



AC/19/2018

Administrative Circular

2018-06-29

**TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEES
TO ALL IECRE MEMBER BODIES**

Withdrawal and replacement of IEC 61400-22:2010, Wind turbines - Part 22: Conformity testing and certification, effective 31 August 2018, with the IECRE conformity assessment system.

Dear Sir/Madam,

When IEC 61400-22:2010 was released in 2010, the CAB requested of TC88 that all conformity assessment content be transferred to the management of the CAB, which has conformity assessment responsibility. The Wind Turbine Certification Advisory Committee (WT-CAC) was formed, including all wind industry stakeholders, to consider how best to accomplish the transfer. The WT-CAC ultimately proposed the formation of IECRE, a system-oriented certification scheme specifically designed for all renewable energy system sectors. The proposal was approved by the CAB, rules were drafted, a transition plan related to the Wind Sector, with a deadline of August 31, 2018 for IEC 61400-22 was agreed to, and now the transition plan is complete. The following declaration acknowledges the successful completion of the IECRE transition plan for the Wind Sector related to IEC 61400-22.

Please note that the IEC will withdraw IEC 61400-22:2010, Wind turbines - Part 22: Conformity testing and certification, effective 31 August 2018.

The withdrawal has become possible with the creation of the IECRE Conformity Assessment (CA) System and the deliverables for the wind sector contained therein. Even though the process began nearly 8 years ago, the official announcement of the pending withdrawal was announced to TC88 members via document 88/653/INF in October of 2017, and the process toward withdrawal has been an activity monitored by both CAB and SMB over those 8 years.

The wind sector of the IECRE (WE-OMC), was partly developed to address the deficiencies within IEC 61400-22:2010 related to the assessment of conformity by testing laboratories and certification bodies. The membership within the wind sector has improved, enhanced, and made additions to those previous requirements through adoption of the IECRE rules and specifications, or Operational Documents (ODs). Specifically, the IECRE system has:

- Retained the use of the other technical standards within the IEC 61400 series, and instituted a communication process with TC88 to ensure continued understanding and application of the standards
- developed standardized ODs for carrying out conformity assessment with input by 16 Member Bodies (countries) to ensure consistent application of requirements
- harmonized the interpretation of the conformity assessment content so that all international certification bodies participating in the wind sector of the IECRE system apply the same meaning to the IEC 61400 series of standards
- updated and improved the conformity assessment content from 61400-22:2010 to reflect current and best practices, and extended it to offer practical and useful project certification services

- instituted peer assessment of certification bodies (RECB) and test labs (RETL) so consistency is improved, as well as maintained accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065 or ISO/IEC 17025 as the baseline for acceptance within the IECRE wind sector as a RECB or RETL
- created a transparent set of rules for participation by National Committees, RECBs, RETLs and their delegates
- Instituted a mutual recognition policy so that IECRE test reports and certificates are recognized by all members of the system for use in national certification or acceptance, thus drastically improving the transportability of IECRE certificates. The latter improves the commercial value to end users.

These critical elements make the IECRE the only international, renewable energy, CA system with true transparency, internal consistency between international standards and conformity assessment and rules which assure national committee voting rights and a resultant voice for all stakeholders. The IECRE solutions and deliverables make a sustainable and strong foundation for a robust, international, renewable energy industry with greater value to a broader stakeholder community.

Countries which have previously integrated IEC 61400-22:2010 into regulation should take note of 1) its withdrawal, 2) the improved CA System replacing it, and 3) consider regulatory changes to remain current with the existing IEC standards and state-of-the-art conformity assessment practices.

Yours faithfully,

F.W.P. Vreeswijk
General Secretary & CEO

KMA