

# IEEE Guide for Application of Shunt Power Capacitors

IEEE Power & Energy Society

Sponsored by the  
Transmission and Distribution Committee

---

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

**IEEE Std 1036™-2010**  
(Revision of  
IEEE Std 1036-1992)

17 January 2011



# **IEEE Guide for Application of Shunt Power Capacitors**

Sponsor

**Transmission and Distribution Committee**  
of the  
**IEEE Power & Energy Society**

Approved 30 September 2010

**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** This guide applies to the use of 50 Hz and 60 Hz shunt power capacitor units rated 2400 Vac and above, and assemblies of such capacitors. Included are guidelines for the application, protection, and ratings of equipment for the safe and reliable utilization of shunt power capacitors. The guide is general and intended to be basic and supplemental to specific recommendations of the manufacturer. The guide covers applications that range from simple capacitor unit utilization to complex capacitor bank situations.

**Keywords:** capacitor, capacitor banks, externally fused, fuseless, internally fused, power factor correction, shunt power capacitors

---

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

Copyright © 2011 by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Published 17 January 2011. 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.

National Electrical Code and NEC are both registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Inc.

National Electrical Safety Code and NESC are both registered trademarks and service marks of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated.

**PDF: ISBN 978-0-7381-6491-5     STD97034**  
**Print: ISBN 978-0-7381-6492-2     STDPD97034**

*IEEE prohibits discrimination, harassment and bullying. For more information, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/whatis/policies/p9-26.html>. 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 or the soundness of any judgments 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, or every ten years for stabilization. When a document is more than five years old and has not been reaffirmed, or more than ten years old and has not been stabilized, 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 his or her independent judgment in the exercise of reasonable care in any given circumstances or, as appropriate, seek the advice of a competent professional in determining the appropriateness of a given IEEE standard.

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. A statement, written or oral, that is not processed in accordance with the IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual shall not be considered the official position of IEEE or any of its committees and shall not be considered to be, nor be relied upon as, a formal interpretation of the IEEE. 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. Recommendations to change the status of a stabilized standard should include a rationale as to why a revision or withdrawal is required. Comments and recommendations on standards, and requests for interpretations should be addressed to:

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

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 1036-2010, IEEE Guide for Application of Shunt Power Capacitors.

This standard was revised in response to a need created by changes in capacitor technology, primarily in the areas of internally fused and fuseless capacitors. In addition, capacitor application information previously contained in IEEE Std 18-2002<sup>a</sup> was moved to this application guide. It was also the aim of this revision to coordinate the information contained in this standard, whenever possible, with other pertinent national and international standards.

## Notice to users

### Laws and regulations

Users of these documents should consult all applicable laws and regulations. Compliance with the provisions of this standard does not imply compliance to any applicable regulatory requirements. Implementers of the standard are responsible for observing or referring to the applicable regulatory requirements. IEEE does not, by the publication of its standards, intend to urge action that is not in compliance with applicable laws, and these documents may not be construed as doing so.

### Copyrights

This document is copyrighted by the IEEE. It is made available for a wide variety of both public and private uses. These include both use, by reference, in laws and regulations, and use in private self-regulation, standardization, and the promotion of engineering practices and methods. By making this document available for use and adoption by public authorities and private users, the IEEE does not waive any rights in copyright to this document.

### Updating of IEEE documents

Users of IEEE standards should be aware that these documents may be superseded at any time by the issuance of new editions or may be amended from time to time through the issuance of amendments, corrigenda, or errata. An official IEEE document at any point in time consists of the current edition of the document together with any amendments, corrigenda, or errata then in effect. In order to determine whether a given document is the current edition and whether it has been amended through the issuance of amendments, corrigenda, or errata, visit the IEEE Standards Association web site at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/standards.jsp>, or contact the IEEE at the address listed previously.

For more information about the IEEE Standards Association or the IEEE standards development process, visit the IEEE-SA web site at <http://standards.ieee.org>.

---

<sup>a</sup> Information on references can be found in Clause 2.

## Errata

Errata, if any, for this and all other standards 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 guide may require use of subject matter covered by patent rights. By publication of this guide, no position is taken with respect to the existence or validity of any patent rights in connection therewith. The IEEE is not responsible for identifying Essential Patent Claims for which a license may be required, for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of Patents Claims or determining whether any licensing terms or conditions provided in connection with submission of a Letter of Assurance, if any, or in any licensing agreements are reasonable or non-discriminatory. Users of this guide are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, is entirely their own responsibility. Further information may be obtained from the IEEE Standards Association.

## Participants

This standard was revised by a working group sponsored by the Capacitor Subcommittee of The Transmission and Distribution Committee of the IEEE Power Engineering Society. At the time this guide was submitted to the IEEE-SA Standards Board for approval, the Capacitor Subcommittee had the following membership:

**Mark McVey**, *Chair*  
**Clay L. Fellers**, *Vice Chair*

Roy Alexander  
Ignacio Ares  
Steve Ashmore  
Bharat Bhargava  
J. Antone Bonner  
S. Cesari  
Bill Chai  
Simon Chano  
Stephen Colvin  
Stuart Edmondson  
Cliff Erven  
Karl Fender

Chuck Gougler  
Tom Grebe  
Paul Griesmer  
John E. Harder  
Luther Holloman  
Ivan Horvat  
Steve B. Ladd  
John Maneatis  
Jeff H. Nelson  
Ben Mehraban  
Stan A. Miske, Jr.

Jim Osborne  
Pier Rancourt  
W. Edward Reid  
S. Rios-Marcuello  
Tom Rozek  
Don R. Ruthman  
Jan Samuelsson  
Eugene Sanchez  
Richard Sevigny  
Paul Steciuk  
Rao S. Thallam  
Alan Van Leuven

The working group that developed this standard consisted of the following membership:

**Antone Bonner**, *Chair*

Roy Alexander  
Ignacio Ares  
Jim Barcus  
Ernst Camm  
Bill Chai  
Simon Chano  
Stephen Colvin  
Rory Dwyer  
Stuart Edmonson  
Cliff Erven

Clay L. Fellers  
Karl Fender  
Chuck Gougler  
Tom Grebe  
John E. Harder  
Ivan Horvat  
Luther Holloman  
Gerald Lee  
Allan Ludbrook

Mark McVey  
Stan Miske, Jr.  
Jeff Nelson  
George Newcomb  
Pier-Andre Rancourt  
Ed Reid  
Kurt Reim  
Don R. Ruthman  
Richard Sevigny  
Rao S. Thallam

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

William J. Ackerman  
Roy Alexander  
Steven Alexanderson  
Gregory Ardrey  
Gary Arntson  
Carlo Arpino  
Ali Awazi  
Thomas Barnes  
G. Bartok  
Kenneth Behrendt  
Gabriel Benmouyal  
Bill Bergman  
Enrique Betancourt  
Wallace Binder  
William Bloethe

Stuart Bouchey  
Harvey Bowles  
Steven Brockschink  
Chris Brooks  
Gustavo Brunello  
Jim Cai  
Thomas Carpenter  
James Case  
Tommy Cooper  
James Cornelison  
Luis Coronado  
Randall Crellin  
John Crouse  
Russ Dantzler  
Stephen Dare

Matthew Davis  
J. Doering  
Kevin Donahoe  
Carlo Donati  
Randall Dotson  
Paul Drum  
Paul Elkin  
Ahmed Elneweih  
Bruce English  
Gary Engmann  
C. Erven  
Dan Evans  
Thomas Field  
Marcel Fortin  
James Gardner

David Garrett  
Frank Gerleve  
James Graham  
Thomas Grebe  
Charles Grose  
Randall Groves  
Kenneth Hanus  
John Harder  
Adrienne Hendrickson  
Gary Heuston  
Dennis Horwitz  
John Houdek  
Jose Jarque  
Lars Juhlin  
Peter Kemp  
Mark J. Kempker  
Gael Kennedy  
Joseph L. Koepfinger  
Boris Kogan  
Jim Kulchisky  
Scott Lacy  
Chung-Yiu Lam  
Stephen Lambert  
Gerald Lee  
Solomon Lee  
Blane Leuschner  
Maurice Linker  
Albert Livshitz  
William Lowe

Thomas Lundquist  
G. Luri  
Keith Malmedal  
John Martin  
Kenneth McClenahan  
Mark McVey  
Charles Morse  
Daniel Mulkey  
Jerry Murphy  
Pratap Mysore  
Jeffrey Nelson  
Arthur Neubauer  
Michael S. Newman  
Joe Nims  
T. Olsen  
Lorraine Padden  
Donald Parker  
David Peelo  
Robert Pettigrew  
David Phillips  
Anthony Picagli  
Percy Pool  
Paulette Payne Powell  
Iulian Profir  
Michael Roberts  
Charles Rogers  
Joseph R. Rostron  
Thomas Rozek  
M. Sachdev

Steven Sano  
Bartien Sayogo  
Richard Sevigny  
Lubomir Sevov  
Devki Sharma  
Cameron Smallwood  
Jerry Smith  
Joshua Smith  
R. Kirkland Smith  
Devendra Soni  
John Spare  
Allan St. Peter  
David Stone  
John Sullivan  
Paul Sullivan  
Richard Taylor  
Malcolm Thaden  
Demetrios Tziouvaras  
Waldemar Von Miller  
Reigh Walling  
Daniel Ward  
Lee Welch  
William Wessman  
Thomas Wiedman  
James Wilson  
Roland Youngberg  
Luis Zambrano  
Theodore Zeiss  
Ahmed Zobaa

When the IEEE-SA Standards Board approved this guide on 30 September 2010, it had the following membership:

**Robert M. Grow**, *Chair*  
**Richard H. Hulett**, *Vice Chair*  
**Steve M. Mills**, *Past Chair*  
**Judith Gorman**, *Secretary*

Karen Bartleson  
Victor Berman  
Ted Burse  
Clint Chaplin  
Andy Drozd  
Alexander Gelman  
Jim Hughes

Young Kyun Kim  
Joseph L. Koepfing\*  
John Kulick  
David J. Law  
Hung Ling  
Oleg Logvinov  
Ted Olsen

Ronald C. Petersen  
Thomas Prevost  
Jon Walter Rosdahl  
Sam Sciacca  
Mike Seavey  
Curtis Siller  
Don Wright

\*Member Emeritus

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

Satish Aggarwal, *NRC Representative*  
Richard DeBlasio, *DOE Representative*  
Michael Janezic, *NIST Representative*

Catherine Berger  
*IEEE Standards Project Editor*

Matthew J. Ceglia  
*IEEE Standards Program Manager, Technical Program Development*

## Contents

1. Scope.....	1
2. Normative references.....	1
3. Definitions.....	3
4. Power system considerations.....	4
4.1 Capacitor benefits.....	4
4.2 Size and number of capacitor banks.....	10
4.3 Control considerations.....	11
5. Capacitor ratings, capabilities, and service conditions.....	12
5.1 Standard ratings.....	13
5.2 Related capabilities.....	15
5.3 Service conditions.....	20
6. Switching and switchgear considerations.....	21
6.1 Switching of capacitors.....	21
6.2 Switching transients.....	22
6.3 Outrush current.....	40
6.4 Switchgear.....	44
7. Harmonics.....	46
7.1 Capacitor limitations.....	46
7.2 Distortion limits.....	47
7.3 Operating and application considerations.....	47
7.4 Harmonic “problems”.....	48
8. Surge arresters.....	48
8.1 Substation applications.....	48
8.2 Distribution applications.....	49
9. Substation shunt power capacitor bank applications.....	50
9.1 Capacitor bank connections and grounding.....	50
9.2 Capacitor bank types.....	54
9.3 Protection.....	59
10. Capacitor applications on distribution lines.....	66
10.1 Protection.....	67
10.2 Sizing and locating capacitors.....	69
11. Special capacitor applications.....	70
11.1 Harmonic filters.....	70
11.2 Motor applications.....	70
11.3 Surge capacitors.....	72

12. Inspection and maintenance.....	74
12.1 General .....	74
12.2 Safety and personnel protection.....	74
12.3 Initial inspection, measurements, and energization .....	75
12.4 Periodic inspection, measurements, and maintenance .....	76
12.5 Field testing .....	81
 Annex A (informative) Bibliography .....	 84

# IEEE Guide for Application of Shunt Power Capacitors

*IMPORTANT NOTICE: This standard is not intended to ensure safety, security, health, or environmental protection. Implementers of the standard are responsible for determining appropriate safety, security, environmental, and health practices or regulatory requirements.*

*This IEEE document is made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers appear in all publications containing this document and may be found under the heading “Important Notice” or “Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Documents.” They can also be obtained on request from IEEE or viewed at <http://standards.ieee.org/IPR/disclaimers.html>.*

## 1. Scope

This guide applies to the use of 50 Hz and 60 Hz shunt power capacitors rated 2400 Vac and above, and assemblies of such capacitors. Included are guidelines for the application, protection, and ratings of equipment for the improved safety and reliability in the utilization of shunt power capacitors. The guide is general and intended to be basic and supplemental to specific recommendations of the manufacturer. The guide covers applications that range from simple capacitor unit utilization to complex capacitor bank situations.

## 2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document (i.e., they must be understood and used, so each referenced document is cited in text and its relationship to this document is explained). For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments or corrigenda) applies.