

Edition 1.0 2010-04

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Performance standard –

Part 121-3: Simplex and duplex cords with single-mode fibre and cylindrical ferrule connectors for category U – Uncontrolled environment





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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

FIBRE OPTIC INTERCONNECTING DEVICES AND PASSIVE COMPONENTS – PERFORMANCE STANDARD –

Part 121-3: Simplex and duplex cords with single-mode fibre and cylindrical ferrule connectors for category U – Uncontrolled environment

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

FDIS	Report on voting
86B/2989/FDIS	86B/3025/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.

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FIBRE OPTIC INTERCONNECTING DEVICES AND PASSIVE COMPONENTS – PERFORMANCE STANDARD –

Part 121-3: Simplex and duplex cords with single-mode fibre and cylindrical ferrule connectors for category U – Uncontrolled environment

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61753 specifies the test requirements for finished cable assemblies for use as patchcords, work area cords and equipment cords for applications in a uncontrolled (U) environment according to IEC 61753-1, where the connectors already comply with the Category U requirements of IEC 61753-1. The assemblies consist of simplex or duplex fibre optic cable terminated at each end of the cable with non-angled (PC) or angled (APC) polished single-mode fibre optic connectors with cylindrical ferrules. The wavelength of operation is between 1 260 nm ¹ and 1 625 nm.

The relevant requirements for mechanical and optical connectivity systems are covered by mechanical and optical interface standards IEC 61754 series and IEC 61755 series respectively. The relevant requirements for connector sets are covered by IEC 61753 series. The relevant requirements for cable are covered by IEC 60794-2-50.

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 60793-2-50, Optical fibres – Part 2-50: Product specifications – Sectional specification for class B single-mode fibres

IEC 60794-1-2, Optical fibre cables – Part 1-2: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures

IEC 60794-2-50, Optical fibre cables – Part 2-50: Indoor optical fibre cables – Family specification for simplex and duplex cables for use in patchcords

IEC 61300 series, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic test and measurement procedures

IEC 61300-1, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic test and measurement procedures – Part 1: General and guidance

IEC 61300-2-4, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic test and measurement procedures – Part 2-4: Tests – Fibre/cable retention

IEC 61300-2-5, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic test and measurement procedures – Part 2-5: Tests – Torsion

Low wavelength limit depends on maximum cabled fibre cut-off wavelength specification.

- IEC 61300-2-22, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 2-22: Tests Change of temperature
- IEC 61300-2-42, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 2-42: Tests Static side load for connectors
- IEC 61300-2-44, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 2-44: Tests Flexing of the strain relief of fibre optic devices
- IEC 61300-3-1, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-1: Examinations and measurements Visual examination
- IEC 61300-3-3, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-3: Examinations and measurements Active monitoring of changes in attenuation and return loss
- IEC 61300-3-6, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-6: Examinations and measurements Return loss
- IEC 61300-3-15, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-15: Examinations and measurements Dome eccentricity of a convex polished ferrule endface
- IEC 61300-3-16, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-16: Examinations and measurements Endface radius of spherically polished ferrules
- IEC 61300-3-17, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-17: Examinations and measurements Endface angle of angle-polished ferrules
- IEC 61300-3-22, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-22: Examinations and measurements Ferrule compression force
- IEC 61300-3-23, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-23: Examination and measurements Fibre position relative to ferrule endface
- IEC 61300-3-34, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedures Part 3-34: Examinations and measurements Attenuation of random mated connectors
- IEC 61300-3-35, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Basic test and measurement procedure Part 3-35: Examinations and measurements Fibre optic connector endface visual and automated inspection
- IEC 61753 series, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Performance standard
- IEC 61753-1, Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components Performance standard Part 1: General and guidance for performance standards
- IEC 61754 series, Fibre optic connector interfaces
- IEC 61755 series, Fibre optic connector optical interfaces

IEC 61755-2-1, Fibre optic connector optical interfaces – Part 2-1: Optical interface standard single mode non-angled physically contacting fibres

IEC 61755-2-2, Fibre optic connector optical interfaces – Part 2-2: Optical interface standard single mode angled physically contacting fibres

IEC/TR 61931, Fibre optic – Terminology

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC/TR 61931 and the following apply.

3.1

change in attenuation

defined as peak to peak variation

3.2

connector set

complete assembly of components (plug-adaptor-plug) required to provide demountable coupling between two or more optical fibres

3.3

cord

general term for terminated cable assembly, whatever the expected use is

Examples :equipment cord, work area cord or patchcord.

3.4

equipment cord

cord connecting equipment to a distributor

3.5

patchcord

cord used within cross-connect implementations at distributors

3.6

terminated cable assembly

product defined as a fibre optic cable terminated with any passive fibre optic component on both ends

3.7

work area cord

cord connecting the telecommunications outlet to the terminal equipment

4 Description

4.1 General

Patchcords, work area cords and equipment cords (called cords in subsequent text) defined according to this specification are terminated cable assemblies with optical connectors. The cord comprises cable and terminated fibre optic connectors on each end.

The length, unless otherwise specified, is defined as between the end faces of the connectors.

4.2 Optical fibres

Optical fibres meeting the requirements of IEC 60793-2-50 for single-mode fibres (SM) B1.1, B1.3 and B6_a shall be used.

4.3 Cable design and construction

Cable used for the cords shall conform to the requirements of IEC 60794-2-50.

4.4 Optical connectors

4.4.1 Mechanical connectivity

The dimensional interface requirements in IEC 61754 series shall be met.

4.4.2 Optical performance requirements

The functionality of the connections according to this specification is based upon physical contact. All the connectors shall conform to the standard performance grade as defined in IEC 61755 series. Considered attenuation grades are B, C and D. Considered return loss grades are 1, 2 and 3.

4.4.3 Connector set performance requirements

Connector set shall conform to the requirements described in IEC 61753 series.

4.5 Cable bend radius

Care shall be taken to observe the minimum bend radius of the cable.

4.6 Identification

The connectors shall be identifiable as to type of fibre, type of connector, connector end face (PC or angled-PC), polarity (for duplex cords), connection grade or other type of identification required for administration.

5 Tests

5.1 General

All tests and measurements have been selected from the IEC 61300 series for connectors and from the cable test procedure outlined in IEC 60794-1-2. Additional requirements to certain tests are given in Annexes C, D and E

5.2 Measuring wavelengths

Unless otherwise specified in the individual test details all attenuation measurements are made at the wavelengths given in Table 1:

Table 1 - Wavelengths for attenuation and return loss measurements

Fibre type	Single-mode		
Centre wavelength (nm)	1310	1550	1625

Return loss measurements shall be performed at the wavelengths specified in the individual tests.

5.3 Test specimen

For this specification, a specimen is defined as a terminated cable assembly with optical connectors according to the IEC 61754 series at all ends of the cord. All specimens shall be marked according to identification requirements.

The sample size and product sourcing requirements are defined in Annex A.

The length of the test specimen shall be 3,0 m to 5,0 m with a tolerance of \pm 0,5 m.

6 Test procedure

6.1 General

No deviation from the specified test method is allowed.

Unless otherwise specified, all tests shall be carried out at ambient temperature as specified in IEC 61300-1.

6.2 Visual examination

A visual examination shall be carried out on all specimens before and after all mechanical and climatic tests (see Table 2). The outer cable sheath shall be marked at the end of the connector boot during the initial visual examination (see Annex B).

Table 2 - Visual examination requirements

No.	Test	Requirement		Details
1	Visual examination	No visible defects of cable or connectors	Method: Examination:	IEC 61300-3-1 Product shall be visually checked without magnification

6.3 Fibre optic connector end face

The performance of the fibre optic connection depends on characteristics of the end faces of both connectors (see Table 3).

Table 3 - End face requirements

No.	Test	Requirement	Details	
2	End face geometry	IEC 61755 series	Method:	IEC 61300-3-15, Apex offset
				IEC 61300-3-16, Polishing radius
				IEC 61300-3-17, Endface angle of angle- polished ferrules
				IEC 61300-3-23, Fibre position
3	Fibre optic cylindrical	IEC 61755-2-1	Method:	IEC 61300-3-35
	connector end face visual inspection	IEC 61755-2-2	Examination:	Scratches, defects, debris
4	Ferrule compression force	IEC 61754 series: for the connectorized buffered fibre	Method:	IEC 61300-3-22
	NOTE This test is applicable to the connectors with spring loaded ferrule.	IEC 60794-2-50: additional requirements for the ruggedized fibre	Examination:	Movement length, compression force

6.4 Optical performance requirements

Optical performance requirements for attenuation and return loss are given in the following Table 4. These requirements in the Table 4 are related to connections between the same fibre types.

Table 4 – Optical performance requirements

No.	Test	Requirement		Details
5	Attenuation	Grade D:	Method:	IEC 61300-3-34, Method 2
		≤ 0,5 dB mean ≤ 1,0 dB for 97 %	Source type:	LED/LD
		= 1,6 02 101 01 75	Peak wavelength:	$(1\ 310\ \pm\ 30)\ nm$
		Grade C:	wavelength.	$(1\ 550\ \pm\ 30)\ nm$
		≤ 0,25 dB mean		$(1~625\pm30)~\text{nm}$
		≤ 0,5 dB for 97 %	Source stability:	± 0,01 dB over 1 h
		Grade B: ≤ 0,12 dB mean	Detector linearity:	Within $\pm0,01$ dB over the dynamic range to be measured
		≤ 0,25 dB for 97 %	Launch fibre length:	> 2 m. Only the fundamental mode shall propagate at the connector interface to be tested and at the detector
			Pre- conditioning procedure:	Clean plug and adaptor according to manufacturer's instructions
6	Return loss	Grade 1: ≥ 60 dB	Method:	IEC 61300-3-6, Method 1
		Grade 2: ≥ 45 dB		
		Grade 3: ≥ 35 dB	Wavelengths:	(1 310 \pm 30) nm (1 550 \pm 30) nm (1 625 \pm 30) nm
			Source stability:	\pm 0,01 dB over the measuring period
			Detector linearity:	\pm 0,1 dB over the dynamic range to be measured
			Launch fibre length::	> 2 m. Only the fundamental mode shall propagate at the connector interface to be tested and at the detector
			Directional coupler type:	50 / 50 fused
			Directivity:	> 65 dB
			Pre- conditioning procedure:	Clean plug and adaptor according to the manufacturer's instructions

NOTE 1 Patchcord attenuation is corresponding to the loss of two connections.

NOTE 2 $\,$ The requirements for return loss are valid only for one connection.

6.5 Climatic performance requirements

Table 5 - Climatic performance requirements

No.	Test	Requirement		Details
7	Change of temperature	Change in attenuation during	Method:	IEC 61300-2-22, see Annex C
		the test at (1 310 \pm 30) nm \leq 0,40 dB	Low temperature:	−25 °C
		at (1 625 ± 30) nm ≤1,0 dB	High	70 °C
		Change in attenuation before and after the test is	temperature: Duration at	1 h
		(1 310 ± 30) nm ≤0,20 dB	temperature extreme:	
		at (1 625 ± 30) nm ≤0,40 dB	Rate of change	1 °C/min.
		Initial and final attenuation shall be ≤ specified for the grade Return loss shall satisfy the requirements for the specified grade Final visual examination: see Annex B	of temperature:	
			Number of cycles:	12
			Specimen optically	Yes
			functioning:	
			Measurements required:	Measuring procedure IEC 61300-3-3. Measurements before, during (continuous) and after the test
			Sampling rate:	max. interval 10 min
			Attenuation:	According to Table 4
			Return loss:	According to Table 4
			Pre- conditioning procedure:	2 h at normal ambient conditions. Clean plug and adaptor according to manufacturer's instructions
			Recovery Procedure:	2 h at normal ambient conditions. Connection shall not be unmated

6.6 Mechanical performance requirements

Table 6 - Mechanical performance requirements

No.	Test	Requirement		Details
8	Fibre/Cable retention	Change in attenuation during	Method:	IEC 61300-2-4
		the test at (1 310 ± 30) nm ≤0,20 dB	Tensile force:	100 N \pm 5 N at 5 N/s for reinforced cables > 2 mm
		at (1 625 ± 30) nm ≤0,50 dB	Point of application of	70 N \pm 5 N at $$ 5 N/s for reinforced cables ≤2 mm
		Change in attenuation before and after the test is		0,3 m from plug
		at (1 310 \pm 30) nm and	the load:	The connector shall be rigidly mounted such that the load is applied to the
		(1 625 ± 30) nm		fibre/cable retention mechanism and not to the coupling mechanism
		≤0,20 dB	Duration of maximum load:	2 min
		Initial and final attenuation shall be ≤ specified for the grade	Specimen optically functioning:	Yes
		Return loss shall satisfy the requirements for the	Measurements required:	Measuring procedure IEC 61300-3-3 Measurements before, during (continuous) and after the test
		specified grade	Sampling rate:	Continuously
		Final visual examination:	Attenuation:	According to Table 4
			Return loss:	According to Table 4
		See Allilex B	Pre- conditioning procedure:	Clean plug and adaptor according to manufacturer's instructions
9	Torsion	Change in attenuation during the test	Method:	IEC 61300-2-5
		at (1 310 ± 30) nm ≤0,20 dB,		
		at (1 625 ± 30) nm ≤0,50 dB.	Magnitude and rate of	15 N at 1 N/s
		Change in attenuation before and after the test is	application of the torsional	
		at (1 310 \pm 30) nm and (1 625 \pm 30) nm	load: Duration of	25 cycles ± 180°
		≤0,20 dB	application of the load:	(not to exceed cable specification)
		Initial and final attenuation shall be ≤ specified for the grade Return loss shall satisfy the requirements for the specified grade Final visual examination:	Point of application of the load:	0,2 m from rear of plug body
			Specimen optically functioning:	Yes
			Measurements required:	Measuring procedure IEC 61300-3-3. Measurements before, during (continuous) and after the test
		see Annex B	Sampling rate:	10 measurements per second
			Attenuation:	According to Table 4
			Return loss:	According to Table 4
			Pre- conditioning procedure:	Clean plug and adaptor according to manufacturer's instructions
			Recovery procedure:	5 min recovery period

Table 6 (continued)

No.	Test	Requirement		Details
10	Static side load	Change in attenuation during	Method:	IEC 61300-2-42, see Annex D
		the test at (1 310 \pm 30) nm \leq 0,20 dB	Magnitude of the load (90° to plug axis):	1 N
		at (1 625 ± 30) nm ≤0,50 dB	Point of	0,2 m from rear of plug in two mutually
		Change in attenuation before and after the test is	application of the load:	perpendicular directions
		at (1 310 ± 30) nm and (1 625 ± 30) nm ≤0,20 dB	Method of mounting:	An adaptor shall be mounted rigidly to the mounting fixture
		Initial and final attenuation	Duration of load:	1 h
		shall be ≤ specified for the grade Return loss shall satisfy the	Specimen optically functioning:	Yes
		requirements for the specified grade Final visual examination:	Measurements required:	Measuring procedure IEC 61300-3-3. Measurements before, during (continuous) and after the test
		see Annex B	Sampling rate:	Continuously
			Attenuation:	According to Table 4
			Return loss:	According to Table 4
			Pre- conditioning procedure:	Clean plug and adaptor according to manufacturer's instructions
11	Flexing strain relief of	Change in attenuation during	Method:	IEC 61300-2-44, see annex E
	fibre optic devices	the test at (1 310 \pm 30) nm \leq 0,20 dB,	Magnitude of the load:	5 N
		at (1 550 ± 30) nm ≤0,30 dB	Point of application of the load:	0,2 m from rear of connector
		at (1 530 ± 30) nm at (1 625 ± 30) nm ≤ 0.50 dB		
		Change in attenuation before and after the test is	Method of mounting:	An adaptor shall be mounted rigidly to the mounting fixture
		at (1 310 ± 30) nm,	Cycle:	0° to -90° to 0° to $+90^{\circ}$ to 0°
		(1 550 \pm 30) nm and (1 625 \pm 30) nm	Number of cycles:	100 20 cycles/min
		≤0,20 dB	Cycling rate:	20 Oyoles/IIIII
		Initial and final attenuation shall be ≤ specified for the	Specimen optically functioning:	Yes
		Return loss shall satisfy the requirements for the	Measurements required:	Measuring procedure IEC 61300-3-3. Measurements before, during (continuous) and after the test
		specified grade	Attenuation:	According to Table 4
		Final visual examination:	Return loss:	According to Table 4
		see Annex B	Pre- conditioning procedure:	Clean plug and adaptor according to manufacturer's instructions
			procedure:	

7 Test report

A fully documented test report and supporting data shall be prepared and shall be available for inspection as evidence that the tests described in this specification have been carried out in accordance with this specification.

Annex A

(normative)

Sample size and product sourcing requirements

Sample size for the cords shall be as indicated in the following Table A.1.

Table A.1 – Sample size requirements

No.	Test	Simplex	Duplex
1	Visual examination	15	10
2	End face geometry	15	10
3	Fibre optic cylindrical connector end face visual inspection	15	10
4	Ferrule compression force	15	10
5	Attenuation	15	10
6	Return loss	15	10
7	Change of temperature	6	3
8	Fibre/cable retention	6	3
9	Torsion	6	3
10	Static side load	6	3
11	Flexing strain relief of fibre optic devices	6	3

The above tests are not intended to be performed in any particular sequence or grouping. They are intended to be performed individually; however, products from previous tests may be used if desired.

Annex B (normative)

Visual examination of outer cable sheath movement

B.1 Scope

This visual examination shall be made to ensure that the captivation or attachment of a cable sheath to a connector will withstand all climatic and mechanical tests required in this specification.

B.2 Preparation of the specimen and initial visual examination

Preparation shall be made after initial visual examination (before all subsequent tests). Mark the outer cable sheath at the end of the connector boot at both ends of the cable assembly as indicated in Figure B.1. The marks are required to identify movement of the cable sheath caused by the mechanical stresses during subsequent tests.

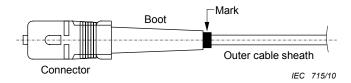


Figure B.1 - Initial marking of the cable sheath

NOTE If the connector has a shrink-tube as part of the boot as, for example in some types of LC connectors, the mark should be made on the outer cable sheath right at the end of the shrink-tube.

B.3 Final visual examination of outer cable sheath movement

Final visual examination shall be made after all tests have been finished. The outer sheath movement is visible through the movements of the marks at the outer cable sheath (see Figure B.2).

Requirements:

The allowed movement of the outer cable sheath relative to the connector boots (at least of its fixing point e.g. sheath crimp, shrink-tube or gluing) shall be 1 mm maximum at any connector.

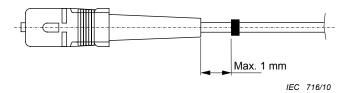


Figure B.2 - Final visual examination

NOTE The SC connector in the Figures B.1 and B.2 is assumed as an example.

B.4 Torsion test

At the end of the climatic and mechanical tests a torsion test shall be made according to test no. 9 with 5 cycles. This is to verify that the sheath did not move.

Annex C (normative)

Change of temperature

The additional requirements for the change of temperature test (see configuration in Figure C.1) shall be as follows:

- The whole length of the patchcord together with both connections shall be within the climatic chamber.
- The cable coils shall be free, without any cable reel, and supported horizontally in the climatic chamber. The winding radius shall be larger than 150 mm.

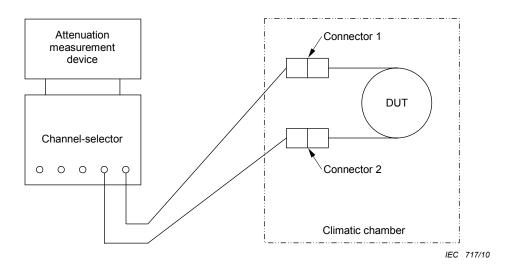


Figure C.1 – Change of temperature test configuration

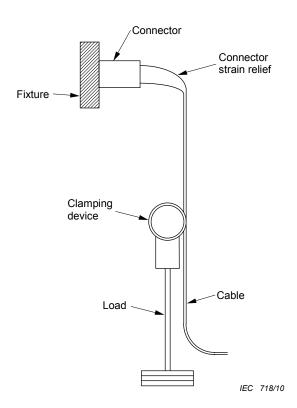
Annex D (normative)

Static side load

The purpose of this test is to determine the influence of a side load applied to a cord assembled with connector strain relief.

Fibre optic cords shall withstand side loads during optical transmission without degradation of the optical performance. Figure D.1 shows in a more realistic manner the deformation of the connector strain relief.

Other necessary details are given in IEC 61300-2-42.



NOTE The load should be applied after the connector/cord has been horizontally fixed in the fixture.

Figure D.1 - Test apparatus for transmission with applied side load

Annex E

(normative)

Flexing strain relief of fibre optic devices

The purpose of this test is to ensure that the captivation or attachment of a cable to a fibre optic connector will withstand a flexing in one plane under tensile load of the sort likely to be applied during normal use.

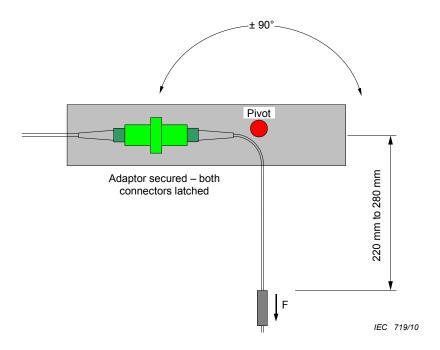


Figure E.1 - Flexing test apparatus

Fibre optic cords shall withstand flex loads without degradation of the mechanical and functional performance. Details and Figure E.1 are modified from IEC 61300-2-44. Details are given in Table 6, test no. 11.

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