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Interim Australian Standard®

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**Functional safety of electrical/  
electronic/programmable electronic  
systems—Generic aspects**

**Part 1: General requirements**

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA



This Interim Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT/6, Information Processing Systems for Industrial Automation. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 19 June 1992 and published on 14 September 1992.

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Australian Information Industry Association  
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First published as AS 4048.1(Int)—1992.

## PREFACE

This Interim Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Information Systems for Industrial Automation.

The purpose of the Interim Standard is to provide guidelines on the aspects that need to be addressed when programmable electronic systems are used to carry out safety functions. This standard is based on the international committee draft which has still not been finalised. It is, however, at a stage which will provide guidance and assistance to users. Accordingly, it is now being made available.

Standards Australia invites comment on this Interim Standard from persons and organizations concerned with this subject. The date of expiry for comment is 2 years after publication at which time this Interim Australian Standard will either be confirmed, withdrawn or revised in the light of public comment.

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# CONTENTS

|  | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>  | <b>6</b>    |
| <b>CLAUSE:</b>   |             |
| <b>1. SCOPE</b>  | <b>7</b>    |
| <b>2. NORMATIVE REFERENCES</b>   | <b>9</b>    |
| <b>3. DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF TERMS</b>                                | <b>10</b>   |
| <b>4. OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF THIS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD</b>                     | <b>18</b>   |
| <b>5. CONFORMANCE TO THIS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD</b>                           | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>6. PERSONNEL COMPETENCY</b>   | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>7. SAFETY MANAGEMENT AND PLAN</b>   | <b>24</b>   |
| <b>8. OVERALL SAFETY LIFECYCLE REQUIREMENTS</b>                                | <b>26</b>   |
| 8.1 General  | 26          |
| 8.2 Concept  | 31          |
| 8.3 Overall system definition  | 32          |
| 8.4 Hazard and risk analysis   | 33          |
| 8.5 Overall safety requirements  | 35          |
| 8.6 Allocation of safety requirements to the designated safety-related systems | 37          |
| 8.7 Overall operation and maintenance strategy                                 | 40          |
| 8.8 Overall validation planning  | 42          |
| 8.9 E/E/PES realisation  | 43          |
| 8.10 Other technology realisation  | 44          |
| 8.11 External risk reduction facilities realisation                            | 45          |
| 8.12 Overall installation  | 46          |
| 8.13 Overall safety validation   | 47          |
| 8.14 Overall operation and maintenance   | 48          |
| 8.15 Overall modification and retrofit   | 49          |
| 8.16 Decommissioning   | 51          |
| <b>9. E/E/PES SAFETY LIFECYCLE REQUIREMENTS</b>                                | <b>52</b>   |
| 9.1 General  | 52          |
| 9.2 E/E/PES Safety requirements  | 55          |
| 9.3 E/E/PES Functional requirements  | 56          |
| 9.4 E/E/PES Safety integrity requirements                                      | 57          |
| 9.5 E/E/PES Design   | 63          |
| 9.6 E/E/PES Validation planning  | 65          |
| 9.7 E/E/PES Operation and maintenance procedures                               | 66          |
| 9.8 E/E/PES Implementation   | 68          |
| 9.9 E/E/PES Safety Validation  | 69          |
| <b>10. VERIFICATION</b>  | <b>70</b>   |

|            |  | <i>Page</i> |
|------------|--|-------------|
| <b>11.</b> | <b>FUNCTIONAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT</b>                        | <b>71</b>   |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>GUIDANCE ON DERIVING APPLICATION-SPECIFIC STANDARDS</b> | <b>74</b>   |

#### **FIGURES:**

|                   |  |           |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>Figure 1:</b>  | <b>Electrical/electronic/programmable electronic system (E/E/PES);</b>       | <b>75</b> |
| <b>Figure 2:</b>  | <b>Diagram to illustrate PES structure and notation;</b>                     | <b>76</b> |
| <b>Figure 3:</b>  | <b>Objectives -&gt; sub-objectives hierarchy;</b>                            | <b>77</b> |
| <b>Figure 4:</b>  | <b>Relationship of objectives to overall safety lifecycle;</b>               | <b>78</b> |
| <b>Figure 5:</b>  | <b>Relationship of objectives to E/E/PES safety lifecycle;</b>               | <b>79</b> |
| <b>Figure 6:</b>  | <b>Overall safety lifecycle;</b>   | <b>80</b> |
| <b>Figure 7:</b>  | <b>Overall system lifecycle;</b>   | <b>81</b> |
| <b>Figure 8:</b>  | <b>Relationship of overall safety lifecycle to overall system lifecycle;</b> | <b>82</b> |
| <b>Figure 9:</b>  | <b>E/E/PES safety lifecycle;</b>   | <b>83</b> |
| <b>Figure 10:</b> | <b>E/E/PES safety lifecycle: Relationship to software lifecycle;</b>         | <b>84</b> |
| <b>Figure 11:</b> | <b>Safety lifecycle: Overall scheme;</b>                                     | <b>85</b> |
| <b>Figure 12:</b> | <b>Operations and maintenance activities model;</b>                          | <b>86</b> |
| <b>Figure 13:</b> | <b>Operations and maintenance management model;</b>                          | <b>87</b> |
| <b>Figure 14:</b> | <b>Modification procedure model;</b>   | <b>88</b> |
| <b>Figure 15:</b> | <b>Functional safety assessment stages: Overall safety lifecycle;</b>        | <b>89</b> |
| <b>Figure 16:</b> | <b>Functional safety assessment stages: E/E/PES safety lifecycle;</b>        | <b>90</b> |

#### **TABLES:**

|                 |  |           |
|-----------------|--|-----------|
| <b>Table 1:</b> | <b>System integrity levels: Target failure measures for safety integrity;</b>              | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Table 2:</b> | <b>Objectives and sub-objectives;</b>  | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Table 3:</b> | <b>Objective: Safety integrity targets are correct with respect to the tolerable risk;</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Table 4:</b> | <b>Objective: Functional requirements are correctly defined;</b>                           | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Table 5:</b> | <b>Objective: Functional safety realised;</b>  | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Table 6:</b> | <b>Objective: Functional safety maintained or exceeded in use;</b>                         | <b>20</b> |

|   | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Table 7:</b> Objective: Functional safety assured;   | 20          |
| <b>Table 8:</b> Overall safety lifecycle overview;  | 28          |
| <b>Table 9:</b> Architectural requirements;   | 39          |
| <b>Table 10:</b> E/E/PES safety lifecycle overview;   | 53          |
| <b>Table 11:</b> Requirements for hardware integrity: Safety-related protection systems;  | 61          |
| <b>Table 12:</b> Requirements for hardware integrity: Safety-related continuous control systems;  | 62          |
| <b>Table 13:</b> Independence levels for assessors carrying out the functional safety assessment, (Assessment stages 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7); | 73          |
| <b>Table 14:</b> Independence levels for assessors carrying out the functional safety assessment, (Assessment stages 3 and 4).          | 73          |

#### **ANNEXES:**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>A:</b> Risk and system integrity levels;   | 91  |
| <b>B:</b> Considerations underlying the guidance;   | 109 |
| <b>C:</b> Examples of different PESs to illustrate embedded and application software;         | 114 |
| <b>D:</b> Measures and techniques for PES safety-related systems: (Hardware integrity);       | 115 |
| <b>E:</b> Measures and techniques for E/E/PES safety-related systems: (Systematic integrity); | 119 |
| <b>F:</b> Bibliography of measures and techniques for PES: Hardware integrity;                | 122 |
| <b>G:</b> Bibliography of techniques: Systematic integrity;                                   | 133 |
| <b>H:</b> Abbreviations used in this International Standard;                                  | 144 |
| <b>I:</b> Bibliography.   | 145 |

## INTRODUCTION

Electrical/electronic systems have been used for many years to perform safety functions in most application sectors. Computer based systems (generically referred to as programmable electronic systems (PESs)) are being used in all application sectors to perform non-safety functions and, increasingly, to perform safety functions. If computer system technology is to be effectively, and safely, exploited it is essential that those responsible for making decisions have sufficient guidance on the safety aspects on which to make those decisions.

**This International Standard sets out a generic approach for all Safety Lifecycle activities for electrical/electronic/programmable electronic systems (E/E/PESs) that are used to perform safety functions. This unified approach has been adopted in order that a rational and consistent technical policy be developed for all electrically based safety-related systems.**

In most situations, safety is achieved by a number of protective systems and rely on many technologies (mechanical/hydraulic/pneumatic/electrical/electronic/programmable electronic). Any safety strategy must therefore consider not only all the elements within an individual system (eg. sensors/controlling device/actuators) but also all the safety-related systems making up the total combination of safety-related systems. Therefore, whilst this International Standard is primarily concerned with E/E/PESs it nevertheless provides a safety framework within which safety-related systems based on other technologies can be addressed.

It is recognised that there is a great variety of E/E/PES applications in a variety of application sectors and covering a wide range of complexity, hazard and risk potentials. In any specific application, the exact prescription of safety measures will be dependent upon many factors specific to the application. This International Standard, by being at a generic level, will enable such a prescription to be formulated in future application-specific International Standards.

**This International Standard:**

- ◆ addresses all relevant Safety Lifecycle phases (eg. from initial concept, through ..... design, implementation, operation and maintenance ..... to decommissioning) when E/E/PESs are used to perform safety functions;
- ◆ has been developed with a rapidly developing technology in mind. Programmable electronic technology is rapidly developing and it is important that the framework set out in this International Standard is sufficiently robust and comprehensive to cater for future developments;
- ◆ enables application specific International Standards, dealing with safety-related E/E/PESs, to be developed. The development of application-specific International Standards, within the framework of this International Standard, should lead to a high level of consistency (eg. of underlying principles, terminology, documentation etc) both within application-sectors and across application sectors. This will have both safety and economic benefits.

**This International Standard is Part 1 of a series; future parts are under consideration. It is intended that future parts will cover the detailed requirements of E/E/PES safety-related systems. A key objective will be to facilitate the development of application-specific standards.**

**The considerations underlying the guidance are given in Annexes A and B.**



# STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Interim Australian Standard

### Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic systems—

#### Generic aspects

#### Part 1: General requirements

## 1. SCOPE

This International Standard covers those aspects that need to be addressed when electrical/electronic/programmable electronic systems (E/E/PES) are used to carry out safety functions. A major objective of the International Standard is to enable the development of application-specific International Standards by the Technical Committees responsible for the application sector. This will allow all the relevant factors, associated with the application to be fully taken into account and thereby meet the specific needs (technical, personnel competencies, work practices etc) of the application sector. (See Clause 12).

In particular the International Standard:

- ◆ applies to safety-related systems when one or more of such systems incorporate electrical/electronic/programmable electronic devices.
  - ◆ is generically based and applicable to all safety-related systems irrespective of the application. Examples of the application sectors coming within the scope of the Standard include:
    - process industries (emergency-shutdown systems, fire and gas detection systems, burner controls);
    - manufacturing industries (industrial robots, machine tools);
    - transportation (railway signalling, braking systems, lifts);
    - medical (miscellaneous electro-medical apparatus, radiography);
  - ◆ specifies the requirements for achieving functional safety of the safety-related systems and external risk reduction facilities but does not specify those who shall be responsible for implementing the requirements (eg. designers, suppliers, users, contractors or others). The allocation of responsibilities is the responsibility of the Safety Management (see Clause 7).
  - ◆ is mainly concerned with safety to persons but is also applicable to environmental issues;
  - ◆ applies to the total combination of safety-related systems;
  - ◆ uses a **Safety Lifecycle Model** for all activities necessary for ensuring that the required system-integrity levels are met for the safety-related systems under consideration.
- NOTE: 1) Although the Safety Lifecycle is primarily concerned with E/E/PES safety-related systems, it does provide an overall framework which is applicable to any safety-related system irrespective of the technology of the system (eg. electrical/electronic/programmable electronic/ mechanical/hydraulic/pneumatic).*
- ◆ specifies the safety requirements to achieve an adequate level of **Functional Safety** for the safety-related systems by means of a **Safety Requirements Specification** which is divided into a :
    - **Functional Requirements Specification; and,**
    - **Safety Integrity Requirements Specification.**