

ETHOS

ETHOS 4285

Calibration Check Box

Operating Instructions

Functions & accuracy

The ETHOS 4285 provides a quick and simple method of checking the accuracy of electrical installation test instruments. It does not replace some calibration requirements but provides a ready check on instrument accuracy helping to minimise incorrect certification and costly revisits to confirm installation compliance.

The 4285 provides accuracy checks for test instruments used to measure:

- Continuity
- Insulation Resistance
- Earth Fault Loop Impedance
- Operation of Residual Current Devices.

Accuracy

<i>Insulation Test</i>	0.5 M Ω 2.0 M Ω 200M Ω	1% 1% 2%	Voltage Rating: up to 1000V.
<i>Continuity Test</i>	0.5 Ω 1.0 Ω 2.0 Ω	1% \pm 20m Ω .	Current Rating: 1A.
<i>Loop Test</i>	additional 1 Ω or 100 Ω switched in to the Earth Loop	1% \pm 20m Ω .	Current Rating: 25A (pulsed)
<i>RCD</i>	X 1 X 5	Current 1% Current 1%	Timer \pm 1 ms Timer \pm 1 ms

Test Ranges

Check Value	Acceptable range	Rating
30ma x 1 (30mA)	30 to 33mA	30mA AC type
30ma x 5 (150mA)	143 to 165mA	30mA AC type
30ma x 1/2 (15mA)	13.5 to 15mA	30mA AC type

When using the 4285 for the first time each test instrument to be checked should be in current calibration. When the first set of tests for any instrument are undertaken:

- A separate test record sheet should be kept for each test instrument.
- Each test should be repeated 3 times to establish the initial test value for each particular instrument.
- The value obtained over the three tests should be similar and within the instrument manufacturer's tolerances.
- The average value over the three tests should be recorded on an instrument test record sheet as the Reference Value.
- It is this Reference Value which will be used for future accuracy checks on the instrument.

Checking Continuity performance

The need to Null test leads

It is essential to either null the leads or deduct the lead resistance from the measured value so that the check on the accuracy of the instrument is not affected by the test leads used. This is because the resistance of the leads may vary with use or the leads may be replaced during the lifetime of the instrument. The 4285 includes a 'lead null' position for the continuity test range. This can be used either to null the leads if the test instrument being checked includes a lead-null function or to measure the lead resistance for instruments without this function.

Instruments with a Lead Null function

Lead nulling

- The leads should be connected to the instrument in the normal way.
- One lead should be connected to the null terminal in the continuity range.
- The other lead is then connected to the null terminal in the insulation resistance range. This provides a direct link between the two leads and allows them to be nulled.
- Null the leads according to the instrument manufacturer's instructions.

Once the leads have been nulled and providing the instrument is not switched off, there will be no need to subtract the test lead values from the measured values as the instrument should automatically deduct the resistance value of the test leads from any further measurements
If the instrument is switched off the null process will need to be repeated.

Continuity check

- The null terminal in the continuity range is also the common terminal used for the continuity measurement. One instrument test lead should be connected to this common terminal.
- The other instrument test lead should firstly be connected to the 0.5Ω terminal.
- The instrument to be checked should be set to the most appropriate scale and the continuity test carried out in the normal way.
- The value obtained should be recorded on a test instrument record sheet.
- The same procedure should be followed using the 1Ω and 2Ω terminals
- The recorded values are compared with the reference values to assess the performance of the instrument over time.
- If the measured values are found to be within the manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument is suitable for continued use.
- If any of the measured values are outside the manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument will need to be returned for service.

Instruments without Lead Null function

Measuring Lead resistance

Where there is no lead null option on the instrument to be checked the null terminals can be used to establish the resistance of the test leads.

- With the leads connected to the instrument in the normal way one lead should be connected to the null terminal in the continuity range and the other lead connected to the null terminal in the insulation resistance range.
- The instrument should then be set to the lowest resistance scale and operated in the normal way.
- The value measured by the instrument will be the resistance of the test leads.

Make a note of this value as it must be subtracted from the check values obtained when checking at the three test values.

Continuity check

- The null terminal in the continuity range is also the common terminal used for the continuity measurement. One instrument test lead should be connected to this common terminal.
- The other instrument test lead should firstly be connected to the 0.5Ω terminal.
- The instrument to be checked should be set to the most appropriate scale and the continuity test carried out in the normal way.
- Subtract the resistance value of the leads that you previously measured from the instrument reading. The value obtained should be recorded on a test instrument record sheet.
- The same procedure should be followed using the 1Ω and 2Ω terminals
- The recorded values are compared with the reference values to assess the performance of the instrument over time.

- If the measured values are found to be within the manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument is suitable for continued use.
- If any of the measured values are outside the manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument will need to be returned for service.

Tolerance examples:

If the instrument tolerance is 2% then the measured value should be within +/-2% of the reference value. So if the reference value is 0.5Ω the measured value should be between 0.51Ω and 0.49Ω.

If the instrument tolerance is 2% +/- 20mΩ then the measured value should be within +/- 2% and +/- 20mΩ of the reference value. So if the reference value is 0.5Ω the measured value should be between 0.53Ω and 0.47Ω.

Insulation Resistance Checks

There is no requirement to null the test leads for insulation resistance test checks. The 4285 can be used to check insulation resistance testers across the voltage range. This enables the test instrument to be checked on the 250V, 500V and 1000V settings.

- The null terminal for the insulation resistance values is also the common terminal used for the insulation resistance checks.
- One test lead for the instrument to be tested is connected to this common terminal.
- The other instrument lead is connected to the 0.5MΩ terminal.
- The appropriate resistance scale and test voltage are selected on the instrument being checked.
- The insulation resistance tester is then operated in the normal way.
- The measured value obtained is recorded on a test instrument record sheet.
- The same procedure is followed for the 2MΩ and 200MΩ values.
- These same tests may then be repeated for each test voltage if required. The measured values obtained are compared with the Reference Values to assess the performance of the instrument over time
- If the measured values are found to be within the manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument is suitable for continued use.
- If any of the measured values are outside the manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument will need to be returned for service.

Earth Fault Loop Impedance Checks

The 4285 provides a facility to check the accuracy of earth fault loop impedance testers.

The socket outlet and the loop impedance switch in the 4285 provide tests of:

- 'local' earth fault loop impedance
- 'local' earth fault loop with an additional 1Ω included
- 'local' earth fault loop with an additional 100Ω included

The 4285 does introduce some additional resistance into the earth fault loop. As a result the 'local loop' value from the 4285 socket outlet will be slightly higher than the loop value measured directly from the actual supply socket.

Note:

RCD protected circuits should not be used to supply the 4285 where the instrument to be checked does not have a 'no-trip' test option.

As the 4285 will be used to check the accuracy of the instrument it is strongly advised that:

Both plugs (10A and IEC) used to connect the 4285 to the supply and the 10A instrument plug into the 4285 socket are each inserted and removed several times before undertaking the accuracy check. This process will help to reduce any additional resistance which may be caused by tarnishing of the pins or socket tubes.

Where the instrument being checked does not have an inbuilt on/off switch it is recommended that the 4285 is connected to a switched socket. The instrument must be switched off when changing the earth fault loop settings on the 4285.

Site Check

The 4285 provides a fast check option for the earth fault loop impedance tester. This enables the instrument to be checked on site to confirm the accuracy of the instrument measurement. This site check consists of a measurement of the 4285 local loop and then the same measurement with $1\ \Omega$ resistance added, then again with $100\ \Omega$ resistance added. This will identify whether the instrument is accurately measuring the $1\ \Omega$ and $100\ \Omega$ increase. This check may be carried out at any suitable socket outlet.

- The 4285 should be plugged into a suitable power socket and set to the 'local loop' setting.
- The earth fault loop impedance tester is then plugged into the 4285 socket outlet and the test carried out in the usual way. The measured value is recorded.
- Either the test instrument or the supply socket is then switched off for a period of 5 seconds
- The 4285 loop impedance switch is moved to the $+1\ \Omega$ position.
- The instrument or supply socket is then switched on.

The earth fault loop impedance test is then carried out in the usual way. The measured value is recorded on a instrument record sheet

Comparing the 'local loop' value and the ' $+1.0\ \Omega$ ' value should show the increase of $1\ \Omega$, within the manufacturer's tolerance.

- Either the test instrument or the supply socket is then switched off for a period of 5 seconds
- After 5 seconds the 4285 loop impedance switch is moved to the $+100\ \Omega$ position.
- The instrument or supply socket is then switched on.
- The earth fault loop impedance test is then carried out in the usual way. The measured value is recorded on a instrument record sheet

Comparing the 'local loop' value and the ' $+100\ \Omega$ ' value should show the increase of $100\ \Omega$, within the manufacturer's tolerance.

Refer to section 4.3 for examples of how to apply tolerances.

Ongoing accuracy record

To give a more exact indication of the instrument accuracy it is strongly recommended that the same dedicated power outlet is used each time for the checks. This will allow the instrument to be compared with the:

- actual local loop value
- 4285 'local loop' value at that socket
- 4285 'local loop + $1\ \Omega$ ' value and
- 4285 'local loop + $100\ \Omega$ ' value

This process will give a reference against three Reference Values and provide a more precise indication of the instrument accuracy.

The earth fault loop impedance tester is used to

1. Test and record the actual loop impedance from the dedicated socket outlet.
2. Test and record the 4285 'local loop' value
3. Test and record the 'local loop + $1\ \Omega$ ' value
4. Test and record the 'local loop + $100\ \Omega$ ' value

Each of the above tests is repeated three times and the average value recorded as the Reference Value for each test.

The Reference values obtained for tests 1, 2, and 3 and 4 above (socket loop, local loop, local loop + $1\ \Omega$ and local loop + $100\ \Omega$) then provide four reference points with which to compare the instrument accuracy.

- The earth fault loop impedance tester is used to test the earth fault loop impedance at the dedicated socket and the value recorded on a instrument record sheet.
- The earth fault loop impedance tester is then plugged into the 4285 socket outlet and the test carried out in the usual way. The measured value is recorded.
- Either the test instrument or the supply socket is then switched off for a period of 5 seconds
- The 4285 loop impedance switch is moved to the $+1\Omega$ position.
- The instrument or supply socket is then switched on.
- The earth fault loop impedance test is then carried out in the usual way. The measured value is recorded on the instrument record sheet.
- Either the test instrument or the supply socket is then switched off for a period of 5 seconds
- After 5 seconds the 4285 loop impedance switch is moved to the $+100\Omega$ position.
- The instrument or supply socket is then switched on.
- The earth fault loop impedance test is then carried out in the usual way. The measured value is recorded on the instrument record sheet.
- The measured values obtained for each of the four tests are then compared with the reference values on the Record Sheet. The results should be within the manufacturer's tolerance of the Reference Value. If the results show the instrument is accurately measuring the values, within the instrument manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument is suitable for continued use. If any of the measured values are outside the manufacturer's tolerance then the instrument will need to be returned for service.

Residual Current Device Checks

The 4285 provides a facility to check the accuracy of residual current device test instruments relative to the testing of 30mA RCDs, the most common type used for additional protection.

Note: Using the RCD test function will introduce a small fault current to the circuit being used to power the check box for a period of 38 ms. in the same way that using an RCD tester on the same circuit without the check box in-line would.

It is therefore recommended that this function is used either non-RCD protected circuits.

When the RCD/LOOP switch of the 4285 is set to the RCD position the tests of:

- $\frac{1}{2} \times I_{\Delta n}$ test at 15mA
- $1 \times I_{\Delta n}$ test at 30mA
- $5 \times I_{\Delta n}$ test at 150mA

Can be carried out at the 4285 socket outlet

The 4285 checks both the accuracy of the displayed disconnection time and the accuracy of the tester's output current.

Note: The 4285 function for the $1 \times I_{\Delta n}$ and the $5 \times I_{\Delta n}$ test has a set operation time of 38ms. ± 1 ms So the instrument being checked should display a value, subject to the instrument manufacturers' tolerance, of 37-39ms.

Site Check

The connection to the 4285 is made using the instrument test lead which is fitted with a (10A) plug into the test socket. The selection switch is set to the RCD position and the test instrument plugged into the 4285.

$1 \times I_{\Delta n}$ (30mA)

- The instrument is set to the 30mA and the $1 \times I_{\Delta n}$ (30mA) setting at 0°
- The test is then carried out at the instrument

The reading obtained on the test instrument should be between 37ms and 39ms subject to the manufacturer's tolerances.

The illumination of the 30mA LED on the 4285 indicates that the test has been carried out and the instrument output current is acceptable.

If the output current from the tester is outside the acceptable range then the tester may still operate the RCD trip but the 30mA LED will not light.

If this happens the test result obtained (the displayed disconnection time) is not valid as the tester has failed to supply the indicated test current.

The 4285 automatically resets ready to test after a period of around 4 seconds when the LED goes out.

- The instrument is then set to the 30mA and the $1 \times I_{\Delta n}$ (30mA) setting at 180° and the above test repeated.

5 x I_{Δn} (150mA)

- The instrument under test is then set to the $5 \times I_{\Delta n}$ 150mA setting at 0°
- The test is then carried out at the instrument

The reading obtained on the test instrument should be between 37ms and 39ms subject to the manufacturer's tolerances.

The illumination of the 150mA LED on the 4285 indicates that the test has been carried out and the instrument output current is acceptable.

If the output current from the tester is outside the acceptable range then the tester may still operate the RCD trip but the 150mA LED will not light. If this happens the test result obtained (the displayed disconnection time) is not valid as the tester has failed to supply the indicated test current.

The 4285 automatically resets ready to test after a period of around 4 seconds when the LED goes out.

- The instrument is then set to the $5 \times I_{\Delta n}$ 150mA setting at 180° and the above test repeated

$\frac{1}{2} \times I_{\Delta n}$ (15mA)

- The instrument under test is then set to the $\frac{1}{2} \times I_{\Delta n}$ 15mA setting at 0°
- The test carried out at the instrument.
- The illumination of the 15mA LED on the 4285 indicates that the test has been carried out and the instrument output current is acceptable.
- The 4285 automatically resets ready to test after a period of around 4 seconds when the LED goes out.
- The reading obtained on the test instrument should indicate that the trip did not occur in the 2 second time period. (the reading shown will depend up on the test instrument being used as this varies according to the manufacturer)

If the output current from the tester is outside the acceptable range then the tester may still indicate that the trip did not occur in the 2 second time period but the 15mA LED will not light. If this happens the test result obtained is not valid as the tester has failed to supply the indicated test current.

If satisfactory press the phase selection switch to change the test phase angle to 180° and repeat above tests

Ongoing accuracy record

The procedure given above for the site check may also be used to provide a record of ongoing accuracy for the RCD test instrument.

This is possible because the test of the RCD instrument is carried out within the 4285 unit and is independent of any external influence. The test should be carried out at regular intervals and the results recorded on the ongoing accuracy record sheet for the instrument.



Waste electrical products should not be disposed of with household waste. Please recycle where facilities exist. Check with your local authority or retailer for recycling advice.

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