

Fuse Systems

Photovoltaic Fuses

Introduction

Overview

Special demands are made on fuses for application in photovoltaic systems. These fuses have a high DC rated voltage and a tripping characteristic specially designed to protect PV modules and their connecting cables (the newly defined operational class gPV). It is also crucial that the PV fuses do not age in spite of strongly alternating load currents, in order to ensure high plant availability throughout the service life of the PV system. The fuses must also be able to withstand high temperature fluctuations without damage. These requirements were only incorporated into an international standard in recent years and have now been published as IEC 60269-6.

The latest standardization effort was published as a draft standard in 2017 and is expected to be available in the form of Amendment A1 to IEC 60269-6 in the middle of 2018; several months later than EN. It should be noted that renewed changes in low and high test currents, as well as in conventional times, i.e. current-time characteristic curves, have been incorporated into this latest version. A distinction is now made between fuses for the protection of the strings and fuses for the protection of the array or subarray. This satisfies the different requirements in the PV panel (protection against reverse currents) and in the area downstream (viewed from the infeed direction) of the generator terminal boxes (essentially short-circuit protection).

The PV cylindrical fuses of size 10 mm x 38 mm offer an especially space-saving solution for the protection of the strings.

The fuse holders of size 10 x 38 mm can be supplied in single-pole and two-pole versions with and without signal detectors. In the case of devices with signal detector, a small electronic device with LED is located behind an inspection window in the plug-in module. If the inserted fuse link is tripped, this is indicated by the LED flashing. The devices have a sliding catch that enables removal of individual devices from the assembly. The infeed can be from the top or the bottom. Because the cylindrical fuse holders are fitted with the same anti-slip terminals at the top and the bottom, the devices can also be bus-mounted at the top or the bottom.

The PV fuses in LV HRC design are usually used as cumulative fuses upstream of the inverter. In addition, they can also be used for protecting groups (PV subarrays). For the PV cumulative fuses of size 1, the standard LV HRC fuse bases are available. For PV cumulative fuses of size 1L, 1XL, 2L, 2XL and 3L, we have developed a special 3NH7...-4 fuse base with a swiveling mechanism which combines maximum touch protection with maximum user-friendliness. This makes it possible to change fuses safely and without the need for any tools, such as a fuse handle. This provides safe and fast access even in an emergency.

Our cylindrical fuse holders and fuse bases with swiveling mechanism comply with the IEC 60269-2 standard and are considered as fuse disconnectors as defined in the IEC 60947 switchgear and controlgear standard. Under no circumstances are they suitable for switching loads.

To ensure that PV fuses are correctly selected and dimensioned, the specific operating conditions and the PV module data must be taken into account when calculating voltage and current ratings.

Benefits

- Protection of the modules and their connecting cables in the event of reverse currents
- Safe tripping in case of fault currents reduces the risk of fire due to DC electric arcs
- Safe separation when the fuse holder/fuse base is open



PV cylindrical fuse system, 3NW70..-4, 3NW60..-4



PV LV HRC fuse systems, 3NH73..-4, 3NE13..-4D

Technical specifications

		Cylindrical fuse links		Cylindrical fuse holders	
		3NW60..-4	3NW66..-4	3NW70..-4	3NW76..-4
Size	mm x mm	10 x 38	10 x 85		
Standards		IEC 60269-6		IEC 60269, IEC 60269-2, IEC 60947, UL 4248-1, -18	IEC 60269, IEC 60269-2, IEC 60947, UL 4248-1, -18
Approvals		UL 248-13, waiver certification for China (2 to 16 A)	UL (File No. E469670)	UL (File No. E355487), CCC, CCC (variants without signal detector)	UL (E355487)
Operational class		gPV			
Rated voltage U_n	V DC	1000	1500 (20 A: 1200 V)	1000	1500
Rated current I_n	A DC	2 to 20	4 to 20	30	32
Rated short-circuit strength	kA	--		30	
Rated breaking capacity	kA DC	30	10	--	
Breaking capacity • Utilization category		--		AC-20B, DC-20B	
Max. power dissipation of the fuse link	W	--		4	6
Rated impulse withstand voltage	kV	--		6	--
Overvoltage category		--		II	--
Pollution degree		--		2	--
No-voltage changing of fuse links		--		Yes	
Sealable when installed		--		Yes	
Mounting position		Any, preferably vertical			
Current direction		--		Any (signal detector with antiparallel LED)	
Degree of protection acc. to IEC 60529		--		IP20, with connected conductors ¹⁾	
Terminals with touch protection according to BGV A3 at incoming and outgoing feeder		--		Yes	
Ambient temperature	°C	-25 ... +55°C, humidity 90% at +20°C			
Conductor cross-sections • Finely stranded, with end sleeve • AWG (American Wire Gauge)	mm ² AWG	--		0.75 ... 25 18 ... 4	
Tightening torque	Nm	--		2.5	

¹⁾ Degree of protection IP20 is tested according to regulations using a straight test finger (from the front), with the device mounted and equipped with a cover, housing or some other enclosure.

Selection and ordering data

	Size	I_n	U_n	P_v	$P_{v at 70\%}$	SD	Article No. www.siemens.com/ product?Article.No.	Price per PU	PU (UNIT, SET, M)	PS	PG	
	mm x mm	A DC	V DC	W	W	d						
 3NW6004-4	Cylindrical fuse links, operational class gPV											
	10 x 38	2	1000	1.4	0.6	▶	3NW6002-4			1	20 units	1DN
		4		1.6	0.7		3NW6004-4					
		6		1.7	0.7		3NW6001-4					
		8		1.9	0.8		3NW6008-4					
		10		2.3	1.0		3NW6003-4					
		12		2.7	1.1		3NW6006-4					
		16		3.2	1.3		3NW6005-4					
20			3.4	1.4		3NW6007-4						
 3NW6604-4	10 x 85	4	1500	2.7	1.1		3NW6604-4		1	10 units	1DN	
		6		3.0	1.2		3NW6601-4					
		8		3.6	1.5		3NW6608-4					
		10		3.7	1.6		3NW6603-4					
		12		3.3	1.4		3NW6606-4					
		16		3.7	1.6		3NW6605-4					
		20	1200	4.0	1.7		3NW6607-4					

¹⁾ Tested in the fuse holder 3NW7013-4 or 3NW7613-4.

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	Number of poles	I_n	For fuse links of size	Width	SD	Article No. www.siemens.com/product?Article No.	Price per PU	PU (UNIT, SET, M)	PS	PG
		A DC	mm x mm	MW	d					
 3NW7014-4	Cylindrical fuse holders, 1000 V with signal detector									
	1P	30	10 x 38	1		3NW7014-4		1	12 units	1DN
	2P	30	10 x 38	2		3NW7024-4		1	6 units	1DN
	Without signal detector									
	1P	30	10 x 38	1		3NW7013-4		1	12 units	1DN
	2P	30	10 x 38	2		3NW7023-4		1	6 units	1DN
 3NW7613-4	Cylindrical fuse holders, 1500 V									
	1P	32	10 x 85	1.3		3NW7613-4		1	5 units	1DN

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Technical specifications

	Fuse links						Fuse bases					
	3NE1...-4 / -4D / -4E / -5E						3NH7...-4					
Size	1	1L	2L	3L	1XL	2XL	1	1L	2L	3L	1XL	2XL
Standards	IEC 60269-6						IEC 60269, IEC 60269-2, IEC 60947					
Operational class	gPV											
Rated voltage U_n	V DC	1000 at time constant (L/R) 3 ms 1500 at time constant (L/R) 3 ms					1000			1500		
Rated current I_n	A DC	63 ... 160	200/250	315/400	500/630	63 ... 200 250/315	160	250	400	630	250	400
Rated short-circuit strength	kA	--					30					
Rated breaking capacity	kA DC	30					--					
Breaking capacity	--											
• Utilization category	AC-20B, DC-20B (switching without load)											
Max. power dissipation of the fuse link	W	--					40	90	110	130	90	110
No-voltage changing of fuse links	--											
Sealable when installed	--											
Mounting position	Any, preferably vertical											
Current direction	--											
Ambient temperature	°C	-25 ... +55°C, humidity 90% at +20°C										
Tightening torque	Nm	--					20					
Microswitch for tripped signaling 5 A/250 V AC, 0.2 A/250 V DC	In the "fuse not blown" state, contacts 1 and 3 are closed.											

Selection and ordering data

	Size	I_n	U_n	P_v at U_n	SD	Article No. www.siemens.com/ product?Article No.	Price per PU	PU (UNIT, SET, M)	PS	PG		
		A DC	V DC	W	d							
 3NE1330-4D	Fuse links operational class gPV											
	1	63	1000	19	3NE1218-4	1	2 units	1DN				
		80		20					3NE1220-4	1	2 units	1DN
		100		24					3NE1221-4	1	2 units	1DN
		125		26					3NE1222-4	1	2 units	1DN
		160		32					3NE1224-4	1	2 units	1DN
		200		51					3NE1225-4D	1	2 units	1DN
	1L	250	54	3NE1227-4D	1	2 units	1DN					
		315	73	3NE1330-4D	1	2 units	1DN					
	2L	400	82	3NE1332-4D	1	2 units	1DN					
		500	100	3NE1434-4E	1	2 units	1DN					
	3L	630	110	3NE1436-4E	1	2 units	1DN					
		63	1500	20	3NE1218-5E	1	2 units	1DN				
	80	25		3NE1220-5E	1	2 units	1DN					
	100	30		3NE1221-5E	1	2 units	1DN					
	125	29		3NE1222-5E	1	2 units	1DN					
	160	34		3NE1224-5E	1	2 units	1DN					
	200	41		3NE1225-5E	1	2 units	1DN					
2XL	250	53	3NE1327-5E	1	2 units	1DN						
	315	63	3NE1330-5E	1	2 units	1DN						

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PV cumulative fuses

	For fuse links of size	I_n	U_n	SD	Article No. www.siemens.com/ product?Article No.	Price per PU	PU (UNIT, SET, M)	PS	PG
	A DC			d					
	Fuse bases with flat terminal								
	Standard ceramic fuse base								
	1	250	1000		3NH3230		1	3 units	1BM
	Fuse bases with swiveling mechanism								
	1L	250	1000		3NH7260-4		1	1 unit	1DN
	2L	400	1000		3NH7360-4		1	1 unit	1DN
	3L	630	1000/1500		3NH7460-4		1	1 unit	1DN
	1XL	250	1500		3NH7261-4		1	1 unit	1DN
	2XL	400	1500		3NH7361-4		1	1 unit	1DN
	Fuse bases with swiveling mechanism and microswitch for tripped signaling of the fuse¹⁾								
	1	250	1000		3NH7262-4KK01		1	1 unit	1DN
	2L	400	1000		3NH7360-4KK01		1	1 unit	1DN
Accessories									
	Terminal covers for PV fuse bases with swiveling mechanism								
	1, 1L, 1XL				3NX3121		1	1 unit	1DN
	2L, 2XL				3NX3122		1	1 unit	1DN
	3L				3NX3123		1	1 unit	1DN

¹⁾ Fuse must be inserted upside down.