

# IEEE Guide for the Application and Interpretation of Frequency Response Analysis for Oil-Immersed Transformers

IEEE Power and Energy Society

Sponsored by the  
Transformers Committee

---

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

IEEE Std C57.149™-2012

8 March 2013



# **IEEE Guide for the Application and Interpretation of Frequency Response Analysis for Oil-Immersed Transformers**

Sponsor

**Transformers Committee**  
of the  
**IEEE Power and Energy Society**

Approved 5 December 2012

**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** The measurement of Frequency Response Analysis (FRA) of oil-immersed power transformers is applicable in this guide. It is intended to provide the user with the requirements and specifications for instrumentation, procedures for performing the tests, techniques for analyzing the data, and recommendations for long-term storage of the data and results.

**Keywords:** admittance, attenuation, Bode Plot, deviation, frequency domain, Frequency Response Analysis (FRA), IEEE C57.149™, impedance, magnitude, phase angle, resonance, RLC network, transfer function

---

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

Copyright © 2013 by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Published 8 March 2013. 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.

PDF: ISBN 978-0-7381-8226-1 STD98137  
Print: ISBN 978-0-7381-8227-8 STDPD98137

*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.*

**Notice and Disclaimer of Liability Concerning the Use of IEEE Documents:** IEEE Standards documents are developed within the IEEE Societies and the Standards Coordinating Committees of the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Standards Board. 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 IEEE administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the consensus development process, 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. 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 any IEEE Standard document.

IEEE does not warrant or represent the accuracy or content of the material contained in its standards, 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 in its standards 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 ten years. When a document is more than ten years old and has not undergone a revision process, 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 its standards available, IEEE is not suggesting or rendering professional or other services for, or on behalf of, any person or entity. Nor is IEEE undertaking to perform any duty owed by any other person or entity to another. Any person utilizing any IEEE Standards document, should rely upon his or her own 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.

**Translations:** The IEEE consensus development process involves the review of documents in English only. In the event that an IEEE standard is translated, only the English version published by IEEE should be considered the approved IEEE standard.

**Official Statements:** 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 position of 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 of IEEE.

**Comments on Standards:** Comments for revision of IEEE Standards documents are welcome from any interested party, regardless of membership affiliation with IEEE. However, IEEE does not provide consulting information or advice pertaining to IEEE Standards documents. Suggestions for changes in documents should be in the form of a proposed change of text, together with appropriate supporting comments. Since IEEE standards represent a consensus of concerned interests, it is important to ensure that any responses to comments and questions also receive 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 comments or questions except in those cases where the matter has previously been addressed. Any person who would like to participate in evaluating comments or revisions to an IEEE standard is welcome to join the relevant IEEE working group at <http://standards.ieee.org/develop/wg/>.

Comments on standards should be submitted to the following address:

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

**Photocopies:** 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.

## Notice to users

### Laws and regulations

Users of IEEE Standards documents should consult all applicable laws and regulations. Compliance with the provisions of any IEEE Standards document 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 documents 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-SA Website at <http://standards.ieee.org/index.html> or contact the IEEE at the address listed previously. For more information about the IEEE Standards Association or the IEEE standards development process, visit IEEE-SA Website at <http://standards.ieee.org/index.html>.

### Errata

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

### Patents

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 by the IEEE with respect to the existence or validity of any patent rights in connection therewith. If a patent holder or patent applicant has filed a statement of assurance via an Accepted Letter of Assurance, then the statement is listed on the IEEE-SA Website at <http://standards.ieee.org/about/sasb/patcom/patents.html>. Letters of Assurance may indicate whether the Submitter is willing or unwilling to grant licenses under patent rights without compensation or under reasonable rates, with reasonable terms and conditions that are demonstrably free of any unfair discrimination to applicants desiring to obtain such licenses.

Essential Patent Claims may exist for which a Letter of Assurance has not been received. 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 standard 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

At the time this IEEE guide was completed, the Transformer Frequency Response Working Group had the following membership:

**Charles Sweetser**, *Chair*  
**Peter M. Balma**, *Technical Editor*

Greg Anderson  
Jeffrey Britton  
Kent Brown  
Donald Chu  
Larry Coffeen  
John Crouse  
Alan Darwin  
Bob Degeneff  
Fred Elliott  
Don Fallon  
George Frimpong

Ramsis S. Girgis  
David Goodwin  
Ernst Hanique  
Matt Kennedy  
Alexander Kraetge  
Mario Locarno  
James McBride  
Tony McGrail  
Peter J. McKemmy  
Dennis Marlow

Paulette Payne  
Mark Perkins  
Bertrand Poulin  
Kurt Robbins  
H. Jin Sim  
Roger Verdolin  
David Vinson  
May Wang  
Barry Ward  
Joe Watson  
Peter Werelius

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

Michael Adams  
Satish Aggarwal  
Stephen Antosz  
Peter M. Balma  
Martin Baur  
Robert Beavers  
William J. Bergman  
Wallace Binder  
Thomas Bishop  
Thomas Blackburn  
William Bloethe  
W. Boettger  
Jeffrey Britton  
Chris Brooks  
Kent Brown  
Preston Cooper  
John Crouse  
Jorge Fernandez Daher  
Alan Darwin  
Gary Donner  
Randall Dotson  
Fred Elliott  
Gary Engmann  
C. Erven  
James Fairris  
Rabiz Foda  
Joseph Foldi  
Marcel Fortin  
Saurabh Ghosh  
Jalal Gohari  
James Graham  
William Griesacker  
Randall Groves  
Bal Gupta  
John Harley  
David Harris

Timothy Hayden  
Roger Hayes  
Jeffrey Helzer  
William Henning  
Gary Heuston  
Scott Hietpas  
Gary Hoffman  
Philip Hopkinson  
R. Jackson  
Laszlo Kadar  
Innocent Kamwa  
Gael Kennedy  
Sheldon Kennedy  
James Kinney  
Joseph L. Koepfinger  
Neil Kranich  
Jim Kulchisky  
Saumen Kundu  
John Lackey  
Chung-Yiu Lam  
Stephen Lambert  
Benjamin Lanz  
Thomas La Rose  
Mario Locarno  
Greg Luri  
Omar Mazzoni  
William McBride  
Nigel Mcquin  
Joseph Melanson  
Gary Michel  
Michael Miller  
Daniel Mulkey  
Jerry Murphy  
Ryan Musgrove  
K. R. M. Nair  
Arun Narang

Dennis Neitzel  
Michael S. Newman  
Joe Nims  
Lorraine Padden  
Mirko Palazzo  
Bansi Patel  
Shawn Patterson  
Brian Penny  
Christopher Petrola  
Paul Pillitteri  
Donald Platts  
Alvaro Portillo  
Bertrand Poulin  
Lewis Powell  
Tom Prevost  
Iulian Profir  
Johannes Rickmann  
John Roach  
Michael Roberts  
Robert Robinson  
Oleg Roizman  
Marnie Roussell  
Thomas Rozek  
Dinesh Sankarakurup  
Daniel Sauer  
Bartien Sayogo  
Devki Sharma  
Gil Shultz  
H. Jin Sim  
James Smith  
Jerry Smith  
Brian Sparling  
Gary Stoedter  
Charles Sweetser  
Malcolm Thaden  
Eric Udren

John Vergis  
Loren Wagenaar  
David Wallach  
Barry Ward

Joe Watson  
Peter Werelius  
Kenneth White  
Matthew Wilkowski

John Wilson  
Wael Youssef  
Jian Yu  
James Ziebarth

When the IEEE-SA Standards Board approved this guide on 5 December 2012, it had the following membership:

**Richard H. Hulett**, *Chair*  
**John Kulick**, *Vice Chair*  
**Robert M. Grow**, *Past Chair*  
**Konstantinos Karachalios**, *Secretary*

Satish Aggarwal  
Masayuki Ariyoshi  
Peter Balma  
William Bartley  
Ted Burse  
Clint Chaplin  
Wael William Diab  
Jean-Phillippe Faure

Alexander Gelman  
Paul Houz e  
Jim Hughes  
Young Kyun Kim  
Joseph L. Koepfinger\*  
John Kulick  
David J. Law  
Thomas Lee  
Hung Ling

Oleg Logvinov  
Ted Olsen  
Gary Robinson  
Jon Walter Rosdahl  
Mike Seavey  
Yatin Trivedi  
Phil Winston  
Yu Yuan

\*Member Emeritus

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

Richard DeBlasio, *DOE Representative*  
Michael Janezic, *NIST Representative*

Michelle D. Turner  
*IEEE Standards Program Manager, Document Development*

Erin Spiewak  
*IEEE Standards Program Manager, Technical Program Development*

## Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std C57.149-2012, IEEE Guide for the Application and Interpretation of Frequency Response Analysis for Oil-Immersed Transformers.

Frequency Response Analysis (FRA) testing has gained popularity for assessing the mechanical integrity of oil immersed transformers. Due to limited understanding and available information regarding FRA requirements and specifications for instrumentation, procedures for performing the tests, and analysis of results, the Performance Characteristics Subcommittee formed the Working Group PC57.149. The primary objective of the Working Group PC57.149 was to compile and validate FRA experiences and techniques to develop a FRA application and interpretation guide that would benefit the industry.

## Contents

1. Overview .....	1
1.1 Scope .....	1
1.2 Purpose .....	1
2. Definitions .....	2
3. FRA measurement overview .....	4
3.1 Use of FRA .....	4
3.2 FRA base line measurement .....	5
3.3 FRA diagnostic application .....	5
3.4 Recommended FRA measurement test parameters .....	6
4. Making an FRA measurement .....	6
4.1 Test procedures .....	6
4.2 Test environment preparation .....	6
4.3 Test object preparation .....	7
4.4 Test set .....	7
4.5 Test leads .....	8
4.6 Measurement types .....	9
4.7 Load Tap Changer (LTC) and De-Energized Tap Changer (DETC) positions .....	9
4.8 Test connections .....	10
5. Test Documentation .....	17
5.1 Introduction .....	17
5.2 Test records .....	17
6. Measurement analysis and interpretation .....	20
6.1 Introduction .....	20
6.2 Trace characteristics .....	20
6.3 Trace comparison .....	21
6.4 FRA relationship to other transformer diagnostics .....	24
6.5 Failure modes .....	25
6.6 Modeling .....	51
Annex A (informative) FRA theory .....	53
Annex B (informative) Bibliography .....	60



# IEEE Guide for the Application and Interpretation of Frequency Response Analysis for Oil-Immersed Transformers

*IMPORTANT NOTICE: IEEE Standards documents are not intended to ensure safety, health, or environmental protection, or ensure against interference with or from other devices or networks. Implementers of IEEE Standards documents are responsible for determining and complying with all appropriate safety, security, environmental, health, and interference protection practices and all applicable laws and regulations.*

*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. Overview

### 1.1 Scope

This guide is applicable to the measurement of Frequency Response Analysis (FRA) of an oil-immersed power transformer. The guide will include the requirements and specifications for instrumentation, procedures for performing the tests, techniques for analyzing the data, and recommendations for long-term storage of the data and results. This guide can be used in both field and factory applications.

### 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to provide the user with information that will assist in making frequency response measurements and interpreting the results from these measurements. It will provide guidance for all current methods employed in taking these measurements.