



**INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION**

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE NO. 74: SAFETY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF IT EQUIPMENT**

**Chairman’s Advisory Panel - Q.41**

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TC74 established a Chairman’s Advisory Panel in 1987. The purpose of the panel was to provide the opinion of experienced members of TC74 to questions of the intent of specific requirements in IEC 60950.

The following notes are to be read in conjunction with opinions of the Panel.

1. The Panel consists of active members of TC74, but its opinions are those of the Panel and are not voted decisions of the IEC.
2. Where it is felt that a query arose due to lack of clarity in a standard, the matter was brought to the attention of the appropriate group in TC74.
3. Panel opinions were restricted to interpretation of the words of the standard in question, as the members of the Panel recollect the original intentions of TC74. The Panel was not concerned with the application of the standard by test agencies and approval authorities.

Questions related to IEC 60950, Edition 3 are welcome. Such inquiries are to be forwarded through the questioner’s National Committee to the TC74 Secretary. Responses are sent directly to the questioner, are shared with TC working group members through the TC74 IEC web site and sent to the Secretary of the IEC/CTE/CTL for consideration.

TC 74 Chairman's Advisory Panel

**QUESTION 41**

April 2000

**Question**

Summation of Leakage (Touch) Current

*5.1.8.2 Summation of leakage (touch) current from telecommunication networks states:*

"It shall be assumed that each telecommunication port receives 0,25mA from the other equipment, unless the current is known to be lower."

*Is that statement also acceptable for a telecommunication bus system like the ISDN S-bus with 8 terminal equipment?*

*Or as an other common example the USB (Universal Serial Bus) interface in computers?*

**Opinion of the Panel**

The ISDN S-bus falls within the definition of a TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK, so that all of subclause 5.1.8 applies. The maximum number of equipments permitted to be connected to the S-bus is nine (eight user terminals plus one), which could lead to a maximum TOUCH CURRENT of 9 x 0,25 mA. This is within the TOUCH CURRENT limit of 3,5 mA in subclause 5.1.6, table 5A.

The USB interface is not considered a TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK interface, see the 5.1.8 Note making reference to data ports such as serial, parallel, etc. Therefore, the requirements of 5.1.8 are not applied to such bus systems.

**Action**

None.

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