

Specification for degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)

Replaces BS 5490 : 1977.

This standard describes a uniform system for classifying the degrees of protection provided by the enclosures of electrical equipment with a rated voltage not exceeding 72.5 kV.

It gives definitions for degrees of protection of persons against access to hazardous parts inside the enclosure, and protection of equipment inside the enclosure against ingress of solid foreign objects and water.

The degree of protection provided by an enclosure is indicated by the International Protection or IP Code (e.g. IP23CH), and the standard defines the precise meaning of each characteristic letter/numeral, as summarised in the table below.

Element	Code letters	Meaning
Code letters	IP	-
1st numeral	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	Protection against ingress of foreign objects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 means non-protected; • 6 means dust tight and protects against access with a wire.
2nd numeral	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8	Protection against ingress of water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 means non-protected; • 8 means protects against continuous immersion in water.
1st additional letter	A, B, C, D	A means protects against access with back of hand. B means protects against access with finger. C means protects against access with tool. D means protects against access with wire.
Supplementary letter	H, M, S, W	Supplementary specific information

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