

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Coaxial communication cables –  
Part 6: Sectional specification for CATV drop cables

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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**Coaxial communication cables –  
Part 6: Sectional specification for CATV drop cables**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## COAXIAL COMMUNICATION CABLES –

## Part 6: Sectional specification for CATV drop cables

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IEC 61196-6 has been prepared by subcommittee 46A: Coaxial cables, of IEC technical committee 46: Cables, wires, waveguides, RF connectors, RF and microwave passive components and accessories. It is an International Standard.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2009. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) extended scope,
- b) revised sheath marking and labelling.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
46A/1498/FDIS	46A/1514/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 61196 series, published under the general title *Coaxial communication cables*, can be found on the IEC website.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications](http://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications).

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## COAXIAL COMMUNICATION CABLES –

### Part 6: Sectional specification for CATV drop cables

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61196 applies to coaxial communications cables. It specifies the requirements for CATV drop cables for analogue and digital one and two way signal transmission, e.g. for cable networks for television signals, sound signals, interactive services, surveillance & control systems, and satellite television receiving systems according to the requirements of IEC 60728-1, IEC 60728-1-1, IEC 60728-101, IEC 60728-10, ISO/IEC 11801-1 and ISO/IEC 11801-4. This also includes the transmission of BCT signals provided by a CATV, MATV or SMATV cable network.

The operating frequency is from 5 MHz to 1 000 MHz or from 5 MHz to 3 000 MHz.

Operating temperature is between –40 °C and +70 °C.

#### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 60068-1:2013, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-78, *Environmental testing – Part 2-78: Tests – Test Cab: Damp heat, steady state*

IEC 60096-0-1, *Radio frequency cables – Part 0-1: Guidelines to the design of detail specifications – Coaxial cables*

IEC 60811-605, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 605: Physical tests – Measurement of carbon black and/or mineral filler in polyethylene compounds*

IEC 61196-1:2005, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1: Generic specification – General, definitions and requirements*

IEC 61196-1-1, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-1: Capability approval for coaxial cables*

IEC 61196-1-101, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-101: Electrical test methods – Test for conductor d.c. resistance of cable*

IEC 61196-1-102, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-102: Electrical test methods – Test for insulation resistance of cable dielectric*

IEC 61196-1-105, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-105: Electrical test methods – Test for withstand voltage of cable dielectric*

IEC 61196-1-106, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-106: Electrical test methods – Test for withstand voltage of cable sheath*

IEC 61196-1-108, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-108: Electrical test methods – Test for characteristic impedance, phase and group delay, electrical length and propagation velocity*

IEC 61196-1-112, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-112: Electrical test methods – Test for return loss (uniformity of impedance)*

IEC 61196-1-113, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-113: Electrical test methods – Test for attenuation constant*

IEC 61196-1-115, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-115: Electrical test methods – Test for regularity of impedance (pulse/step function return loss)*

IEC 61196-1-201, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-201: Environmental test methods – Test for cold bend performance of cable*

IEC 61196-1-203, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-203: Environmental test methods – Test for water penetration of cable*

IEC 61196-1-206, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-206: Environmental test methods – Climatic sequence*

IEC 61196-1-209, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-209: Environmental test methods – Thermal cycling*

IEC 61196-1-212, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-212: Environmental test methods – UV stability*

IEC 61196-1-301, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-301: Mechanical test methods – Test for ovality*

IEC 61196-1-302, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-302: Mechanical test methods – Test for eccentricity*

IEC 61196-1-308, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-308: Mechanical test methods – Test for tensile strength and elongation for copper-clad metals*

IEC 61196-1-310, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-310: Mechanical test methods – Test for torsion characteristics of copper-clad metals*

IEC 61196-1-313, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-313: Mechanical test methods – Adhesion of dielectric and sheath*

IEC 61196-1-314:2015, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-314: Mechanical test methods – Test for bending*

IEC 61196-1-316, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-316: Mechanical test methods – Test of maximum pulling force of cable*

IEC 61196-1-317, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-317: Mechanical test methods – Test for crush resistance of cable*

IEC 61196-1-324, *Coaxial communication cables – Part 1-324: Mechanical test methods – Test for abrasion resistance of cable*

IEC 62153-1-1, *Metallic communication cables test methods – Part 1-1: Electrical – Measurement of the pulse/step return loss in the frequency domain using the Inverse Discrete Fourier (IDFT)*

IEC 62153-4-3, *Metallic communication cable test methods – Part 4-3: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Surface transfer impedance – Triaxial method*

IEC 62153-4-4, *Metallic communication cable test methods – Part 4-4: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Test method for measuring of the screening attenuation as up to and above 3 GHz, triaxial method*

IEC 62230, *Electric cables – Spark-test method*

### **3 Terms and definitions**

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 61196-1 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

### **4 Materials and cable construction**

#### **4.1 Cable construction**

The cable construction shall be in accordance with 4.2 to 4.6 of this document and the requirements stated in the relevant detail specification.

#### **4.2 Inner conductor**

##### **4.2.1 Conductor material**

IEC 61196-1: 2005, Subclause 4.4.1 applies. The conductor material shall be stated in the relevant detail specification.

##### **4.2.2 Conductor construction**

The conductor shall consist of a single wire or tube.

IEC 61196-1:2005, Subclause 4.4 applies.

The nominal diameter of the inner conductor and tolerance shall be stated in the relevant detail specification.

The maximum allowable tolerance is  $\pm 0,03$  mm.

##### **4.3 Dielectric**

IEC 61196-1:2005, Subclause 4.5 applies.

The type, nominal diameter and tolerance along with the ovality and eccentricity of the dielectric shall be stated in the relevant detail specification.

The maximum allowable tolerance of the diameter is  $\pm 0,15$  mm. The maximum allowable values for ovality and eccentricity are given in 7.4, Table 4 of this document.

If the tape of the outer conductor is bonded to the dielectric, the measurement shall be made over this tape.

#### **4.4 Outer conductor or screen**

The construction and material of the outer conductor or screen shall be as stated in the relevant detail specification. The construction shall be in accordance with IEC 61196-1:2005, Subclause 4.6.1 f) or 4.6.1 g).

The nominal diameter of the outer conductor or screen shall be stated in the relevant detail specification.

The maximum allowable tolerance of the diameter is  $\pm 0,20$  mm.

#### **4.5 Sheath**

IEC 61196-1:2005, Subclause 4.7, as amended by the following, applies:

Cables without an outer sheath shall not be subject to 4.5 of this document.

The outer sheath of the cable shall be a thermoplastic material as specified in the relevant detail specification.

The nominal sheath thickness shall be stated in the relevant detail specification.

The nominal diameter of the sheath shall be stated in the relevant detail specification.

The maximum allowable tolerance of the diameter is  $\pm 0,25$  mm. The maximum allowable values for ovality and eccentricity are given in 7.4, Table 4 of this document.

For aerial cables or cables intended for outdoor applications utilising a black polyethylene sheath, the carbon black content shall be as stated in Table 4.

For other sheath material and colours of cables for outdoor use, the cable shall pass the UV stability test. (A relevant test procedure is under consideration.)

The messenger type shall be specified in the relevant detail specification and shall include as a minimum the following criteria: type and material, tensile strength, corrosion properties and elongation.

#### **4.6 Completed cable**

The overall nominal completed cable dimensions shall be stated in the detail specification.

### **5 Standard ratings and characteristics**

The ratings and characteristics applicable to each cable shall be specified herein or in the relevant detail specification.

## 6 Identification and marking

### 6.1 Cable identification

IEC 61196-1:2005, Subclause 6.1 applies.

### 6.2 Sheath marking

Unless otherwise specified in the detail specification, sheath marking shall be achieved as a non-degradable print containing the following minimum information:

- a number giving the nominal characteristic impedance of the cable in ohms, "75",
- a number that corresponds to the approximate dielectric outer diameter in mm, for example, the nominal dielectric diameter 3,66 mm shall be expressed by "4",
- a letter that corresponds to the different outer conductor construction types,
- letters that correspond to the different inner conductor types,
- letters that correspond to the different outer conductor construction types,
- letters that correspond to the different outer conductor materials,
- a designation of the different screening classes,
- the number of the IEC standard (61196-6-x),
- the name of the supplier,
- the length of cable.

EXAMPLE: 75-4T-BC-ALT/BC/ALT-A – <xxx> – IEC 61196-6-3

More detailed information is given in Annex A.

### 6.3 Labelling

Unless otherwise specified in the detail specification, drums or coils shall be provided with a label with a non-degradable print containing the following minimum information:

- a number giving the nominal characteristic impedance of the cable in ohms, "75",
- a number that corresponds to the approximate dielectric outer diameter in mm; for example, the nominal dielectric diameter 3,66 mm shall be expressed by "4",
- a letter that corresponds to the different outer conductor construction types, see A.1.2,
- letters that correspond to the different inner conductor types, see A.1.2,
- letters that correspond to the different outer conductor construction types, see A.1.2,
- letters that correspond to the different outer conductor materials, see A.1.2,
- a designation of the different screening classes, see A.1.2,
- the name of the supplier,
- the number of the IEC standard (61196-6-x),
- the batch part number.

More detailed information is given in Annex A.

EXAMPLE: 75-4T-BC-ALT/BC/ALT-A – <xxx> – IEC 61196-6-3 – 03/04 543 m

## 7 Tests for completed cables

### 7.1 General

When tested in accordance with the IEC 61196-1-x series, the requirements given below shall apply.

Unless otherwise specified, all measurements shall be carried out under standard atmospheric conditions for testing in accordance with IEC 60068-1:2013, Clause 5.

Applicable test methods shall be in accordance with the IEC 61196-1-x series and the IEC 62153-4-x series unless otherwise specified.

The operational frequency range of the cable shall be specified in the relevant detail specification as either 5 MHz to 1 000 MHz or 5 MHz to 3 000 MHz and tested accordingly.

### 7.2 Electrical testing of the finished cable

#### 7.2.1 Low-frequency and DC electrical measurements

Low-frequency and DC electrical measurements are described in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Low-frequency and DC electrical measurements**

No.	IEC test procedure	Parameter	Requirements/remarks
7.2.1.1	61196-1-101	Conductor resistance	Applicable, value in accordance with the detail specification
7.2.1.2	61196-1-102	Insulation resistance	$\geq 10^4 \text{ M}\Omega \times \text{km}$
7.2.1.3	61196-1-105	Withstand voltage of dielectric	2 kV DC or 1,5 kV AC for 1 min, unless otherwise specified in the relevant detail specification
7.2.1.4	61196-1-106	Withstand voltage of sheath	3,5 kV DC or 2,5 kV AC, unless otherwise specified in the relevant detail specification
7.2.1.5	60096-0-1	Current carrying capacity	May be specified for information purposes in the relevant detail specification
7.2.1.6	IEC 62230	Spark test	2,5 kV AC, or 3,75 kV DC, or pulse, or 3,5 kV h.f.

## 7.2.2 High-frequency electrical and transmission measurements

High-frequency electrical and transmission measurements are described in Table 2.

**Table 2 – High-frequency electrical and transmission measurements**

No.	IEC test procedure	Parameter	Requirements/remarks
7.2.2.1	61196-1-108	Characteristic impedance	$75 \Omega \pm 3 \Omega$
7.2.2.2	61196-1-108	Relative propagation velocity (velocity ratio)	May be specified for information purposes only in the detail specification
7.2.2.3	61196-1-112	Return loss	RL: $\geq 20$ dB from 5 MHz to 1 000 MHz; $\geq 18$ dB from 1 000 MHz to 2 000 MHz; $\geq 16$ dB from 2 000 MHz to 3 000 MHz The measurement inaccuracy $a_{r,f}$ shall be $< 1$ dB
7.2.2.4	61196-1-113	Attenuation constant	The cable shall comply at any frequency with the formula $a \cdot \sqrt{f} + b \cdot f + c$ . In case of copper clad conductor material, a term $d/\sqrt{f}$ should be added, to match the curve at low frequencies. The coefficients $a$ , $b$ , $c$ and $d$ shall be given in the relevant detail specification as well as the discrete values at 200 MHz and 800 MHz
7.2.2.5	61196-1-115	Regularity of impedance	Perform on both ends of tested cable Regularity $\geq 40$ dB resp $\leq 1$ % Test procedure: IEC 61196-1-115, (time domain) or IEC 62153-1-1 (transformation from frequency domain into time domain by IDFT)
7.2.2.6	62153-4-3	Transfer impedance <sup>a</sup>	Screening Class A+: $\leq 2,5$ m $\Omega$ /m from 5 MHz to 30 MHz Screening Class A: $\leq 5$ m $\Omega$ /m from 5 MHz to 30 MHz Screening Class B: $\leq 15$ m $\Omega$ /m from 5 MHz to 30 MHz Screening Class C: <sup>b</sup> $\leq 50$ m $\Omega$ /m from 5 MHz to 30 MHz Test procedure according to IEC 62153-4-3, triaxial method, after completion of the flexure test according to IEC 61196-1-314:2015, 8.3.3, Procedure 2: Radius = $10 \times$ cable diameter Tension = as specified in 7.3.10 Speed $\neq$ $< 1$ m/s cycles = 1 (one move forward and back)

No.	IEC test procedure	Parameter	Requirements/remarks
7.2.2.7	62153-4-4	Screening attenuation <sup>a</sup>	<p>Screening Class A+:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 95 dB from 30 MHz to 1 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 85 dB from 1 000 MHz to 2 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 75 dB from 2 000 MHz to 3 000 MHz</li> </ul> <p>Screening Class A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 85 dB from 30 MHz to 1 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 75 dB from 1 000 MHz to 2 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 65 dB from 2 000 MHz to 3 000 MHz</li> </ul> <p>Screening Class B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 75 dB from 30 MHz to 1 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 65 dB from 1 000 MHz to 2 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 55 dB from 2 000 MHz to 3 000 MHz</li> </ul> <p>Screening Class C:<sup>b</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 75 dB from 30 MHz to 1 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 65 dB from 1 000 MHz to 2 000 MHz;</li> <li>≥ 55 dB from 2 000 MHz to 3 000 MHz</li> </ul> <p>Test procedure according to IEC 62153-4-4 (triaxial method) after completion of the flexure test according to IEC 61196-1-314:2015, 8.3.3, Procedure 2:</p> <p>Radius = 10 × cable diameter</p> <p>Tension = as specified in 7.3.10</p> <p>Speed =/ &lt; 1 m/s cycles = 1 (one move forward and back)</p>
<p><sup>a</sup> Screening classification is determined by the minimum class obtained in transfer impedance and screening attenuation.</p>			
<p><sup>b</sup> Class C cables are not intended for applications operating below 30 MHz.</p>			

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### 7.3 Environmental testing of the finished cable

Environmental testing of the finished cable is given in Table 3.

**Table 3 – Environmental testing of the finished cable**

No.	IEC test procedure	Parameter	Requirements/remarks
7.3.1	61196-1-201	Cold bend performance	Test method A or B as specified in the relevant detail specification. The test temperature shall be stated in the relevant detail specification. No physical damages of conductors, dielectric and sheaths.
7.3.2	61196-1-203	Water penetration	When required, in accordance with the relevant detail specification
7.3.3	61196-1-206	Climatic sequence	$T_A = -40\text{ °C}$ ; $T_B = +70\text{ °C}$ ; $t_1 = 24\text{ h}$ , unless otherwise specified in the detail specification. No. of cycles: 3 Influenced mechanical and electrical characteristics shall be as specified in the relevant detail specification.
7.3.4	60068-2-78	Damp heat (steady state)	Influenced mechanical and electrical characteristics shall be as specified in the relevant detail specification.
7.3.5	61196-1-212	Ultraviolet stability of the sheath or jacket	Applicable to cables for outdoor or other applications which are subjected to UV radiation and do not fulfil the requirement of Subclause 4.5 of this document regarding the carbon black content of the sheath or jacket. – no visual cracks – magnitude of change in elongation $\leq 20\%$ after 720 h – magnitude of change in tensile strength $\leq 20\%$ after 720 h
7.3.6	61196-1-209	Thermal cycling	Transmission characteristics shall remain within the specified limits procedure (under consideration)

### 7.4 Tests for mechanical characteristics of the finished cable

Mechanical testing of the finished cable is given in Table 4.

**Table 4 – Tests for mechanical characteristics of the finished cable**

No.	IEC test procedure	Parameter	Requirements/remarks
7.4.1	61196-1-301	Dielectric	≤ 7 %
7.4.2	61196-1-301	Ovality of sheath	≤ 7 %
7.4.3	61196-1-302	Eccentricity of dielectric	≤ 10 %
7.4.4	61196-1-302	Eccentricity of sheath	≤ 10 %
7.4.5	60811-605	Carbon black content	≥ 2 % (where applicable)
7.4.6	61196-1-308	Tensile strength and elongation of the copper or copper-clad aluminium inner conductor	Shall be in accordance IEC 61196-1:2005. Subclause 4.4.1
7.4.7	61196-1-310	Torsion test for copper-clad metals	Shall be in accordance with IEC 61196-1-310 if applicable
7.4.8	61196-1-313	Adhesion of the dielectric to inner conductor	Sample length = 50 mm. Pressure force $F_a$ required to remove dielectric shall be $0,1 \text{ MPa} \leq F_a \leq 1,0 \text{ MPa}$ . Refer to footnotes a and b below.
7.4.9	61196-1-314	Bending characteristics	According to the detail specification
7.4.10	61196-1-316	Tensile strength of cable (longitudinal pull)	According to the detail specification
7.4.11	61196-1-317	Crush resistance of cable	Load = 700 N, applied for 2 min. After a 2 min recovery time, the maximum impedance irregularity shall be ≤ 1 %, when measured in accordance with IEC 61196-1-115. No physical damage of the sheath or jacket.
7.4.12	61196-1-324	Abrasion resistance	According to the detail specification
<p><sup>a</sup> The adhesion of the dielectric to the inner conductor, <math>F_a</math> is given in MPa by the following equation:</p> $F_a = \frac{F}{\pi \cdot d \times l}$ <p>where</p> <p><math>F</math> is the force;</p> <p><math>d</math> is the diameter of inner conductor;</p> <p><math>l</math> is the length of the sample.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> Other values may be specified if special tools for preparing connector mounting are used (see relevant detail specification).</p>			

### 7.5 Fire performance test methods

When intended to be installed in buildings, these cables may fall under the requirements of local, regional or governmental regulations for the reaction to fire, for example the construction products directive (CPD).

Fire performance testing of the finished cable is given in Table 5.

**Table 5 – Fire performance test methods (FFS)**

No.	IEC test procedure	Parameter	Requirements/remarks
7.5.1		Flame propagation	
7.5.2		Acid gas emission	
7.5.3		Smoke generation	
7.5.4		Toxic gas emission	

## 8 Quality assessment

When specified in the sectional or detail specifications, quality procedures shall be in accordance with IEC 61196-1-1.

## 9 Delivery and storage

Delivery of cables shall be in accordance with IEC 61196-1:2005, Clause 9.

## 10 Fire performance test methods (FFS)

Fire performance tests are performed in accordance with local and/or national regulations.

NOTE IEC TR 62222 could be used if requested by local or national regulations.

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