

IEEE Recommended Practice for Terminology Used for Direct Current Electric Transit Overhead Contact Systems

IEEE Vehicular Technology Society

Developed by the
Rail Transit Standards Committee

IEEE Std 1791™-2019

IEEE Recommended Practice for Terminology Used for Direct Current Electric Transit Overhead Contact Systems

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**Rail Transit Standards Committee
of the
IEEE Vehicular Technology Society**

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Abstract: Terms used for direct current electric transit overhead contact systems are defined in this standard.

Keywords: dictionary, IEEE 1791™, light rail vehicles (LRVs) overhead contact system (OCS), trolley

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 1791™-2019, IEEE Recommended Practice for Terminology Used for Direct Current Electric Transit Overhead Contact Systems.

This document was inspired because of confusion in the meaning and use of words in overhead contact system (OCS) projects.

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IEEE Recommended Practice for Terminology Used for Direct Current Electric Transit Overhead Contact Systems

1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This recommended practice defines terms used for dc electric transit overhead contact systems (OCSs).

1.2 Purpose

This recommended practice satisfies the requirements for the uniform terminology and definition of terms used for dc electric transit overhead contact system. This document is also intended for those who are new to OCS work.

1.3 Helpful hints on the use of the document

This document is limited to technical terms used in overhead contact systems that supply dc electrical power to heavy rail, electric light rail vehicles (LRVs), streetcars with pantographs or trolley poles, and electric trolleybuses (ETBs) with trolley poles.

Most terms defined in this document were not given in the *IEEE Standards Dictionary Online*, or were not defined in it with reference to OCS. Some terms here were defined in the *IEEE Standards Dictionary Online*, and are so annotated.

This document does NOT define terms for alternating current (ac) electrification OCS, but refers the reader to American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association's *Manual for Railway Engineering*, Chapter 33 [B1]¹, which are recommendations for ac OCS.

Terms, which in OCS are synonymous, are shown with: (*Syn*).

OCS style can be either catenary where the contact wire is supported from a messenger wire by hangers, or direct suspension where the contact wire is directly supported by a cross-span, bridle, trapeze, pendulum, resilient arm, bracket arm, or cantilever.

¹The numbers in brackets correspond to those of the bibliography in [Annex A](#).