC 61131 consists of the following parts under the general title: *Programmable controllers.*

Part 1: General information

Part 2: Equipment requirements and tests

Part 3: Programming languages

Part 4: User guidelines

Part 5: Communications

Part 6: Reserved

Part 7: Fuzzy-control programming

Part 8: Guidelines for the application and implementation of programming languages for programmable controllers

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2007. At this date, the publication will be

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

A bilingual version of this standard may be issued at a later date.

INTRODUCTION

This Part of IEC 61131 constitutes Part 1 of a series of standards on programmable controllers and their associated peripherals and should be read in conjunction with the other parts of the series.

Where a conflict exists between this and other IEC standards (except basic safety standards), the provisions of this standard should be considered to govern in the area of programmable controllers and their associated peripherals.

The purposes of this standard are:

Part 1 establishes the definitions and identifies the principal characteristics relevant to the selection and application of programmable controllers and their associated peripherals;

Part 2 specifies equipment requirements and related tests for programmable controllers (PLC) and their associated peripherals;

Part 3 defines, for each of the most commonly used programming languages, major fields of application, syntactic and semantic rules, simple but complete basic sets of programming elements, applicable tests and means by which manufacturers may expand or adapt those basic sets to their own programmable controller implementations;

Part 4 gives general overview information and application guidelines of the standard for the PLC end-user;

Part 5 defines the communication between programmable controllers and other electronic systems;

Part 6 is reserved;

Part 7 defines the programming language for fuzzy control;

Part 8 gives guidelines for the application and implementation of the programming languages defined in Part 3.

PROGRAMMABLE CONTROLLERS –

Part 1: General information

1 Scope

This Part of IEC 61131 applies to programmable controllers (PLC) and their associated peripherals such as programming and debugging tools (PADTs), human-machine interfaces (HMIs), etc., which have as their intended use the control and command of machines and industrial processes.

PLCs and their associated peripherals are intended to be used in an industrial environment and may be provided as open or enclosed equipment. If a PLC or its associated peripherals are intended for use in other environments, then the specific requirements, standards and installation practices for those other environments must be additionally applied to the PLC and its associated peripherals.

The functionality of a programmable controller can be performed as well on a specific hardware and software platform as on a general-purpose computer or a personal computer with industrial environment features. This standard applies to any products performing the function of PLCs and/or their associated peripherals. This standard does not deal with the functional safety or other aspects of the overall automated system. PLCs, their application programme and their associated peripherals are considered as components of a control system.

Since PLCs are component devices, safety considerations for the overall automated system including installation and application are beyond the scope of this Part. However, PLC safety as related to electric shock and fire hazards, electrical interference immunity and error detecting of the PLC-system operation (such as the use of parity checking, self-testing diagnostics, etc.), are addressed. Refer to IEC 60364 or applicable national/local regulations for electrical installation and guidelines.

This Part of IEC 61131 gives the definitions of terms used in this standard. It identifies the principal functional characteristics of programmable controller systems.

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 61131-2, *Programmable controllers – Part 2: Equipment requirements and tests*[1]

IEC 61131-3, *Programmable controllers – Part 3: Programming languages*

[1] To be published.