

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Optical fibre cables –  
Part 5-20: Family specification – Outdoor microduct fibre units, microducts and  
protected microducts for installation by blowing**

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INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES –

**Part 5-20: Family specification –  
Outdoor microduct fibre units, microducts and  
protected microducts for installation by blowing**

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CDV	Report on voting
86A/1497/CDV	86A/1543/RVC

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 parts of IEC 60794 series, published under the general title *Optical fibre cables*, can be found on the IEC website.

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## OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES –

### Part 5-20: Family specification – Outdoor microduct fibre units, microducts and protected microducts for installation by blowing

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60794 is a family specification that covers outdoor microduct fibre units and corresponding microducts and protected microducts for installation by blowing. The protected microducts are intended for duct, directly buried or lashed applications.

Microduct fibre units differ from microduct optical fibre cables (see IEC 60794-5-10) in that they provide less protection to the fibres that they contain. Specifically, microduct fibre units rely on the structure of the microduct, protected microduct or appropriate housing to support installation and to provide additional mechanical protection for the optical fibre over the lifetime of the product.

Systems built with components covered by this standard are subject to the requirements of sectional specification IEC 60794-5 where applicable.

Annex A gives examples of microduct optical fibre units and microducts.

Annex B describes a blank detail specification for outdoor microduct fibre units and the associated microducts and incorporates some minimum requirements. Detail product specifications may be prepared on the basis of this family specification using Annex B as a guide. Annex C provides normative product constructions for microduct optical fibre units, microducts and protected microducts.

The parameters specified in this standard may be affected by measurement uncertainty arising either from measurement errors or calibration errors due to lack of suitable standards. Acceptance criteria should be interpreted with respect to this consideration.

The number of fibres tested is intended to be representative of the microduct fibre unit design and should be agreed between the customer and supplier.

#### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60304, *Standard colours for insulation for low-frequency cables and wires*

IEC 60793-1-40, *Optical fibres – Part 1-40: Measurement methods and test procedures – Attenuation*

IEC 60793-1-53, *Optical fibres – Part 1-53: Measurement methods and test procedures – Water immersion*

IEC 60793-2-10, *Optical fibres – Part 2-10: Product specifications – Sectional specification for category A1 multimode fibres*

IEC 60793-2-50, *Optical fibres – Part 2-50: Products specification – Sectional specification for class B single-mode fibres*

IEC 60794-1-1, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-1: Generic specification – General*

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

IEC 60794-1-21, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-21: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Mechanical test methods*

IEC 60794-1-22, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-22: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Environmental test methods*

IEC 60794-3:2001, *Optical fibre cables – Part 3: Sectional specification – Outdoor cables*

IEC 60794-5, *Optical fibre cables – Part 5: Sectional specification – Microduct cabling for installation by blowing*

IEC 60794-5-10, *Optical fibre cables – Part 5-10: Family specification – Outdoor microduct optical fibre cables, microducts and protected microducts for installation by blowing*

IEC 60811-202, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 202: General tests – Measurement of thickness of non-metallic sheath*

IEC 60811-203, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 203: General tests – Measurement of overall dimensions*

IEC 60811-501, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 501: Mechanical tests – Tests for determining the mechanical properties of insulating and sheathing compounds*

IEC 60811-601, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 601: Physical tests – Measurement of the drop-point of filling compounds*

IEC 60811-602, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 602: Physical tests – Separation of oil in filling compounds*

IEC 60811-604, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 604: Physical tests – Measurement of absence of corrosive components in filling compounds*

ISO/IEC 11801, *Information technology – Generic cabling for customers premises*

### 3 Symbols

For the purposes of this part of IEC 60794 the following symbols apply.

$\lambda_{CC}$	Cabled fibre cut-off wavelength
$\Delta D$	minimum wall thickness
$\Delta D'$	Minimum thickness of the outer sheath of the protected microduct
$d$	Nominal outer diameter of the fibre unit
DS	Detail specification
ID	Nominal inner diameter of the microduct

OD	Nominal outer diameter of the microduct
OD'	Nominal outer diameter of the protected microduct
$T_M$	The acceptable amount of short-term tensile load that can be applied to the fibre unit without permanent degradation of the characteristics of the fibres in the tensile performance test
$T_{A1}$	Temperature cycling test low-temperature limit (usage and storage) according to IEC 60794-1-2, Method F1
$T_{A2}$	Temperature cycling test secondary low-temperature limit for extended storage temperature range according to IEC 60794-1-2, Method F1
$T_{B1}$	Temperature cycling test high-temperature limit (usage and storage) according to IEC 60794-1-2, Method F1
$T_{B2}$	Temperature cycling test secondary high-temperature limit for extended storage temperature range according to IEC 60794-1-2, Method F1
$t_1$	Temperature cycling dwell time
$n \times d$	The product of a variable and the fibre unit outer diameter used for determining appropriate sizes for bends, mandrels, etc.
$n \times OD$	The product of a variable and the outer diameter of the microduct used for determining appropriate sizes for bends, mandrels, etc.
$n \times OD'$	The product of a variable and the outer diameter of the protected microduct used for determining appropriate sizes for bends, mandrels, etc.
W	Weight of 1 km of microduct, protected microduct or fibre unit

## 4 General requirements

### 4.1 Construction

#### 4.1.1 General

In addition to the constructional requirements in IEC 60794-5, where applicable, the following considerations apply to outdoor microduct fibre units and their corresponding microducts and protected microducts.

The products covered in this specification should be designed and manufactured for expected operating lifetimes of at least 20 years.

The microduct fibre units are designed to be installed in microducts or protected microducts and in appropriate housings. The microducts and protected microducts that are compatible for use with microduct fibre units are defined in this document. Microduct fibre units are optimised for installation and operating lifetime in these microducts.

It shall be possible to install or remove the microduct fibre unit from microduct or protected microduct by blowing during the operational lifetime except under the following conditions:

- microduct fibre units or microducts are compromised by multiple installation or removal operations;
- microducts are fouled with sediment, debris, or other foreign matter due to inadequate maintenance;
- microducts are damaged by extrinsic factors such as dig-ups, earth heaves, etc.

In such cases, the affected section of microduct shall be cleared, repaired or replaced prior to any microduct fibre unit installations.

The microduct fitness should be verified with dimensional clearance and static pressure testing of the microduct route.

The materials in the microduct fibre unit, microduct or protected microduct shall take into consideration local regulations.

#### 4.1.2 Microduct fibre units

In general, microduct fibre units are the smallest and most flexible of all optical cable products for outdoor use and are intended for installation within microducts. The fibre unit structure is designed to improve blowing performance compared to a bare fibre and to provide mechanical and environmental protection for the fibres during installation and over the life of the product. Fibre unit designs are not described in detail but some examples are given in Annex A. The microduct fibre units are not as mechanically robust as traditional outdoor optical fibre cables and, therefore, require the use of suitable installation and handling practices to prevent damage. Ad hoc installation practices could degrade optical performance or reduce the product's operating lifetime.

#### 4.1.3 Microducts

A microduct suitable for installation of microduct fibre units is a small, flexible, lightweight tube with an outer diameter typically 8 mm or less. Compared to microduct optical fibre cables (see IEC 60794-5-10), microduct fibre units place greater reliance on microducts and protected microducts or appropriate closures to provide mechanical protection for the optical fibres. Therefore, a microduct must meet the realistic impact, compression and bending requirements for an application. A protected microduct may be required (see 4.1.4).

Microducts shall be able to resist pressure differences needed for installation by blowing. The microducts shall be circular and uniform in cross-section throughout their length, and their inner surface may have a low coefficient of friction. Inner- and outer-diameters shall be specified. As an option, a supplier may provide a special lining or lubricating coating on the interior of the microduct to aid installation. These layers should not reduce the specified inside diameter of the microduct.

Microducts generally are intended for benign installation within ducts or as components within a protected microduct as described in 4.1.4. In all cases, it shall be possible to identify each individual microduct throughout the length. When using colours they shall be a reasonable match to IEC 60304.

Microducts installed outdoors and not occupied shall be sealed at each end to prevent the introduction of moisture, debris, insects, or other such foreign contaminants that could subsequently hinder the successful installation of fibre unit. Microducts installed outdoors and not immediately occupied shall be tested for obstructions prior to use.

#### 4.1.4 Protected microducts

A protected microduct is one or more microducts surrounded by a protective sheath, a larger protective duct and/or an integral thick sheath (such that it complies with the requirements of Clause 7). A protected microduct can provide additional crush and impact protection compared to a stand-alone microduct. This additional protection may be needed for a specific operating environment or installation method. The protective sheath may include an integrated layer of armouring or thicker outer sheath. In all cases it shall be possible to identify each individual microduct throughout the length. When using colours, they shall be a match to IEC 60304 using visual inspection.

#### 4.1.5 Microduct fittings

Microduct fittings are components needed to physically align, connect and seal the junction between two or more sections of microduct, or to connect microduct to hardware, or to seal the space between a microduct fibre unit and microduct. Multiple microducts may be connected in series in order to support extended microduct fibre unit installation distances, or connected in a branch-type configuration with multiple output terminae for a given input, within the same system. The latter may be employed in campus type local area networks

(LANs) or fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) applications to allow for additional flexibility that can support frequent changes to the physical optical distribution system.

Fittings should be appropriate to the microduct construction. Also, mechanical and environmental performance requirements of fittings may require that such be tested while attached to sections of ducting (or hardware) to ensure intermateability and operational compatibility. The specific physical and material attributes of any fittings used should be agreed between the customer and supplier.

Microduct fittings shall be able to resist pressure differences needed for installing microduct fibre units by blowing. When attached to microducts the fittings must pass the pressurization test of 6.10. Fittings shall allow for the smooth transition of microduct fibre units between successive sections of microduct, or between microducts and hardware, and shall be constructed and installed to prevent jamming of the microduct fibre unit at splice, branch, or other connection points under maximum installation pressures.

Successive sections of microduct may also be welded or otherwise secured together along the same longitudinal axis without the use of mechanical fittings. Such junctions shall meet the same mechanical and dimensional requirements as for joints made using mechanical fittings.

Translucent or transparent materials may be used to support the identification of populated microducts and for troubleshooting installation related issues.

#### **4.1.6 Microduct hardware**

Microduct hardware includes the housings and closures that support the termination of microduct fibre units, including splicing or connectorization. Because microduct fibre units are generally compatible with traditional outdoor fibre optic cable hardware, accounting for the relatively small size, no specific requirements for microduct hardware are included herein. In some applications, it may be appropriate to use hardware that is compatible with the microducts in order to create a sealed microduct cabling system. One example is when empty microducts are pre-installed in hardware to support future microduct fibre unit placement.

#### **4.2 Optical fibres**

There shall be no fibre splice in a delivered length, unless otherwise agreed by the customer and supplier.

It shall be possible to identify each individual fibre throughout the length of the microduct fibre unit.

The transmission performance shall be in accordance with Annex D.

#### **4.3 Installation performance tests**

##### **4.3.1 Installation conditions**

A test route may be used to verify the field performance of a microduct fibre unit, microduct, and/or protected microduct as agreed between the customer and supplier. Ambient conditions can affect installation performance and, therefore should be monitored. Alternatively, the supplier can provide performance data from a specified test route under specific ambient conditions using a specified installation method.

Verifying that a microduct fibre unit or microduct can be installed using a blown installation technique is critical. Any installation performance requirement shall be agreed upon between the customer and supplier.

### 4.3.2 Tests applicable

Tests that are applicable for installation performance are given in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Tests applicable for installation performance**

Characteristics	Family requirements	Test methods	Remarks
General requirements	Agreement between customer and supplier		
Route verification inner clearance test	Agreement between customer and supplier	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E23	
Installation test	Agreement between customer and supplier; typically a minimum distance and time of installation over a specified route is required	Agreement between customer and supplier; typically, duct type and size, route terrain, installation device, maximum air pressure and ambient air conditions should be specified or noted with the results	

### 4.3.3 Mechanical and environmental tests

Based on the expected operating conditions over the life of the product, including the mechanical loads exerted on the product during installation, the following clauses specify product performance for microduct fibre units, microducts and protected microducts.

## 5 Microduct fibre unit

### 5.1 Tests applicable

Tests that are applicable for mechanical and environmental performance are given in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Tests applicable for mechanical and environmental performance of microduct fibre unit**

Characteristics	Family requirements	Test methods	Remarks
Tensile performance <sup>a</sup>	5.3	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E1	
Crush	5.4	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E3	
Repeated bending <sup>a</sup>	5.5	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E6	
Torsion <sup>a</sup>	5.6	IEC 60794-1-2 Method E7	
Kink	5.7	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E10	
Bend	5.8	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E11	
Temperature cycling	5.9	IEC 60794-1-22 Method F1	
Ageing	5.10	IEC 60794-1-22 Method F9	
Water immersion test	5.11	IEC 60793-1-53	
Buffer removal	5.12	As agreed with customer	
Water penetration test	No requirement		Suitable means are used in the microduct cabling system for water blocking

<sup>a</sup> For small units (eg < 2 mm outer diameter; <100 N tensile rating), it may be more appropriate to omit some of these tests in favour of an installation test.

The above tests may need to be modified for use with these cables. In particular, special care needs to be taken when clamping cables in order to avoid end effects. Unacceptable damage may include rips, tears, splits, delamination or cracks in the microduct fibre unit. However, damage at the clamping interface does not constitute a failure.

## 5.2 Family requirements and test conditions for microduct fibre unit tests

Tests shall be selected from the following by the product specification.

### 5.3 Tensile performance

#### a) Family requirements

Under short-term tensile load the fibre strain shall not exceed 60 % of the fibre proof strain. Other criteria may be agreed between the customer and supplier.

#### b) Test conditions (loads $\geq$ 100 N)

Method:	Generally to IEC 60794-1-21 Method E1, with duration as stated below
Length under tension:	Not less than 10 m. Taking into account the measurement accuracy and end effects, shorter lengths may be used by agreement between the customer and supplier.
Fibre length:	Finished microduct fibre unit length.
Tensile load:	Equivalent to weight of 1 km of fibre unit
Duration of load	1 min
Diameter of test pulleys:	As agreed between customer and supplier but not less than the minimum loaded bending diameter specified for the microduct fibre unit. A minimum value of 60 mm is recommended.

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microduct fibre unit and there shall be no change in attenuation after the test.

#### c) Test conditions (loads $<$ 100 N)

Apparatus:	Vertical tensometer
Length under tension:	Approx 250 mm.
Fibre length:	Finished microduct fibre unit length.
Tensile load:	Equivalent to weight of 1 km of fibre unit
Duration of load	1 min

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microduct fibre unit.

### 5.4 Crush

#### a) Family requirements

After removal of the load, there shall be no change in attenuation compared to before the application of the load. Under visual examination, there shall be no damage to the microduct fibre unit. The imprint of the plate on the microduct fibre unit is not considered mechanical damage.

#### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E3
Load (plate/plate):	100 N
Duration of load:	1 min

### 5.5 Repeated bending

#### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microduct fibre unit elements.

#### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E6
Bending diameter:	40 × d or 60 mm whichever is greater.
Load:	Adequate to assure uniform contact with the mandrel.
Number of cycles:	25

### 5.6 Torsion

#### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microduct fibre unit elements.

There shall be no change in attenuation after the test.

#### b) Test conditions

Method	Generally in accordance with IEC 60794-1-21 Method E7
Test length:	300 mm
Load:	Adequate to assure test sample is straight at start of test.

### 5.7 Kink

#### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, there shall be no damage to the microduct fibre unit

#### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E10
Minimum diameter:	40 × d or 60 mm whichever is greater

### 5.8 Bend

#### a) Family requirements

There shall be no change in attenuation after the test when measured at room temperature.

#### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E11A
Diameter of mandrel:	40 × d or 60 mm whichever is greater
Number of turns/helix:	4
Number of cycles:	3

### 5.9 Temperature cycling

#### a) Family requirements

For  $T_{A1}$  to  $T_{B1}$  there shall be no change in attenuation as defined in IEC 60794-1-1.

For  $T_{A1}$  to  $T_{A2}$  and  $T_{B1}$  to  $T_{B2}$ , the change in attenuation coefficient shall be:

- ≤ 0,15 dB/km for single-mode fibre and shall be reversible to measurement uncertainty when measured in the 1 550 nm region;
- ≤ 0,3 dB/km for multimode fibre and shall be reversible to measurement uncertainty when measured in the 1 300 nm region.

b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-22 Method F1.
Sample length under test:	Finished microduct fibre unit length of at least 1 000 m.
High temperature, $T_{B2}$ :	+60 °C to +70 °C, depending on customer requirements.
High temperature, $T_{B1}$ :	+30 °C to +60 °C depending on customer requirements.
Low temperature, $T_{A1}$ :	–15 °C.
Low temperature, $T_{A2}$ :	$T_{A1}$ to –30 °C or –40 °C depending on customer requirements
Note (temperatures):	Other temperature values corresponding to specific climate conditions can be agreed between supplier and customer.
Number of cycles:	2

**5.10 Ageing**

a) Family requirements: as per IEC 60794-1-22, Method F9

b) Test conditions:

Method:	IEC 60794-1-22, Method F9
---------	---------------------------

**5.11 Water immersion**

a) Family requirements

Attenuation coefficient change at room temperature:

- $\leq 0,05$  dB/km at 1 550 nm for single-mode fibre;
- $\leq 0,2$  dB/km at 850 nm and 1 300 nm for multimode fibre.

The attenuation shall be monitored throughout the test at least once every 24 h.

b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60793-1-53
Water:	Distilled, demineralized or de-ionized water which has a PH of between 5,0 and 8,0
Dwell time:	30 days

**5.12 Buffer removal**

a) Family requirements

The buffer materials shall be removable such that primary coated fibres or fibre ribbons shall be free from fibre unit sheathing and/or buffer materials and free from damage following the test.

b) Test conditions

The method for buffer removal shall be defined by the supplier.

**6 Microduct**

**6.1 Tests applicable**

Tests shall be selected from the following Table 3, in accordance with the relevant product specification. If the microduct is only to be used in a protected microduct, some tests may not be relevant.

**Table 3 – Tests applicable for mechanical and environmental performance of microduct**

Characteristics	Family requirements	Test methods	Remarks
Tensile performance	6.2	Under consideration, IEC 60794-1-21 Method E1	
Crush	6.3	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E3A	
Impact	6.4	Under consideration, IEC 60794-1-21 Method E4	
Repeated bending	6.5	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E6	
Torsion	6.6	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E7	
Kink	6.7	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E10	
Bend	6.8	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E11B	
Microduct route verification test	6.9	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E23	
Microduct pressure withstand	6.10	IEC 60794-1-22 Method F13	
Ageing	6.11	Under consideration	

The above tests may need to be modified for use with microducts. In particular, special care needs to be taken when clamping in order to avoid end effects. Unacceptable damage may include rips, tears, splits or cracks in the microduct. However, damage at the clamping interface does not constitute a failure.

## 6.2 Tensile performance

### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, there shall be no damage after the test and shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E).

### b) Test conditions

Method: Generally to IEC 60794-1-21, Method E1  
(note: use of IEC 60811-501 is under consideration)

Microduct length under tension: >1 m

Tensile load on microduct: 1 W

Duration of load: 10 min

## 6.3 Crush

### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, the microduct shall show no damage. After the recovery time the microduct shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E) and there shall be no splitting or permanent damage. The imprint of the plate is not considered as mechanical damage.

### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21, Method E3A

Load (plate/plate): 500 N

Duration time: 1 min

Recovery time 1h

#### 6.4 Impact

##### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microducts. The microduct shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E) and there shall be no splitting or permanent damage. The imprint of the striking surface on the microduct is not considered mechanical damage.

##### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E4  
 Striking surface radius: 300 mm  
 Impact energy: 1 J  
 Recovery time: 1 h  
 Number of impacts: One in 3 different places spread not less than 500 mm apart

#### 6.5 Repeated bending

##### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microducts. The microduct shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E) and there shall be no splitting or permanent damage.

##### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E6  
 Bending diameter:  $40 \times OD$   
 Load: Adequate to assure uniform contact with the mandrel  
 Number of cycles: 25

#### 6.6 Torsion

##### a) Family requirements

Under consideration

##### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E7  
 Maximum gauge length: 2 m

#### 6.7 Kink

##### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, there shall be no damage to the microducts after the test and shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E).

The microduct shall attain the required minimum diameter without kinking.

##### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E10  
 Minimum diameter:  $20 \times OD$

#### 6.8 Bend

##### a) Family requirements

The outer and inner diameter of the microducts shall show, under visual examination without magnification, no damage and after the test and shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E).

##### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E11B

Diameter of mandrel: 40 × OD

Number of cycles: 3

### 6.9 Microduct route verification test

#### a) Family requirements

Objects of the required size, including any blowing tip if used in practice, can be passed through the microduct.

#### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E23

### 6.10 Microduct pressure withstand

#### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, there shall be no damage to the microducts.

#### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-22 Method F13

All microducts shall resist an air pressure of at least  $2,5 \times$  the installation pressure at a temperature of 20 °C for a period of 0,5 h.

All microducts shall resist a proof test pressure of at least  $1,3 \times$  the installation pressure at a temperature of 40 °C for a period of 24 h.

### 6.11 Ageing

#### a) Family requirements

Under consideration

Tests to be performed after the aging period should be agreed between the customer and supplier and could include dimensions, inner clearance test, shrinkage, changes to surface finish, pressurization or installation test of the microduct fibre unit.

#### b) Test conditions

Method: Under consideration

Aging condition: Under consideration (+60 °C for 3 months;  
7 days at 70 °C; 7 days at 85 °C)

## 7 Protected microducts

### 7.1 Tests applicable

Tests shall be selected from the following Table 4, in accordance with the relevant product specification.

**Table 4 – Tests applicable for mechanical and environmental performance of protected microduct**

Characteristics	Family requirements	Test methods	Remarks
Tensile performance	7.2	Under consideration, IEC 60794-1-21 Method E1	
Crush	7.3	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E3A	
Impact	7.4	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E4	
Repeated bending	7.5	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E6	
Torsion	7.6	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E7	
Kink	7.7	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E10	
Bend	7.8	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E11B	
Microduct route verification test	7.9	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E23	
Microduct pressure withstand	7.10	IEC 60794-1-22 Method F13	
Ageing	7.11	Under consideration	

## 7.2 Tensile performance

### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, there shall be no damage after the test and shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E).

### b) Test conditions

Method: Generally to IEC 60794-1-21 Method E1 (note: use of IEC 60811-501 is under consideration)

Microduct length under tension: >1 m

Tensile load on microduct: 1 W or 2 700 N, whichever is the smaller

Duration of load: 10 min

## 7.3 Crush

### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, the microduct shall show no damage. After the recovery time the microduct shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E) and there shall be no splitting or permanent damage. The imprint of the plate is not considered as mechanical damage.

### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E3A

Sample length: 250 mm

Load: 1 kN (duct); 2 kN (buried)

Duration time: 1 min

Recovery time: 1 h

#### 7.4 Impact

##### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microducts. The microduct shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E) and there shall be no splitting or permanent damage. The imprint of the striking surface on the microduct is not considered mechanical damage.

##### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E4
Striking surface radius:	300 mm
Impact energy:	3 J (duct); 15 J (buried)
Recovery time:	1 h
Number of impacts:	One in 3 different places spread not less than 500 mm apart

#### 7.5 Repeated bending

##### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination without magnification there shall be no damage to the microducts. The microduct shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E) and there shall be no splitting or permanent damage.

##### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E6
Bending diameter:	40 × OD
Load:	Adequate to assure uniform contact with the mandrel
Number of cycles:	25

#### 7.6 Kink

##### a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, there shall be no damage to the microducts after the test and shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E).

The microduct shall attain the required minimum diameter without kinking.

##### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E10
Minimum diameter:	20 × OD

#### 7.7 Bend

##### a) Family requirements

The outer and inner diameter of the microducts shall show, under visual examination without magnification, no damage and after the test and shall pass the inner clearance test (Annex E).

##### b) Test conditions

Method:	IEC 60794-1-21 Method E11B
Diameter of mandrel:	40 × OD
Number of cycles:	3

#### 7.8 Microduct route verification test

##### a) Family requirements

Objects of the required size, including any blowing tip if used in practice, can be passed through the microduct.

##### b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-21 Method E23

### 7.9 Microduct pressure withstand

a) Family requirements

Under visual examination, without magnification, there shall be no damage to the microducts.

b) Test conditions

Method: IEC 60794-1-22 Method F13

All microducts shall resist an air pressure of at least  $2,5 \times$  the installation pressure at a temperature of 20 °C for a period of 0,5 h.

All microducts shall resist a proof test pressure of at least  $1,3 \times$  the installation pressure at a temperature of 40 °C for a period of 24 h.

### 7.10 Ageing

a) Family requirements

Under consideration

Tests to be performed after the aging period should be agreed between the customer and supplier and could include dimensions, inner clearance test, shrinkage, changes to surface finish, pressurization or installation test of the microduct fibre unit.

b) Test conditions

Method: Under consideration

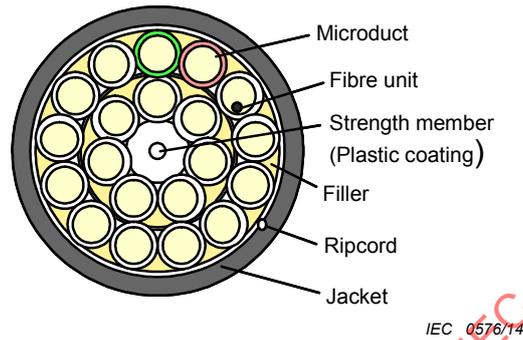
Aging condition: Under consideration (+60 °C for 3 months; 7 days at 70 °C; 7 days at 85 °C)

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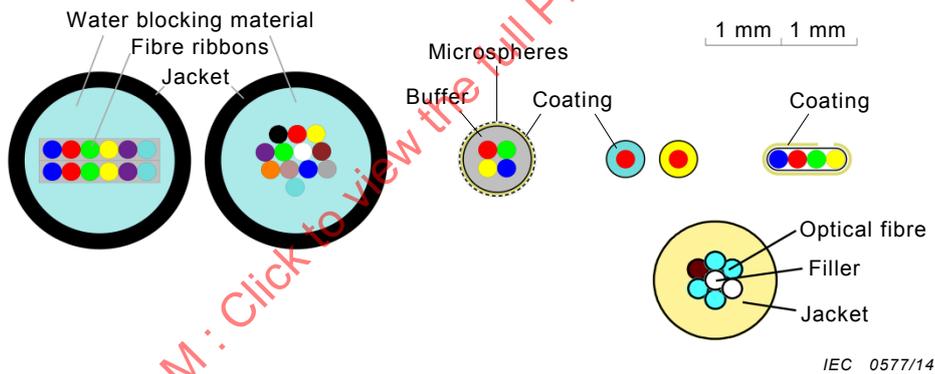
## Annex A (informative)

### Examples of microduct fibre units, microducts, and protected microducts

Figure A.1 and Figure A.2 give useful examples of microduct fibre units, microducts, and protected microducts.



**Figure A.1 – Protected microducts, tight package**



**Figure A.2 – Microduct fibre units**

**Annex B**  
(informative)

**Product descriptions (blank detail specification and minimum requirements)**

Tables B.1, B.2, B.3 give templates for the description of microducts fibre unit, microducts and protected microducts.

**Table B.1 – Microduct fibre unit description**

(1) Prepared by		(2) Document No. Issue: Date:
(3) Available from:	(4) Generic specifications: Sectional specification: Family specification:	IEC 60794-1-1 and IEC 60794-1-2 IEC 60794-5 IEC 60794-5-20
(5) Additional references:		
(6) Fibre unit description		
(7) Fibre unit construction		
Optical fibre type (s) Range of fibre count Fibre unit type Ribbons (if used) Fibre count Dimensions Outer material Marking identification (optional) – customer requirement – Identification of supplier	Additional remarks	
(8) Application information:		
Maximum outer diameter (d) Rated maximum tensile load, $T_M$ Minimum bending radius for no-load bending Temperature range: – Transport and storage – Installation Operation Manufacturing length – Typical – Nominal/tolerances	mm N mm or $n \times d$ °C °C °C m 0 % +1	

**Table B.2 – Microduct description**

(1) Prepared by		(2) Document No: Issue: Date:
(3) Available from:	(4) Generic specifications: Sectional specification: Family specification:	IEC 60794-1-1 and IEC 60794-1-2 IEC 60794-5 IEC 60794-5-20
(5) Additional references:		
(6) Microduct description		
(7) Microduct construction		Additional remarks
Microduct material Liner (optional) – Low friction liner, type Marking identification – customer requirement – Identification of supplier		
(8) Application information:		
Maximum outer diameter (OD)		mm
Minimum inner diameter (ID)		mm
Note: one or the other of these may be selected		
Minimum wall thickness ( $\Delta D$ )		mm
Rated maximum tensile load, $T_M$		N
Minimum bending radius for no-load bending		mm or $n \times OD$
Maximum operating air pressure		Pa
Temperature range:		
– Transport and storage		°C
– Installation		°C
– Operation		°C

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**Table B.3 – Protected microduct description**

(1) Prepared by		(2) Document No: Issue: Date:
(3) Available from:	(4) Generic specifications: IEC 60794-1-1 and IEC 60794-1-2 Sectional specification: IEC 60794-5 Family specification: IEC 60794-5-20	
(5) Additional references:		
(6) Protected microduct description		
(7) Protected microduct construction		Additional remarks
<p>Microduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Material</li> <li>– Range of microduct count (e.g. 1 or more)</li> <li>– Liner (type/material)</li> </ul> <p>Sheath, material</p> <p>Additional armouring (optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Non-metallic armouring</li> <li>– Metallic armouring</li> <li>– Moisture barrier</li> </ul> <p>Additional outer sheath (optional)</p> <p>Marking identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– customer requirement</li> <li>– Identification of supplier</li> </ul>		Click to view the full PDF of IEC 60794-5-20:2014
(8) Application information:		
<p>Microduct(s) <sup>a</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maximum outer diameter (OD)</li> </ul> <p>Minimum inner diameter (ID)</p> <p>Note: one or the other of these may be selected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Minimum thickness (<math>\Delta D</math>)</li> <li>– Rated maximum tensile load, <math>T_M</math></li> <li>– Minimum bending radius for no-load bending</li> <li>– Minimum bending radius for rated-load bending</li> </ul> <p>Protected microduct <sup>b</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maximum outer diameter (OD')</li> <li>– Minimum sheath thickness (<math>\Delta D'</math>)</li> <li>– Rated maximum tensile load, <math>T_M</math></li> <li>– Minimum bending radius for no-load bending</li> <li>– Minimum bending radius for rated-load bending</li> </ul> <p>Maximum operating air pressure, microduct</p> <p>Temperature range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transport and storage</li> <li>– Installation</li> <li>– Operation</li> </ul>		<p>mm</p> <p>mm</p> <p>mm</p> <p>N</p> <p>mm or <math>n \times OD</math></p> <p>mm or <math>n \times OD</math></p> <p>mm</p> <p>mm</p> <p>N</p> <p>mm or <math>n \times OD'</math></p> <p>mm or <math>n \times OD'</math></p> <p>bar/Pa</p> <p>°C</p> <p>°C</p> <p>°C</p>
<p><sup>a</sup> In general, protected microducts contain microducts.</p>		
<p><sup>b</sup> Not applicable to microducts installed loosely into pre-installed ducts.</p>		

## Annex C (normative)

### Product constructions

Tables C.1, C.2, C.3 give templates for the product construction of microducts fibre unit, microducts and protected microducts.

**Table C.1 – Typical microduct fibre unit construction**

Characteristics	Family requirements	Test methods	Remarks
Microduct fibre unit core: Filling compound (if used)	According to detail specification	Either IEC 60794-1-21 Method E14 or IEC 60811-601 IEC 60811-602 IEC 60811-604	
Dry blocking compound (if used)	According to detail specification	Under consideration	
Ribbons, dimensions (if used)	According to detail specification		
Strength member	According to detail specification	Visual inspection	
Filler	According to detail specification	Visual inspection	
Ripcord	According to detail specification	Visual inspection	
Outer sheath Material	According to detail specification		
Outside diameter	According to detail specification	IEC 60811-203	
Minimum thickness	According to detail specification	IEC 60811-202	
Optional protection Armouring, metallic	7.6.3 of IEC 60794-3:2001		
Moisture barrier	According to detail specification		
Microduct fibre unit marking Configuration, dimensions	According to detail specification	Visual inspection	
Microduct fibre unit length	According to detail specification	Under consideration	

**Table C.2 – Microduct construction**

Characteristics	Family requirements	Test methods	Remarks
Material	According to detail specification		
Outer diameter	According to detail specification	IEC 60811-203	
Minimum inner diameter	According to detail specification	IEC 60811-203	This method may be adapted to measure inner diameter
Minimum wall thickness	According to detail specification	IEC 60811-202	
Microduct liner: Type	According to detail specification	Under consideration	
Material	According to detail specification	Under consideration	
Marking Configuration, dimensions	According to detail specification	Visual inspection	
Microduct length		Under consideration	

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