CHS Controls Photovoltaic system protection







Photovoltaic system protection - DC

Interest in renewable energy such as solar power is rapidly increasing, the industry for photovoltaic modules is growing at 30-40% per year. Rising energy prices has generated an increased interest also in Scandinavia.

A photovoltaic (PV) cell converts light into electrical current - DC. A PV module is an assembly comprising a number of interconnected PV cells. To be able to generate sufficient voltage, the PV modules are connected in series and form a string. A number of strings can then be connected in parallel, forming an array to achieve the desired output power. The PV modules should be protected against overcurrent and overvoltage.

Roof mounted PV modules does also affect how firefighter's can operate in case of a fire. Swedish Fire Departments recommends increased safety measures, allowing the fireman to isolate the lines between PV modules and the inverter from the building access points.

System design

Un-earthed systems dominates, the voltage can reach up to 1000 VDC. The inverter may have one or more inputs (MPP trackers). Figure 2 shows an example of un-earthed system consisting of four strings connected in parallel, two by two. The strings are interconnected in a combiner box which contains fuses and surge protection devices. A fireman's switch, one for each inverter input, is installed close to the PV modules. If the cable length exceeds 10 m, a secondary surge protection device is installed close to the inverter.

Overcurrent protection - fuses

PV systems present special cases for fuse protection. A trend in recent years is that the voltage increases up to 1000 VDC for larger installations. Fuses are installed on both sides of each string since the system is unearthed.

The fuses should be able to interrupt the low-fault currents resulting from the failure of the solar cells while they also cope with high fault currents that may result from failure of an inverter. In addition, the fuse is exposed to cyclic loading, depending on the temperature of the PV module. Appropriate fuses meet operation class gPV according to IEC 60269-6. See page 8 for selection and fuse sizing information.



Figure 1. PV combiner box with DC fuses and surge protection device.

Overvoltage protection - surge protection device

Photovoltaic systems are generally installed high and in open. They are therefore potentially exposed to lightning. Other transients and disturbances in the grid are also phenomenon to be taken into account. If the building is equipped with external lightning protection, Type 1/2 lightning/surge arrester shall be used. For buildings without external lightning protection, Type 2 surge arrester can be used, see page 10 for selection and recommendations. Surge protection device should also be installed on the AC side of the inverter.

Disconnecting – DC disconnect switch

PV modules cannot be turned off by other means than shut out the light. A DC switch disconnector which disconnects the DC-side is required, for example during maintenance of the inverter. A fireman's switch is a DC switch disconnector equipped with undervoltage release, allowing the fireman to isolate the lines from the PV modules in case of a fire.



Figure 2.

System design example of a PV system connected to the grid, DC side.



CHS Controls Photovoltaic system protection

Fireman's switch

It is not unusual that the lines between the PV modules and the inverter can be long and are placed in cable routes together with AC cables. PV modules cannot be turned off by other means than shut out the light, hence the DC cables through the building are live. Live cables increase the hazard for the firefighters during a fire.

Eaton's fireman's switch makes it possible to disconnect the lines between PV panels and the inverter. They allow firefighters to operate without risk of electrocution from live cables.

The fireman's switch is a DC disconnect switch equipped with a time delay undervoltage release. The time delay ensure that more than 93% of all brief power failures and voltage drops will not cause a trip. All fireman's switches feature NO-NC auxiliary contacts to be used for switch position indication.

Swedish Fire Departments have started to recommend increased safety measures, allowing safe operation for the firemen in buildings with PV systems.

The image to the right illustrate how the fireman's switches (A) are installed close to the PV modules, a pushbutton (B) is located in a manner that allows the firemen to trip the switches. The line between switches and inverter (green) will be isolated.



Figure 3.

We can supply both components, fuses, off-load fuse disconnectors and surge protection devices as well as complete PV combiner boxes.

PV combiner boxes – PV string protection

PV combiner boxes are designed for easy and efficient installation and provide electrical protection for the PV modules. PV combiner boxes include overcurrent protection, fuses, and surge protection, Type 1/2 lightning/surge arrester or Type 2 surge arrester. The interconnected strings form an array.

PV combiner boxes are normally installed close to the PV modules. To speed-up installation, the PV combiner boxes are normally equipped with connectors for fast and easy installation.

We offer a standard line of PV combiner boxes for up to 4 strings. We can also deliver PV combiner boxes equipped according to your specifications, contact us for a quotation.



Bypass diodes, blocking diodes

The PV module design is based on series connected PV cells. It is enough if only one PV cell is not operating properly, for example blocked by shading, the faulty PV cell will limit the output current for the entire PV module. The limitation applies also to all series connected PV modules in the string. The PV module manufacturer has integrated bypass diodes in the PV module to allow the current to pass the limiting point.

Some reverse currents may be blocked by blocking diodes, installed in series with PV modules in the string. Blocking diodes can never replace fuse for reverse current protection in the string. Blocking diodes may be required in the battery-powered facilities, ensuring that the batteries are not discharged during the night. It should be noted that the power losses in the blocking diodes are significant, and thus affects the efficiency of the system.



Figure 4.

Example on a PV combiner box consisting of surge protection, fuses and fireman's switch.



CHS Controls PV combiner boxes

Overcurrent and overvoltage protection

Technical data

Rated voltage, U _e Overcurrent protection Surge protection Connections Ambient temperature	1000 VDC, un-earthed system 10x38 mm cylindrical fuses gPV, 1-30 A, off-load fuse disconnectors with lamp indicator Type 1/2 lightning arrester, Type 2 surge protection T4 connectors (MC4 connectors can be terminated) or screw terminals -20 - + 55°C
Enclosure Ingress prot., IEC 60529 Standard, certificate	Polycarbonate enclosure with transparent cover, UV resistant IP 66 IEC 60269-1, IEC 60269-6, EN 50539-11, IEC 61439-1, IEC 60363-7-712, CE, RoHS

Catalogue numbers - PV combiner boxes with 15 A fuses and surge protection device

PV modules No. of strings	Inverter No. of MPP inputs	Surge prote Type ¹⁾	ction device Quantity	Catalogue number ²⁾	Wiring diagram	Enclosure size	Weight kg	Packing size
PV combiner box v	with T4 connectors, I: 30 A	4						
1	1	Type 1/2	1	CHSPV10-1ST1X-F1-CC-15	А	175x175	1,1	1
2	1	Type 1/2	1	CHSPV10-1ST1X-F2-CC-15	А	300x200	2,1	1
2 (1+1)	2	Type 1/2	2	CHSPV10-2ST1X-F2-CC-15	В	300x200	2,4	1
3	1	Type 1/2	1	CHSPV10-1ST1X-F3-CC-15	А	300x200	2,2	1
3 (2+1)	2	Type 1/2	2	CHSPV10-2ST1X-F3-CC-15	В	300x200	2,6	1
3 (1+1+1)	3	Type 1/2	3	CHSPV10-3ST1X-F3-CC-15	В	400x200	2,9	1
4 (2+2)	2	Type 1/2	2	CHSPV10-2ST1X-F4-CC-15	В	400x200	3,2	1
4 (3+1)	2	Type 1/2	2	CHSPV10-2ST1X-F31CC-15	В	400x200	3,2	1
PV combiner box v	with T4 connectors for the	PV modules, s	crew termina	als for the invertor, I: 50 A				
3	1	Type 1/2	1	CHSPV10-1ST1X-F3-CT-15	А	300x200	2,3	1
4	1	Type 1/2	1	CHSPV10-1ST1X-F4-CT-15	А	300x200	2,5	1

Catalogue numbers - PV combiner boxes with surge protection only

PV combiner box with T4 connectors, I .: 30 A								
1	1	Type 1/2	1	CHSPV10-1ST1X-X1-CC-00	С	175x175	1	1
2	1	Type 1/2	1	CHSPV10-1ST1X-X2-CC-00	D	300x200	1,8	1
2 (1+1)	2	Type 1/2	2	CHSPV10-2ST1X-X2-CC-00	Е	300x200	2,3	1
3 (2+1)	2	Type 1/2	2	CHSPV10-2ST1X-X3-CC-00	Е	300x200	2,3	1
3 (1+1+1)	3	Type 1/2	3	CHSPV10-3ST1X-X3-CC-00	Е	400x200	2,2	1

Dimensions, mm







2.10.000.00 17.0.0170

- 1) For Type 2 surge arrester, replace "ST1" with "ST2". Example: CHSPV10-1ST1X-F2-CC-15 will be CHSPV10-1ST2X-F2-CC-15.
- 2) For different fuse rating, replace the last digits with requested rated current. Example: PV combiner box with two strings with 10 A fuses will be CHSPV10-1ST1X-F2-CC-10.



Wiring diagram



Sr1 Sr2 SrN

Wiring diagram A:, T4 connectors for PV modules, screw terminals for inverter



Wiring diagram B





Wiring diagram C





www.chscontrols.se

Eaton fireman's switch

Reliable isolation in case of fire

Technical data



Rated voltage, U_e Rated current, I_e Utilization category Undervoltage release Auxiliary contact

Connections Ambient temperature Enclosure Ingress protection, IEC 60529 Standard

Certificate

1000 VDC 30 A DC-21A 230 VAC, time delay 600 ms, power consumption 5 VA sI-br, 240 VAC/1 A

MC4 connectors or screw terminals, max 6 mm² -25 - +60°C Glass fibre reinforced polycarbonate IP 65 IEC 60947-3

CE, RoHS

Catalogue numbers - Fireman's switch

No. of switches	Inputs Quantity	Connections	Output Quantity	Connections	Catalogue number	Weight kg	Packing size
4	0	MC4 connector	4	MC4 connector		0.47	4
1	2	MC4 connector	1	WC4 connector	SUL30-SAFET 1-21004-0	0,47	1
1	2	Terminals, M12 cable gland	1	Terminals, M12 cable gland	SOL30-SAFETY-2MV-U	0,47	1
2	2	MC4 connector	2	MC4 connector	SOL30X2-SAFETY-MC4-U	5,1	1
2	2	Terminals, M12 cable gland	2	Terminals, M12 cable gland	SOL30X2-SAFETY-MV-U	5,1	1
3	3	MC4 connector	3	MC4 connector	SOL30X3-SAFETY-MC4-U	5,5	1
3	3	Terminals, M12 cable gland	3	Terminals, M12 cable gland	SOL30X3-SAFETY-MV-U	5,5	1
4	4	MC4 connector	4	MC4 connector	SOL30X4-SAFETY-MC4-U	6,8	1
4	4	Terminals, M12 cable gland	4	Terminals, M12 cable gland	SOL30X4-SAFETY-MV-U	6,8	1
6	4	MC4 connector	6	MC4 connector	SOL30X6-SAFETY-MC4-U	9,5	1
6	4	Terminals, M12 cable gland	6	Terminals, M12 cable gland	SOL30X6-SAFETY-MV-U	9,5	1

Eaton enclosed pushbutton

for tripping the fireman's switch

Technical data Insulating voltage, U, Rated current at 240 VAC, AC-15, I, Terminals Ambient temperature Enclosure Insulating voltage, U, 6 A Screw terminal, ≤ 2,5 mm² -25 - +70°C Glass fibre reinforced polycarbonate, red

Ingress protection, IEC 60529 Standard Certificate IP 67 IEC 60947. ISO 13850/EN 418 CE, RoHS

Catalogue numbers - Enclosed red pushbutton

Description	Contacts Catalogue number	kg	Weight size	Packing
Enclosed pushbutton with protection collar, twist release	NO-NC	M22-SOL-PVT45PMPI11Q	0,4	1
Enclosed pushbutton with protection collar, twist release Enclosed pushbutton, pull to release, sealable	2 NC NO-NC	M22-SOL-PVT45PMPI02Q M22-SOL-PVLPL11-230Q	0,4 0,4	1 1



Wiring diagram





Dimensions, mm











375

37

<u>HHHHHH</u>



-225



Puschbutton, twist release



Pushbutton, pull to release, sealable





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500

Eaton Bussmann Series cylindrical fuses

1000 VDC class gPV 10x38 mm

Technical data

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	umann	5.
-	BOLAR PV	
(DATE)	SUCIALIDA	
1362	and and	

Material Rated voltage, Un Operating class Rated breaking capacity Minimum breaking current

Ceramic body (25-30A glass fibre body), tin plated ferrules of copper alloy 1000 VDC gPV 50 kA, 25-30 A 20 kA

Standard Certificate, approvals

IEC 60269-6, UL 2579 CE, RoHS, UL file E335324, 1-15 A CCC

Catalogue numbers - 10x38 mm cylindrical fuses

Rated current In, A	l²t Pre-arc 1 ms, A²s	l²t Total Un, A²s	Power loss W at In	Catalogue number	Weight each,g	Packing size
1	0.15	0.4	15	CBPV-1A10F	11	10
2	12	3.4	1,0	CBPV-2A10F	11	10
3	4	11	1.3	CBPV-3A10F	11	10
3.5	6.6	18	1.4	CBPV-3-5A10F	11	10
4	9,5	26	1,3	CBPV-4A10F	11	10
5	19	50	1,6	CBPV-5A10F	11	10
6	30	90	1,8	CBPV-6A10F	11	10
8	3	32	2,1	CBPV-8A10F	11	10
10	7	70	2,3	CBPV-10A10F	11	10
12	12	120	2,7	CBPV-12A10F	11	10
15	22	220	2,9	CBPV-15A10F	11	10
20	34	350	3,6	CBPV-20A10F	11	10
25	325	1860	2,91	CBPV10M-25	11	10
30	536	3360	3,31	CBPV10M-30	11	10

1,3 x In

Eaton Bussmann Series off-load fuse disconnectors

10x38 mm cylindrical fuses

Technical data



Material Rated voltage, Un Rated current, In Max power loss/pole Short circuit current, SCCR

Polyester, UL 94V0 1000 VDC 32 A 3 W 33 kA

Terminal Ingress protection, IEC 60529 Standard, certificate, approvals IEC 60269-1&2, UL 4248-19, CE, RoHS, cUL file E348242

Box terminal, 1-16 mm² IP 20

Catalogue numbers - Off-load fuse disconnectors, DIN rail mounting

Description	Catalogue number	Weight each, g	Packing size
1 nole		53	1
1 pole with lamp indicator	CBCHPV1IU	53	1
2 pole	CBCHPV2U	106	1
2 pole with lamp indicator	CBCHPV2IU	106	1
Busbar 1000 VDC, 100 A, 57 pins, cuttable, short circuit current SCCR 10 kA	CBBB1P100M57	0,45	1



Dimensions, mm



Fuse sizing, class gPV fuses

For un-earthed systems, fuses are installed on both sides of the string. The following information is required for proper sizing of the fuse.

- Short-circuit current for the PV module at standard test conditions, I popen circuit voltage for the PV module at standard test conditions, $V_{\rm oc}$
- •
- Number of series connected PV modules, N
- Number of parallel connected strings, N
- Maximum fusing rating for the PV module according to IEC 61730-2, mod max OCPD
- Conductor size and current carrying capacity, I,
- Array conductor current capacity, I $_{_{sc}\ array}$, calculated as (N $_{_{p}}$ 1) x 1,25 x I $_{_{sc}}$
- Fuse ambient temperature

If N_a < 3, ie an array consists of a maximum of two parallel connected strings, and when the array conductor current capacity exceeds lsc x 1.56, fuses are normally not required.

Systems consisting of an array with three or more parallel strings and/or with the array short-circuit current, $I_{sc array} > I_{z}$ fuses shall be installed.

The fuse/fuses that protect a string shall be sized according to the following

- Fuse rated current, $I_{p} < I_{z}$
- Fuse rated current, $I_n > 1,56 \times I_s$
- Fuse rated voltage, $U_n > V_{\infty} \times 1.2 \times N_s$
- Fuse current carrying capability to be de-rated for high ambient temperature according to figure 5

The fuse will protect the wiring and equipment against overloads, earth faults, and reverse current faults.



Figure 5.

The fuse is sized according to below:

• Fuse rated voltage

• Fuse rated current

Selection

Fuse current carrying capability at high ambient temperature, 10x38 mm cylindrical fuse class gPV.

 $U_n \ge$

l_n >

The fuse rated voltage, U_n shall be 1000 VDC, fuse rated current, I_n, shall be next standard size above 8,38 A, ie 10 A. Suitable fuse is CBPV-

10A10F. Ambient temperature is 40°C which reduce the fuse current

carrying capability to 9,5 A, see figure 2, which exceed 8,38 A.

• Fuse rated current, I_n < conductor current capacity I₂ 11,5 A Take fuse current carrying capability into consideration when

ambient temperature exceed 20°C, see figure 2

V_{oc} x 1,2 x N_s

1,56 x I

43,1 x 1,2 x 18 = 931 VDC

5,37 x 1,56 = 8,38 A

Sizing example

System data

PV module type	Polycrystalline
Open circuit voltage, V _{oc}	43,1 V
Short-circuit current, I _{sc}	5,37 A
Maximum fuse rating, I _{mod_max_OCPD}	15 A
Number of series connected modules, $\rm N_s$ Number of parallel connected strings, $\rm N_p$ Cond. size, 2,5 mm², current carrying cap., $\rm I_z$ Ambient temperature, fuse	18 4 11,5 A at 60°C -30 - +40°C

Calculations

· Four parallel strings forms an array.

(N_p - 1) x 1,25 x I_s $(4-1) \times 1,25 \times 5,37 = 20,1 \text{ A}$

· The array consists of three or more parallel strings and/or I_{sc array} > conductor current capacity, I_z, fuses shall be installed.



Eaton Bussmann Series

Lightning/surge arrester



TechnologyMetalDesignBaseIndicationVisuaInstallationOn 35Ingress prot.IP 20

Metal oxide varistor
 Base unit with exchangeable protection modules
 Visual indication and remote signal contact, some versions
 On 35 mm DIN rail
 IP 20

Catalogue numbers

Description	Catalogue number Unit without signal contact	Unit with signal contact	Weight each, kg	Packing size
Type 1/2 combination ligthning/surge arrester	CBSPPVT12-10-2-PE	CBSPPVT12-10-2-PE-AX	0,35	1
Type 2 High Performance surge arrester	CBSPPVT2H-10-2-PE	CBSPPVT2H-10-2-PE-AX	0,35	1
Type 2 Standard surge arrester	CBSPPVT2-10-2-PE	CBSPPVT2-10-2-PE-AX	0,35	1

Technical data

		Combination lightning/surge arrester	High performance surge arrester	Standard surge arrester
Technology		Metal oxide varistor	Metal oxide varistor	Metal oxide varistor
Electrical data Classification test, EN 50539-11 Rated voltage, U_n Max conttinuous operating voltage, U_{CPV} Open circut voltage, Standard Test Condi Short circuit current rating, I_{SCPV} Rated load current, I_L	tions, U _{oc stc}	PV T1/PV T2 1000 VDC 1050 VDC ≤ 875 VDC 1000 A 80 A	PV T2 1000 VDC 1170 VDC ≤ 970 VDC 1000 A 80 A	PV T2 1000 VDC 1170 VDC ≤ 970 VDC 160 A 80 A
Impulse discharge current 10/350 μ s, I _{imp} Total discharge current, 10/350 μ s, I _{total} Nominal discharge current, 8/20 μ s, I _n Max discharge current, 8/20 μ s, I _{max} Total discharge current, 8/20 μ s, I _{total} Voltage protection level L+/L- to PE, U _p		5 kA 5 kA 15 kA 40 kA 40 kA 3,5 kV	15 kA 40 kA 40 kA 3,7 kV	15 kA 40 kA 40 kA 3,7 kV
Limiting voltage L+/L- to PE, 8/20 μs, U _{res}	at I _n at 5 kA at 10 kA at 20 kA at 30 kA at 40 kA	≤ 3,5 kV ≤ 2,9 kV ≤ 3,2 kV ≤ 3,7 kV ≤ 4,1 kV ≤ 4,6 kV	≤ 3,7 kV ≤ 3,1 kV ≤ 3,5 kV ≤ 4 kV ≤ 4,6 kV ≤ 5 kV	\leq 3,7 kV \leq 3,1 kV \leq 3,5 kV \leq 4 kV \leq 4,6 kV \leq 5 kV
Response time, t _A		< 25 ns	< 25 ns	< 25 ns
Status indication Visual Remote indication, some versions	Type Data	Grey ok, red replace module Changeover contact 250 VAC/30 VDC 1,5 A	Grey ok, red replace module Changeover contact 250 VAC/30 VDC 1,5 A	Grey ok, red replace module Chaneover contac 250 VAC/30 VDC 1,5 A
Terminal data, environment Cross section area, starnded conductor Ambient temperature	Main Signal	1,5 - 25 mm² 0,14 - 1,5 mm² -40 - +80°C	1,5 - 25 mm² 0,14 - 1,5 mm² -40 - +80°C	1,5 - 25 mm² 0,14 - 1,5 mm² -40 - +80°C
Standard Certificate		EN 50539-11 CE, RoHS	EN 50539-11 CE, RoHS	EN 50539-11 CE, RoHS



Dimensions, mm



Wiring diagram



Surge protection selection

Lightning and power surges may damage both the PV modules and inverter. Surges are generated by direct lightning strikes or from indirect impacts that generate transients that can damage the installed equipment. To reduce the risk for damages, surge protection should also be installed on the DC side.

High DC voltage combined with special characteristic of the PV modules challenge the surge protection. The new standard EN 50539-11 defines two types, Type 1 lightning arrester and Type 2 surge arrester.



Figure 6. Current waves for lightning arrester and surge arrester.

Eaton Bussmann Series offers three types of surge protection

- Combination lightning/surge arrester Type 1/2
- High Performance surge arrester Type 2 intended for larger systems, I_{SCPV} = 1000 A
- Standard surge arrester Type 2, I_{SCPV} = 160 A

In most cases, the surge protection device is installed close either to the inverter or close the PV modules. If the cables between the PV modules and the inverter exceed 10 m, an additional surge protection device should be installed, a requirement in EN 50539-12. Surges and transients can be induced onto long cable runs even after the first surge protection device started to operate, these can be handled by a second surge protection device.

Keep in mind that one set of surge protection devices are required for each MPP input of the inverter.

When PV modules are installed on a building with an external lightning rod, it is important that there is a separation distance according to IEC 62305-2 between the PV modules and the lightning protection system. If the separation distance is not kept, Type 1 lightning arrester should be used. If the building is not equipped with external lightning protection system or if the separation distance is kept, Type 2 surge arrester can be installed.



- S Separation distance between external lightning protection system and PV modules. I If the separation distance between the solar modules and the lightning rod is kept - Type 2 surge arrester.
- 1 If the separation distance between the solar modules and the lightning rod is kept Type 2 surge arrester. If the separation distance between the solar modules and the lightning rod is not kept - Type 1/2 lightning arrester. If the building does not have external lightning protection system - Type 2 surge arrester.
- Surge protection device is excluded if cable length between PV modules and inverter is less than 10 m.
 Inverter AC side should also be equipped with surge protection, contact CHS Controls.

Figur 7.

Typisk installation av åskskydd/överspänningsskydd, byggnad med åskledare.



PV combiner boxes with fireman's switch can be found in a separate catalogue





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