BS EN 60974-12:2011

BSI Standards Publication

# Arc welding equipment

## Part 12: Coupling devices for welding cables

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## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 60974-12:2011. It is identical to IEC 60974-12:2011. It supersedes BS EN 60974-12:2005 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee WEE/6, Electric arc welding equipment.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.



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**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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# EN 60974-12

August 2011

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Supersedes EN 60974-12:2005

English version

# Arc welding equipment - Part 12: Coupling devices for welding cables

(IEC 60974-12:2011)

Matériel de soudage à l'arc - Partie 12: Dispositifs de connexion pour câbles de soudage (CEI 60974-12:2011)

Lichtbogenschweißeinrichtungen - Teil 12: Steckverbindungen für Schweißleitungen (IEC 60974-12:2011)

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## Foreword

The text of document (26/441/FDIS), future edition 3 of IEC 60974-12, prepared by IEC TC 26, Electric welding, was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and was approved by CENELEC as EN 60974-12 on 2011-06-22.

This European Standard supersedes EN 60974-12:2005.

EN 60974-12:2011 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 60974-12:2005:

- dimensions given in Annex A become normative;
- designation is based on the range of cross-sectional area of the welding cable intended to be connected.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN and CENELEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

The following dates were fixed:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| – latest date by which the EN has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement | (dop) | 2012-03-22 |
| – latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the EN have to be withdrawn | (dow) | 2014-06-22 |

In this standard, the following print types are used:

- *conformity statements: in italic type.*

Annex ZA has been added by CENELEC.

## Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 60974-12:2011 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

# Annex ZA
(normative)

## Normative references to international publications with their corresponding European publications

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE When an international publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

| Publication | Year | Title | EN/HD | Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IEC 60050-151 | - | International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) - Part 151: Electrical and magnetic devices | - | - |
| IEC 60529 | - | Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code) | - | - |
| IEC 60974-1 | - | Arc welding equipment - Part 1: Welding power sources | EN 60974-1 | - |

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# ARC WELDING EQUIPMENT –

# Part 12: Coupling devices for welding cables

## 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60974 is applicable to coupling devices for cables used in arc welding and allied processes, designed for connection and disconnection without using tools.

This part of IEC 60974 specifies safety and performance requirements of coupling devices.

This part of IEC 60974 is not applicable to coupling devices for underwater welding.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050-151, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Part 151: Electrical and magnetic devices*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60974-1, *Arc welding equipment – Part 1: Welding power sources*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in the IEC 60050-151, the IEC 60974-1, as well as the following apply.

**3.1**
**coupling device**
device connecting two welding cables together or connecting a welding cable to welding equipment

**3.2**
**retaining means**
mechanical arrangement that holds the coupling device in position and prevents an unintentional withdrawal, when properly connected

**3.3**
**arc striking and stabilizing voltage**
voltage superimposed on the welding circuit to initiate or maintain the arc

## 4 Environmental conditions

The coupling device shall be capable of operation when the following environmental conditions prevail:

a) range of ambient air temperature:
   – during operation: –10 °C to + 40 °C;
b) relative humidity of the air: up to 90 % at 20 °C.

The coupling device shall withstand storage and transport at an ambient air temperature of –20 °C to + 55 °C without any damage to function and performance.

## 5 Type tests

### 5.1 Test conditions

All type tests shall be carried out on the same new and completely assembled coupling device.

All type tests shall be carried out at an ambient air temperature between 10 °C and 40 °C.

The accuracy of measuring instruments shall be:

a) electrical measuring instruments: class 1 (± 1 % of full-scale reading), except for the measurement of insulation resistance and dielectric strength where the accuracy of the instruments is not specified, but shall be taken into account for the measurement;
b) temperature measuring devices: ± 2 K.

### 5.2 Test sequence

The type tests given below shall be carried out in the following sequence:

a) general visual inspection;
b) temperature rise, see 8.1;
c) crush strength, see 9.5;
d) insulation resistance, see 7.2;
e) dielectric strength, see 7.3.

The other type tests in this part of IEC 60974 not mentioned above may be carried out in any convenient sequence.

## 6 Designation

Coupling devices shall be designated by the range of cross-sectional area of the welding cable intended to be connected. The test current at an ambient air temperature of 40 °C is given in Table 1 based on maximum cross-section area. The welding coupling device shall accept the minimum cross-sectional area as given in Table 1. Minimum cross-sectional area may be reduced to extend the coupling device fitting range.

**Table 1 – Relation between coupling device test current and welding cables' cross-sectional area**

| Range of cross-sectional area<br>$mm^2$ | Coupling device test current at 60 % duty cycle<br>A |
|---|---|
| up to 10 | 125 |
| 10 to 16 | 150 |
| 16 to 25 | 200 |
| 25 to 35 | 250 |
| 35 to 50 | 300 |
| 50 to 70 | 400 |
| 70 to 95 | 500 |
| NOTE Welding cables are rated based on cross-sectional area. Test current is defined in order that coupling device withstands the rated current of the welding cable. | |

*Conformity shall be checked by measurement.*

## 7 Protection against electric shock

### 7.1 Voltage rating

Coupling devices shall be rated in accordance with the process as given in Table 2 and the arc striking and stabilizing voltage if applicable.

**Table 2 – Voltage rating of coupling devices**

| Process | Voltage rating<br>V peak | Insulation resistance<br>MΩ | Dielectric strength<br>V r.m.s. | Degree of protection in accordance with IEC 60529 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All processes except plasma cutting | 113 | 2,5 | 1 000 | IP 3X |
| Plasma cutting | 500 | 2,5 | 2 100 | IP 3X |

### 7.2 Insulation resistance

The insulation resistance of a new coupling device shall, after the humidity treatment, be not less than 2,5 MΩ.

*Conformity shall be checked by the following test.*

a) Humidity treatment

A humidity cabinet is maintained at a temperature $t$ between 20 °C and 30 °C and a relative humidity between 91 % and 95 %.

The coupling device without cables fitted is brought to a temperature between $t$ and $t$ + 4 K and is then placed for 48 h in the humidity cabinet.

b) Insulation resistance measurement

Immediately after the humidity treatment, the coupling device is wiped clean and tightly wrapped in a metal foil covering the external surface of the insulation.

The insulation resistance is measured by application of a d.c. voltage of 500 V between the live parts and the metal foil, the reading being made after stabilization of the measurement.

### 7.3 Dielectric strength

#### 7.3.1 General requirement

The insulation shall withstand an a.c. test voltage of 1 000 V r.m.s. without flashover or breakdown. Any discharges unaccompanied by a voltage drop are disregarded.

*Conformity shall be checked by the following test.*

The coupling device is wiped clean and tightly wrapped in a metal foil covering the external surface of the insulation.

The a.c. test voltage shall be of an approximate sine waveform with a peak value not exceeding 1,45 times the r.m.s. value, having a frequency of 50 Hz or 60 Hz, applied for 1 min between the live parts and the metal foil.

#### 7.3.2 Additional requirements for striking and stabilizing voltage rating

For couplers for use with arc striking and stabilizing voltage, the insulation shall withstand the rated peak arc striking and stabilizing voltage as rated by the manufacturer. The insulation shall withstand a high frequency voltage of pulse width 0,2 μs to 8 μs, a repetition frequency of 50 Hz to 300 Hz and shall be 20 % higher than the rated peak arc striking and stabilizing voltage as determined by the manufacturer.

*Conformity shall be checked by the following test.*

For couplers intended for use with arc striking and stabilizing voltage, the couplers shall be subjected to the high-frequency test voltage. The full value of the high-frequency voltage is applied for 2 s between the electrode circuit and

a) conductive surfaces;

b) other isolated circuits.

Flashover or breakdown shall not occur. Any discharges unaccompanied by a voltage drop (corona) are disregarded.

Alternatively, for couplers intended for use with arc striking and stabilizing voltage, an a.c. test voltage of approximately sine waveform at 50 Hz or 60 Hz may be used.

### 7.4 Protection of live parts against unintentional contact

Parts designed to carry welding current and likely to be live after disconnection shall be recessed to a depth of at least 10 % of the internal diameter of the insulation with a minimum depth of 2 mm with respect to the insulating body.

As a consequence, insulation has to be able to withstand normal service conditions so that the protecting length is maintained during the life of the coupling device.

*Conformity shall be checked by linear measurement and visual inspection.*

# 8 Thermal rating

## 8.1 Temperature rise

The temperature rise caused by the current passing through a coupling device normally coupled and fitted with an untinned copper welding cable of maximum cross-sectional area as indicated in Table 1 shall not exceed 45 K at the hottest spot of the external surface.

*Conformity shall be checked by the following test.*

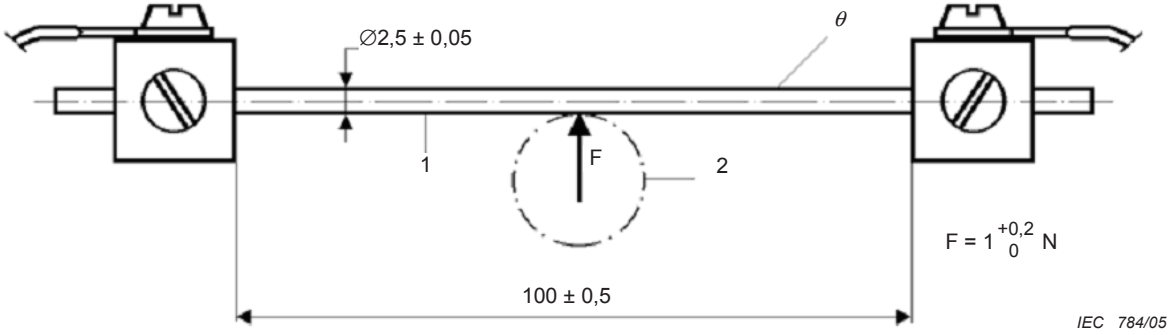
The coupling device is normally coupled and fitted with at least 2 m long welding cables. The coupling device is suspended by its welding cables from two wooden laths 1 m apart, hanging between the two laths in the horizontal plane about 200 mm above the ground in a draught-free area.

A continuous d.c. current equal to 75 % of the test current (equivalent to approximately 60 % duty cycle) is passed through the coupling device until the rate of the temperature rise does not exceed 2 K/h. During the total test time, the d.c. current shall be kept constant with a tolerance of ± 2 %.

## 8.2 Resistance to hot objects

The insulation shall be capable of withstanding hot objects and the effects of a normal amount of weld spatter without being ignited or becoming unsafe.

*Conformity shall be checked with a device in accordance with Figure 1.*




**Key**

1 18/8 chrome-nickel steel

2 coupling device

*Dimensions in millimetres*

$\theta$ test temperature

**Figure 1 – Device for testing the resistance to hot objects**

An electric current (of approximately 25 A) is passed through the rod until a steady-state temperature $\theta$ of 300 $^{+5}_{0}$ °C is reached. During the test, the temperature of the heated rod shall be maintained. This temperature will be measured by a contact thermometer or thermocouple.

The heated rod in a horizontal position is then applied for 2 min to the insulation at the weakest point (for example, minimum insulation thickness and closest distance to live parts). The heated rod shall not penetrate through the insulation and contact live parts.

An attempt is made to ignite any gases which may be emitted in the region of the contact point by means of an electric spark or small flame. If the gases are flammable, the burning shall stop as soon as the heated rod is removed.

## 9 Mechanical requirements

### 9.1 Retaining means

A retaining means shall be provided to prevent the unintentional separation of the coupling device as a result of a longitudinal pull.

NOTE If possible, indicating marks, for example two lines opposite each other, should show by visual inspection that the retaining means has functioned.

*Conformity shall be checked by manual operation and visual inspection.*

### 9.2 Welding cable entry

The cable entries of cable couplers shall be designed so as to prevent damage to the cable due to flexing.

*Conformity shall be checked by visual inspection.*

### 9.3 Penetration of the welding cable insulation

The design of cable couplers shall be such that the insulation of the cables can enter to a depth of at least twice the outer diameter of the welding cable with a minimum of 30 mm.

*Conformity shall be checked by measurement with a welding cable of the maximum cross-sectional area as specified by the manufacturer.*

### 9.4 Welding cable connection

The design of the coupling device shall be such that welding cables with a cross-sectional area within the range as specified by the manufacturer can be replaced. The connection shall withstand the mechanical stress of the tensile test without separation.

*Conformity shall be checked by visual inspection and by the following test.*

A plug, a connector or a plug connector is fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, with a welding cable of maximum cross-sectional area. The connection is subjected to 10 pulls with a force of 40 N/mm² of the cross-sectional area with a maximum of 2 000 N applied to the welding cable. The force of each pull is gradually increased from zero to the specified value in 1 s and maintained for 1 s.

After the test, the conductor shall not have been noticeably displaced.

This test shall be repeated with a welding cable having the minimum permissible cross-sectional area as specified by the manufacturer.

If more than one method of cable fixing is provided, all methods shall be tested.

### 9.5 Crush strength

Coupling devices shall withstand the mechanical stress of the crush test without the insulation being destroyed or the mechanical functioning being impaired.

*Conformity shall be checked by the following test, manual operation and visual inspection.*

A cable coupler connected and fitted, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, with welding cables of maximum cross-sectional area is placed between the parallel plates of a press, the axis of the cable coupler being at a right angle to the direction of the crush force.

The crush force is applied and gradually increased up to the values given in Table 3.

**Table 3 – Crush force**

| Cross-sectional area of welding cable<br>$mm^2$ | Crush force<br>N |
|---|---|
| up to 25 | 1 200 |
| 25 to 50 | 1 500 |
| above 50 | 2 000 |

This test shall be repeated with a welding cable of minimum cross-sectional area as specified by the manufacturer.

### 9.6 Dimensions

Coupling devices shall be designed in accordance with dimensions given in Annex A.

## 10 Marking

The following information shall be legibly and indelibly marked on coupling devices designed to be attached to welding cables:

a) name of the manufacturer, distributor, importer or the registered trademark;

b) maximum permissible cross-sectional area of the welding cable;

c) minimum permissible cross-sectional area of the welding cable;

d) rated peak arc striking and stabilizing voltage if applicable;

e) reference to this part of IEC 60974, confirming that the coupling device complies with the requirements.

For coupling devices having a maximum permissible cross-sectional area less than or equal to 16 mm², the dimensions of which are such that it is not possible to put on all the markings clearly, item c) can be omitted and shown on the packing or in the literature.

Coupling devices designed to be mounted on a panel need not be marked.

*Conformity shall be checked by reading the marking.*

## 11 Instructions for use

Each coupling device shall be delivered with an instruction sheet which includes the following information:

a) correct coupling and uncoupling of the coupling device;

b) correct connection of the welding cable;

c) choice of welding cable, type and size;

d) relation of permissible current and duty cycle.

*Conformity shall be checked by reading the instructions.*

# Annex A
(normative)

## Dimensions

Coupling devices in accordance with this part of IEC 60974 shall have the dimensions specified in Figures A.1 and A.2 and in Table A.1.

NOTE The locking pin can be optionally cylindrical, conical or prismatic.

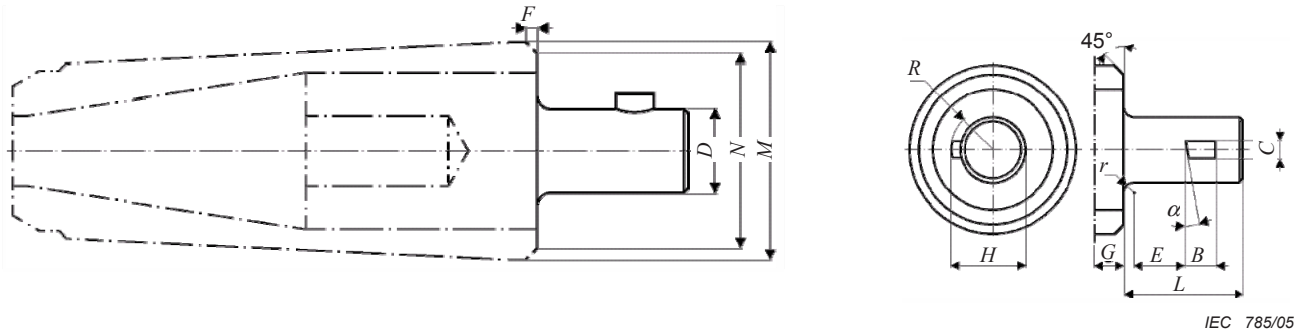



**Figure A.1 – Male element**

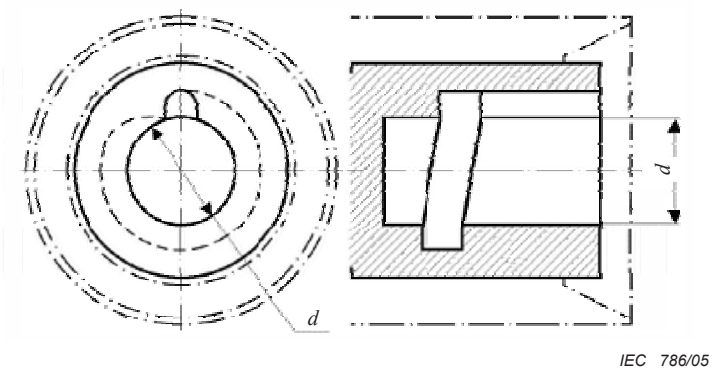



**Figure A.2 – Female element**

Dimensions and details not specified in Figures A.1 and A.2 and Table A.1 are left to the discretion of the manufacturer.

**Table A.1 – Dimensions for Figures A.1 and A.2**

| Dimension | | Dimension in millimetres or degrees | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Type 1 | Type 2 | Type 3 |
| $\alpha$ | | 4 | 5 | 1°40' |
| $r$ | | 0,4 | 0,4 | 0,4 |
| $d$ | | $9^{+0,08}_{+0,02}$ | $13^{+0,08}_{+0,02}$ | $15^{+0,08}_{+0,02}$ |
| $R$ | max. | 6 | 8,7 | 10 |
| $N$ | max. | 16 | 27 | 30 |
| $M$ | max. | 26 | 40 | 45 |
| $H$ | max. | 11 | 15,5 | 17,5 |
| $G$ | min. | 6,5 | 7 | 7 |
| $F$ | min. | 2 | 2,5 | 6 |
| $E + r$ | | $4{,}65^{+0,1}_{0}$ | $10{,}04^{+0,1}_{0}$ | $15^{+0,1}_{0}$ |
| $D$ | | $9^{-0,01}_{-0,1}$ | $13^{-0,01}_{-0,1}$ | $15^{-0,01}_{-0,1}$ |
| $C$ | max. | 4,5 | 5,2 | 6 |
| $B$ | max. | 4,5 | 5,2 | 6 |
| $L$ | max. | 12 | 20 | 26 |

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