

IEEE Standard Test Procedures for IEEE Std 1901.1™ for Medium Frequency (less than 15 MHz) Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications

IEEE Communications Society

Developed by the
Power Line Communication Standards Committee

IEEE Std 1901.1.1™-2020

IEEE Standard Test Procedures for IEEE Std 1901.1™ for Medium Frequency (less than 15 MHz) Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications

Developed by the
Power Line Communication Standards Committee
of the
IEEE Communications Society

Approved 4 June 2020

IEEE SA Standards Board

Abstract: The interoperability and compliance testing for IEEE 1901.1 products built, in which physical (PHY) and media access control (MAC) layers of the medium frequency band (less than 12 MHz) broadband power line communication technology for smart grid applications (SGPLC) based on orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), is specified in this standard. The corresponding PLC application scenarios and test environment are introduced, and the PHY/MAC test cases and test scenarios are provided. The procedures for compliance, interoperability, and certification of IEEE Std 1901.1™ are specified in this standard.

Keywords: BPL, broadband power line, IEEE 1901.1™, IEEE 1901.1.1™, PLC, power line communication, smart grid, test standard, interoperability and compliance testing, certification

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.
3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5997, USA
Copyright © 2021 by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.
All rights reserved. Published 16 March 2021. 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 978-1-5044-6800-8 STD24238
Print: ISBN 978-1-5044-6801-5 STDPD24238
IEEE prohibits discrimination, harassment, and bullying.
For more information, visit <https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/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.

Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Standards Documents

IEEE Standards documents are made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers, or a reference to this page (<https://standards.ieee.org/ipr/disclaimers.html>), appear in all standards and may be found under the heading “Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Standards Documents.”

Notice and Disclaimer of Liability Concerning the Use of IEEE Standards 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 an accredited consensus development process, which brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve the final product. IEEE Standards are documents developed by volunteers with scientific, academic, and industry-based expertise in technical working groups. Volunteers are not necessarily members of IEEE or IEEE SA, and participate without compensation from IEEE. 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.

IEEE makes no warranties or representations concerning its standards, and expressly disclaims all warranties, express or implied, concerning this standard, including but not limited to the warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose and non-infringement. In addition, IEEE does not warrant or represent that the use of the material contained in its standards is free from patent infringement. IEEE standards documents are supplied “AS IS” and “WITH ALL FAULTS.”

Use of an IEEE standard is wholly voluntary. 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.

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.

IN NO EVENT SHALL IEEE BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: THE NEED TO PROCURE SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE PUBLICATION, USE OF, OR RELIANCE UPON ANY STANDARD, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGE WAS FORESEEABLE.

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 is 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 or inferred to be 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 the presenter's views should be considered the personal views of that individual rather than the formal position of IEEE, IEEE SA, the Standards Committee, or the Working Group.

Comments on standards

Comments for revision of IEEE Standards documents are welcome from any interested party, regardless of membership affiliation with IEEE or IEEE SA. However, **IEEE does not provide interpretations, 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 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. For the same reason, IEEE does not respond to interpretation requests. Any person who would like to participate in evaluating comments or in revisions to an IEEE standard is welcome to join the relevant IEEE working group. You can indicate interest in a working group using the Interests tab in the Manage Profile and Interests area of the [IEEE SA myProject system](#). An IEEE Account is needed to access the application.

Comments on standards should be submitted using the [Contact Us](#) form.

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 constitute 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.

Data privacy

Users of IEEE Standards documents should evaluate the standards for considerations of data privacy and data ownership in the context of assessing and using the standards in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Copyrights

IEEE draft and approved standards are copyrighted by IEEE under US and international copyright laws. They are made available by IEEE and are adopted 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 these documents available for use and adoption by public authorities and private users, IEEE does not waive any rights in copyright to the documents.

Photocopies

Subject to payment of the appropriate licensing fees, IEEE will grant users a limited, non-exclusive license to photocopy portions of any individual standard for company or organizational internal use or individual, non-commercial use only. To arrange for payment of licensing fees, please contact Copyright Clearance Center, Customer Service, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 USA; +1 978 750 8400; <https://www.copyright.com/>. Permission to photocopy portions of any individual standard for educational classroom use can also be obtained through the Copyright Clearance Center.

Updating of IEEE Standards 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.

Every IEEE standard is subjected to review at least every 10 years. When a document is more than 10 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 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 [IEEE Xplore](#) or [contact IEEE](#). For more information about the IEEE SA or IEEE's standards development process, visit the IEEE SA Website.

Errata

Errata, if any, for all IEEE standards can be accessed on the [IEEE SA Website](#). Search for standard number and year of approval to access the web page of the published standard. Errata links are located under the Additional Resources Details section. Errata are also available in [IEEE Xplore](#). Users are encouraged to periodically check for errata.

Patents

IEEE Standards are developed in compliance with the [IEEE SA Patent Policy](#).

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 <https://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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IEEE Standards do not guarantee or ensure safety, security, health, or environmental protection, or ensure against interference with or from other devices or networks. IEEE Standards development activities consider research and information presented to the standards development group in developing any safety recommendations. Other information about safety practices, changes in technology or technology implementation, or impact by peripheral systems also may be pertinent to safety considerations during implementation of the standard. Implementers and users 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.

Participants

At the time this IEEE standard was completed, the IEEE P1901.1 Working Group had the following membership:

Oleg Logvinov, *Chair*
Scott Willy, *Vice Chair*

Junfeng Chen
Liheng Chen
Peijin Cong
Shuo Dai
Wei Dai
Xu Dechao
Haitao Dong
Lingqiang Fan
Wei Gao
Pan Guo
Yue Han
Dai Hongguang
Zhang Hongxing
Jianqiang Hou
Xudong Hou
Xiang Ji
Jeng-Shiann Jiang
Xueping Jiang
Li Jianqi
Xin Jin
Zou Keshu
Chunyan Li
Jiaofeng Li
Jun Li

Xiuyan Li
Yong Li
Zihua Li
Li-Cheng Lin
Xiangru Lin
Dan Liu
Lei Liu
Qingyang Liu
Xiaohui Liu
Yixuan Lu
Eugene Mayer
Menghsin Ou
Bingbing Peng
Tomasz Piasecki
Yi Qu
Davide Righini
Markus Rindchen
David Ruiz
Garba Sanusi
Ernst Siegler
Yu Sun
Kuichao Song
Andrea Tonello
Harris Tzou

Peng Wang
Xiaohui Wang
Xueliang Wang
Shui Wei
Jing Xiangkun
Hu Xiaojing
Shuang Xiong
Ma Xun
Guan Yan
Sunny Yang
Bucai Ye
Wu Yifan
Xu Youshi
Hui Yu
Zhang Yungang
Nauman Ahmad Zaffar
Hailong Zhang
Lianjun Zhang
Xuming Zhang
Bo Zhao
Ming Zhao
Yuliang Zhao
Yunlong Zhong
Jia Zhou

The following members of the individual Standards Association balloting group voted on this standard. Balloters may have voted for approval, disapproval, or abstention.

Demetrio Bucaneg Jr.
William Byrd
Tim Godfrey
Randall Groves
Robert Heile
Werner Hoelzl
Klaus Hueske

Piotr Karocki
Benjamin Lanz
Ferris Lee
Qingyang Liu
Xiaohui Liu
Oleg Logvinov

Tomasz Piasecki
Markus Rindchen
Charles Rogers
Xiaohui Wang
Xueliang Wang
Lisa Ward
Scott Willy

When the IEEE SA Standards Board approved this standard on 4 June 2020, it had the following membership:

Gary Hoffman, *Chair*
Jon Walter Rosdahl, *Vice Chair*
Jean-Philippe Faure, *Past Chair*
Konstantinos Karachalios, *Secretary*

Ted Burse
J. Travis Griffith
Grace Gu
Guido R. Hiertz
Joseph L. Koepfinger*
John D. Kulick

David J. Law
Howard Li
Dong Liu
Kevin Lu
Paul Nikolich
Damir Novosel
Dorothy Stanley

Mehmet Ulema
Lei Wang
Sha Wei
Philip B. Winston
Daidi Zhong
Jingyi Zhou

*Member Emeritus

Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 1901.1.1-2020, IEEE Standard Procedures for IEEE 1901.1™ for Medium Frequency (less than 15 MHz) Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications.

Test procedures for compliance and interoperability testing of devices implementing IEEE Std 1901.1™, “Standard for Medium Frequency (less than 15 MHz) Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications” are specified in this standard.¹ Application scenarios and use cases for IEEE Std 1901.1-based implementations and associated channel models and performance expectations are also described. A collection of examples of real-life implementations allowing enhancement of test procedures with the input from the field are provided.

¹ Information on references can be found in Clause 2.

Contents

1.	Overview.....	12
1.1	Scope.....	12
2.	Normative references.....	12
3.	Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations.....	13
3.1	Definitions.....	13
3.2	Acronyms and abbreviations.....	14
4.	General description.....	14
5.	Application scenarios.....	15
5.1	General.....	15
5.2	Application Scenario 1: AMI.....	15
5.3	Application Scenario 2: Single network.....	17
5.4	Application Scenario 3: Electric vehicle charging.....	18
5.5	Application Scenario 4: Smart city.....	19
6.	Test environment.....	20
6.1	General.....	20
6.2	The test structure.....	20
6.3	The test modes.....	21
7.	The physical layer test cases.....	22
7.1	General.....	22
7.2	Test Case 1: Working frequency band and power spectral density test.....	23
7.3	Test Case 2: Anti-white noise performance test.....	24
7.4	Test Case 3: Anti-frequency offset performance test.....	25
7.5	Test Case 4: Anti-attenuation performance test.....	26
7.6	Test Case 5: Anti-narrowband noise performance test.....	27
7.7	Test Case 6: Anti-pulse noise performance test.....	28
7.8	Test Case 7: Communication rate performance test.....	29
8.	The datalink layer test cases.....	30
8.1	Overview.....	30
8.2	Beacon mechanism at the data link layer.....	31
8.3	Timeslot management at the data link layer.....	38
8.4	Channel access at the data link layer.....	40
8.5	SOF packet processing at the data link layer.....	44
8.6	Data link layer selective acknowledgment and retransmission.....	61
8.7	Data link layer unicast and broadcast data processing.....	69
8.8	Multi-network coexistence and coordination at the data link layer.....	73
8.9	Data link layer single network establishment.....	84
8.10	Data link layer network maintenance.....	92
9.	Interoperability test cases.....	106
9.1	Interoperability test environment.....	106
9.2	Three typical network topology used in interoperability test case.....	106
9.3	Interoperability test cases.....	109
10.	Test scenarios.....	114

10.1	Overview	114
10.2	Test scenario 1: Star-Topology Network Test.....	114
10.3	Test scenario 2: Tree-Topology Network Test.....	115
11.	Compliance testing.....	117
11.1	Compliance testing objectives	118
11.2	Compliance testing procedure	118
12.	Interoperability testing.....	119
12.1	Interoperability testing objectives	119
12.2	Interoperability testing procedure.....	120
12.3	Golden node selection requirements.....	121
13.	Certification	122
13.1	Overview	122
13.2	Certification objectives.....	122
13.3	Certification procedures	122
Annex A	(informative) Power line channel.....	124
A.1	Power line channel: the multipath model.....	124
A.2	Power line channel: noise models.....	137
Annex B	(informative) Bibliography.....	141

IEEE Standard Test Procedures for IEEE Std 1901.1™ for Medium Frequency (less than 15 MHz) Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications

1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This standard specifies test procedures for compliance and interoperability testing of devices implementing IEEE Std 1901.1™, “Standard for Medium Frequency (less than 12 MHz) Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications.”² This standard also describes application scenarios and use cases for IEEE 1901.1 based implementations and associated channel models and performance expectations. This standard provides a collection of examples of real life implementations allowing enhancement of test procedures with the input from the field.

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.

IEEE Std 1901.1™-2018, IEEE Standard for Medium Frequency (less than 12 MHz) Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications.^{3,4}

² Information on references can be found in Clause 2.

³ The IEEE standards or products referred to in Clause 2 are trademarks owned by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated.

⁴ IEEE publications are available from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (<https://standards.ieee.org/>).