



Standard Specification for High Voltage Detectors—Part 1 Capacitive Type to be Used for Voltages Exceeding 600 Volts AC¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1796; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers portable, live-line tool-supported, direct-contact type capacitive voltage detectors to be used on electrical systems both indoors and outdoors for ac voltages from 600 V to 800 kV with frequency of 60 Hz. The function of the voltage detector is limited to the detection of the presence or absence of nominal operating voltage.

1.1.1 Two types of voltage detectors are provided and are designated as Type I, audible/visual and Type II, numeric, with or without audible.

1.1.2 Two styles of voltage detectors, differing in wet conditions characteristics, are provided and are designated as Style A, indoor use and Style B indoor/outdoor use.

1.2 The use and maintenance of these high voltage detectors and any necessary insulated tool handles are beyond the scope of this specification.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 1—Except where specified, all voltage defined in this specification refer to phase-to-phase voltage in a three-phase system. Voltage detectors covered by this specification may be used in other than three-phase systems, but the applicable phase-to-phase or phase-to-ground (earth) voltages shall be used to determine the operating voltage.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

F819 [Terminology Relating to Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F18 on Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F18.35 on Tools & Equipment.

Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2014. Published November 2014. Originally approved in 1997. Last previous edition approved in 2009 as F1796-09. DOI: 10.1520/F1796-09R14.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

2.2 ANSI Standard:³

ANSI C84.1 [Voltage Ratings for Electric Power Systems and Equipment](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *capacitive voltage detector*—a device that relies on current passing through stray capacitance to ground.

3.1.2 *clear indication*—a specific condition that detects and indicates the voltage state at the contact electrode.

3.1.3 *clear perception*—the ability by the user to determine that the voltage detector is in its operating position.

3.1.4 *contact electrode*—the bare conductive part of the conductive element that establishes the electrical connection to the component to be tested.

3.1.5 *indicator*—part of the voltage detector that indicates the presence or absence of the nominal operating voltage or the measured voltage at the contact electrode.

3.1.6 *indoor style*—a detector designed for use in dry conditions, normally indoors.

3.1.7 *interference field*—electrical field affecting the indication.

3.1.8 *interference voltage*—voltages other than the signal voltage capable of making the device operate.

3.1.9 *limit marking*—distinctive location or mark to indicate to the user the physical limit to which the detector may be inserted between live components or may touch them.

3.1.10 *nominal operating voltage*—a nominal value consistent with the latest revision of ANSI C84.1.

3.1.11 *outdoor style*—a detector designed for use either indoors or outdoors.

3.1.12 *response time*—time delay between sudden change of the voltage state on the contact electrode and the associated clear indication.

3.1.13 *testing element*—built in or external device, by means of which the functioning of the voltage detector can be checked.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.