



# IEEE Recommended Practice for Seismic Design of Substations

---

**IEEE Power Engineering Society**

Sponsored by the  
Substations Committee

693<sup>TM</sup>

---

IEEE  
3 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-5997, USA

8 May 2006

**IEEE Std 693<sup>TM</sup>-2005**  
(Revision of IEEE Std 693-1997)



*Recognized as an  
American National Standard (ANSI)*

**IEEE Std 693™-2005**  
(Revision of  
IEEE Std 693-1997)

# **IEEE Recommended Practice for Seismic Design of Substations**

Sponsor

**Substations Committee**  
of the  
**IEEE Power Engineering Society**

Approved 16 March 2006

**American National Standards Institute**

Approved 8 November 2005

**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** Seismic design recommendations for substations, including qualification of each equipment type, are discussed. Design recommendations consist of seismic criteria, qualification methods and levels, structural capacities, performance requirements for equipment operation, installation methods, and documentation.

**Keywords:** anchorage, conductor, electrical equipment, damping, dynamic analysis, loads, projected performance, required response spectrum, seismic qualification, shake table, sine beat, static coefficient analysis, support structure, suspended equipment, time history

---

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5997, USA

Copyright © 2006 by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Published 8 May 2006. Printed in the United States of America.

IEEE is a registered trademark in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, owned by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated.

Print: ISBN 0-7381-4844-X SH95391  
PDF: ISBN 0-7381-4845-8 SS95391

*No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, in an electronic retrieval system or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.*

**IEEE Standards** documents are developed within the IEEE Societies and the Standards Coordinating Committees of the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Standards Board. The IEEE develops its standards through a consensus development process, approved by the American National Standards Institute, which brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve the final product. Volunteers are not necessarily members of the Institute and serve without compensation. While the IEEE administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the consensus development process, the IEEE does not independently evaluate, test, or verify the accuracy of any of the information contained in its standards.

Use of an IEEE Standard is wholly voluntary. The IEEE disclaims liability for any personal injury, property or other damage, of any nature whatsoever, whether special, indirect, consequential, or compensatory, directly or indirectly resulting from the publication, use of, or reliance upon this, or any other IEEE Standard document.

The IEEE does not warrant or represent the accuracy or content of the material contained herein, and expressly disclaims any express or implied warranty, including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a specific purpose, or that the use of the material contained herein is free from patent infringement. IEEE Standards documents are supplied “**AS IS.**”

The existence of an IEEE Standard does not imply that there are no other ways to produce, test, measure, purchase, market, or provide other goods and services related to the scope of the IEEE Standard. Furthermore, the viewpoint expressed at the time a standard is approved and issued is subject to change brought about through developments in the state of the art and comments received from users of the standard. Every IEEE Standard is subjected to review at least every five years for revision or reaffirmation. When a document is more than five years old and has not been reaffirmed, it is reasonable to conclude that its contents, although still of some value, do not wholly reflect the present state of the art. Users are cautioned to check to determine that they have the latest edition of any IEEE Standard.

In publishing and making this document available, the IEEE is not suggesting or rendering professional or other services for, or on behalf of, any person or entity. Nor is the IEEE undertaking to perform any duty owed by any other person or entity to another. Any person utilizing this, and any other IEEE Standards document, should rely upon the advice of a competent professional in determining the exercise of reasonable care in any given circumstances.

Interpretations: Occasionally questions may arise regarding the meaning of portions of standards as they relate to specific applications. When the need for interpretations is brought to the attention of IEEE, the Institute will initiate action to prepare appropriate responses. Since IEEE Standards represent a consensus of concerned interests, it is important to ensure that any interpretation has also received the concurrence of a balance of interests. For this reason, IEEE and the members of its societies and Standards Coordinating Committees are not able to provide an instant response to interpretation requests except in those cases where the matter has previously received formal consideration. At lectures, symposia, seminars, or educational courses, an individual presenting information on IEEE standards shall make it clear that his or her views should be considered the personal views of that individual rather than the formal position, explanation, or interpretation of the IEEE.

Comments for revision of IEEE Standards are welcome from any interested party, regardless of membership affiliation with IEEE. Suggestions for changes in documents should be in the form of a proposed change of text, together with appropriate supporting comments. Comments on standards and requests for interpretations should be addressed to:

Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board  
445 Hoes Lane  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
USA

NOTE—Attention is called to the possibility that implementation of this standard may require use of subject matter covered by patent rights. By publication of this standard, no position is taken with respect to the existence or validity of any patent rights in connection therewith. The IEEE shall not be responsible for identifying patents for which a license may be required by an IEEE standard or for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of those patents that are brought to its attention.
---

Authorization to photocopy portions of any individual standard for internal or personal use is granted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., provided that the appropriate fee is paid to Copyright Clearance Center. To arrange for payment of licensing fee, please contact Copyright Clearance Center, Customer Service, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 USA; +1 978 750 8400. Permission to photocopy portions of any individual standard for educational classroom use can also be obtained through the Copyright Clearance Center.

## Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 693-2005, IEEE Recommended Practice for Seismic Design of Substations.

This revision of IEEE Std 693-1997 was developed as a recommended practice for the seismic design of substations. This recommended practice emphasizes the qualification of electrical equipment. Nuclear Class 1E equipment is not covered by this recommended practice, but it is covered by IEEE Std 344™.

This recommended practice is intended to establish standard methods of providing and validating the seismic withstand capability of electrical substation equipment. It provides detailed test and analysis methods for each type of major equipment or component found in electrical substations.

This recommended practice is intended to assist the substation user or operator in providing substation equipment that will have a high probability of withstanding seismic events to predefined ground acceleration levels. It establishes standard methods of verifying seismic withstand capability, which gives the substation designer the ability to select equipment from various manufacturers, knowing that the seismic withstand rating of each manufacturer's equipment is an equivalent measure.

This recommended practice is also intended to guide the manufacturers of power equipment in the seismic design and in demonstrating and documenting the seismic withstand capability of their product in a form that can be universally accepted.

Although most damaging seismic activity occurs in limited areas, many additional areas could experience an earthquake with forces capable of causing great damage. This recommended practice should be used in all areas that may experience earthquakes.

It is the hope of those who worked on the development of this recommended practice that these standard methods of verifying seismic withstand capability will lead to better earthquake performance and to lower qualification costs.

## Notice to users

### Errata

Errata, if any, for this and all other recommended practices can be accessed at the following URL: <http://standards.ieee.org/reading/ieee/updates/errata/index.html>. Users are encouraged to check this URL for errata periodically.

### Interpretations

Current interpretations can be accessed at the following URL: <http://standards.ieee.org/reading/ieee/interp/index.html>.

## Patents

Attention is called to the possibility that implementation of this recommended practice may require use of subject matter covered by patent rights. By publication of this recommended practice, no position is taken with respect to the existence or validity of any patent rights in connection therewith. The IEEE shall not be responsible for identifying patents or patent applications for which a license may be required to implement an IEEE standard or for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of those patents that are brought to its attention.

## Participants

The following is a list of participants in the Seismic Design of Substations Working Group.

**Rulon Fronk, *Chair***

**Eric Fujisaki, *Vice Chair***

**Alan King, *Co-Vice Chair***

**William (Woody) Savage, *Secretary***

Larry Bowie  
Steve Brown  
David Brucker  
Terry Burley  
Philip Caldwell  
Ron Campos  
Florian Costa  
Jean-Bernard Dastous  
Mike Dickinson  
Lonnie Elder  
Keith Ellis  
Willie Freeman  
Joseph Graziano  
Vincente Guerrero  
William E. Gundy  
Husein Hasan  
Carl Horvath

John Irvin  
Carl Johnson  
Leon Kempner Jr.  
Kamran Khan  
Donald Kleyweg Jr.  
Eric Kress  
Tim Little  
Alberto López  
Kevin Macon  
Kelly Merz  
Peter Meyer  
Barry Miller  
Michael Miller  
Philip Mo  
Jon Mochizuki  
Al Molner

Timothy Moore  
Jerry Mundon  
Dennis Ostrom  
Helen Petersen  
Jean-Robert Pierre  
John Randolph  
Craig Riker  
Damaso Roldan  
Wolfgang Saad  
Anshel Schiff  
Julia Shaughnessy  
Gerald Stewart  
Robert Stewart  
Charles Todd  
Ron Tognazzini  
Mark Williams  
Pedro Zazueta

The following members of the individual balloting committee voted on this recommended practice. Balloters may have voted for approval, disapproval, or abstention.

William Ackerman	David Gilmer	John Merando
David Aho	Joseph Graziano	Gary Michel
Richard Aichinger	William Griesacker	Philip Mo
Stan J. Arnot	Randall Groves	Gary L. Nissen
Sabir Azizi-Ghannad	Robert Grunert	Jeffrey Nelson
Munnu Bajpai	Jim Gurney	Michael Newman
Thomas Barnes	Kenneth Harless	Joe Nims
Stan Billings	Husein Hasan	Robert Nowell
Wallace Binder	Steven Hensley	T. W. Olsen
Anne Bosma	Carl Horvath	Miklos Orosz
Steven Brown	Dennis Horwitz	Bob Oswald
Ted Burse	Chris Huntley	Klaus Papp
Carl Bush	Magdi Ishac	James Parello
Weijen Chen	David Ittner	Neal Parker
Ron Campos	David W. Jackson	Bansi Patel
Giuseppe Carbone	James H. Jones	Paul Pillitteri
Robert Carruth	Lars-Erick Juhlin	John Randolph
Donald Cash	Innocent Kamwa	Craig Riker
Garry Chapman	Leon Kempner Jr.	Timothy Robirds
Keith Chow	Gael R. Kennedy	Dinesh Sankarakurup
Michael Comber	Kamran Khan	Douglas Seely
Jerry Corkran	Alan King	H. Jin Sim
John Crouse	Hermann Koch	Chuck Simmons
William Darovny	Robert Konnik	Pritpal Singh
Jean-Bernard Dastous	Antonio Lim	Tarkeshwar Singh
R. Daubert	Jason Lin	Dave Singleton
Matthew Davis	Gene Lindholm	H. Melvin Smith
Nicholas DeSantis	Lisardo Lourido	Richard Starck
Frank Denbrock	Gregory Luri	Bob Stewart
Guru Dutt Dhingra	Otto Lynch	Charles Todd
Jerry DiSciullo	Joseph Ma	Norbert Trapp
Dieter Dohnal	Al Maguire	Joe Watson
Denis Dufournet	Keith Malmedal	Kenneth White
James Edmonds	Donald Marihart	Alan Wilks
Gary Engmann	Jesus Martinez	James Wilson
Mehrdad Eskandary	Frank Mayle	Richard York
Eric Fujisaki	Ken McClenahan	Roland Youngberg
Harry Gianakouros	Nigel McQuin	Xi Zhu

When the IEEE-SA Standards Board approved this recommended practice on 8 November 2005, it had the following membership:

**Steve M. Mills**, *Chair*  
**Richard H. Hulett**, *Vice Chair*  
**Don Wright**, *Past Chair*  
**Judith Gorman**, *Secretary*

Mark D. Bowman  
Dennis B. Brophy  
Joseph Bruder  
Richard Cox  
Bob Davis  
Julian Forster\*  
Joanna N. Guenin  
Mark S. Halpin  
Raymond Hapeman

William B. Hopf  
Lowell G. Johnson  
Herman Koch  
Joseph L. Koepfinger\*  
David J. Law  
Daleep C. Mohla  
Paul Nikolich

T. W. Olsen  
Glenn Parsons  
Ronald C. Petersen  
Gary S. Robinson  
Frank Stone  
Malcolm V. Thaden  
Richard L. Townsend  
Joe D. Watson  
Howard L. Wolfman

\*Member Emeritus

Also included are the following nonvoting IEEE-SA Standards Board liaisons:

Satish K. Aggarwal, *NRC Representative*  
Richard DeBlasio, *DOE Representative*  
Alan H. Cookson, *NIST Representative*

Don Messina  
*IEEE Standards Project Editor*

# Contents

1. Overview .....	1
1.1 General .....	1
1.2 Scope .....	1
1.3 Purpose .....	1
1.4 How to use this recommended practice .....	2
1.5 Acceptance of previously qualified electrical equipment .....	3
1.6 Earthquakes and substations .....	4
1.7 Design and construction .....	4
1.8 The equipment at risk .....	5
1.9 Mechanical loads .....	5
2. Normative references.....	5
3. Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations .....	7
3.1 Definitions .....	7
3.2 Abbreviations and acronyms .....	10
4. Instructions .....	11
4.1 General .....	11
4.2 Specifying this recommended practice in user's specifications.....	11
4.3 Standardization of criteria.....	12
4.4 Selection of qualification level .....	12
4.5 Witnessing of shake-table testing .....	13
4.6 Optional qualification methods.....	13
4.7 Qualifying equipment by group.....	14
4.8 Inherently acceptable equipment .....	15
4.9 Shake-table facilities.....	15
4.10 Equipment too large to be tested in its in-service configuration.....	16
4.11 Report templates .....	16
5. Installation considerations .....	16
5.1 General .....	16
5.2 Equipment assembly.....	17
5.3 Site response characteristics .....	17
5.4 Soil-structure interaction .....	17
5.5 Support structures .....	17
5.6 Base isolation.....	19
5.7 Suspended equipment .....	19
5.8 Anchorage.....	22
5.9 Conductor induced loading.....	23
5.10 Short-circuit loads.....	28
5.11 Wind and ice loads .....	29

6. Qualification methods: an overview .....	29
6.1 General .....	29
6.2 Analysis methods.....	30
6.3 Testing methods.....	30
6.4 Special test cases .....	31
6.5 Qualification method for specific equipment .....	32
6.6 Functionality of equipment.....	32
6.7 Qualification by seismic experience data .....	32
6.8 Response spectra.....	33
6.9 Damping .....	34
7. Design considerations.....	34
7.1 Structural supports, excluding foundations.....	34
7.2 Foundation analysis .....	34
7.3 Station service.....	35
7.4 Emergency power systems .....	36
7.5 Telecommunication equipment .....	38
8. Seismic performance criteria for electrical substation equipment .....	38
8.1 Introduction .....	38
8.2 Objective.....	38
8.3 Seismic qualification levels .....	39
8.4 Projected performance .....	40
8.5 Seismic qualification .....	42
8.6 Selecting the seismic level for seismic qualification .....	42
Annex A (normative) Standard clauses .....	47
Annex B (normative) Equipment, general.....	74
Annex C (normative) Circuit breakers .....	77
Annex D (normative) Transformers and liquid-filled reactors .....	82
Annex E (normative) Disconnect and grounding switches.....	89
Annex F (normative) Instrument transformers .....	93
Annex G (normative) Air core reactors .....	97
Annex H (normative) Circuit switches.....	100
Annex I (normative) Suspended equipment .....	104

Annex J (normative) Station batteries and battery racks .....	109
Annex K (normative) Surge arresters .....	113
Annex L (normative) Substation electronic devices, distribution panels and switchboards, and solid-state rectifiers.....	117
Annex M (normative) Metalclad switchgear .....	120
Annex N (normative) Cable terminators (potheads).....	123
Annex O (normative) Capacitors, series, and shunt compensation .....	126
Annex P (normative) Gas-insulated switchgear .....	128
Annex Q (normative) Experience-based qualification procedures for low-voltage substation equipment .....	133
Annex R (informative) Composite and porcelain insulators .....	135
Annex S (normative) Analysis report template .....	148
Annex T (normative) Test report template .....	155
Annex U (informative) Specifications.....	165
Annex V (informative) Bibliography .....	166

# IEEE Recommended Practice for Seismic Design of Substations

## 1. Overview

### 1.1 General

This recommended practice provides minimum requirements for the seismic design of substations, excluding Class 1E equipment for nuclear power generation stations. Seismic qualification of electrical equipment and its support is emphasized.

### 1.2 Scope

The recommended practice contains recommendations for the seismic design of substation buildings, structures, and equipment.

### 1.3 Purpose

This recommended practice is for new substations and planned additions or improvements to existing substations. It is not intended that existing substations must be retrofitted to these recommended practices.

For instruction on how to include this recommended practice in specifications, refer to 5.2.

IEEE Std 693 is designed as an integrated set of requirements for the seismic qualification of electrical power equipment. Users should use IEEE Std 693 as a whole. Do not modify or remove any requirement, except as allowed herein.

If any part of this recommended practice is removed, not met, or reduced, then neither the user nor the manufacturer may claim the equipment is in compliance with IEEE Std 693 and should not attach the seismic identification plate to the equipment. The user is strongly urged not to modify any of the requirements herein, including increasing or adding to the requirements.

The most important goal of this recommended practice is to provide a single standard set of design recommendations for seismic qualification of each equipment type. Design recommendations consist of seismic criteria, qualification methods and levels, structural capacities, performance requirements for equipment operation, installation methods, and documentation. The intent of a uniform and consistent seismic qualification procedure is to reduce the cost for qualification of substation equipment, because the