

Insulation Resistance Testers

What is Insulation Resistance Tester?

The measurement of insulation resistance is performed to check the insulation status of electric equipments and circuits, which constitutes one of the important measuring items for safety control. The measurement of the insulation of electric equipments and circuits is made using an insulation resistance tester by stopping the operation of the electric equipments and circuits (by stopping power distribution). Voltage of several megohms to tens of megohms is measured in case of the measurement of insulation resistance of electronic parts and electric equipments, and voltage of 1MΩ or less is measured in case of electric works for interior wiring and others.

Is not the resistance range of a tester adequate for the measurement of insulation resistance?

The resistance of a digital multimeter or multitester covers the applied voltage (measured voltage) of approx. 0.3V up to 12V. An insulation resistance tester needs to make measurements at voltage higher than the working voltage of a circuit and electric and electronic equipment to be measured. The table on the right lists examples of rated voltage and uses of the insulation resistance tester.

Examples of major applications of insulation resistance tester

Rated measurement voltage	General electric equipments	Electric equipments and circuits
	Insulation measurement at safe voltage	
25V 50V	Insulation measurement of telephone circuit equipments and explosion-proof equipments	Insulation measurement of telephone circuits
100V 125V	Insulation measurement of control equipments	Insulation measurement for maintaining and controlling low-voltage distribution wiring and equipments of 100V or less Insulation measurement for maintaining and controlling low-voltage wiring and equipments of 200V class or lower
250V	Insulation measurement of low-voltage distribution circuits and equipments	Insulation measurement for maintaining and controlling low-voltage wiring and equipments of 400V class or lower Insulation measurement of 100V, 200V and 440V classes at the time of new installation
500V	Insulation measurement of newly installed distribution circuits, and circuits and equipments of 600V or less (General)	Insulation measurement for maintaining and controlling low-voltage wiring and equipments of lower than 600V Insulation measurement of 100V, 200V and 400V distribution wiring at the time of new installation
1000V	Insulation measurement of circuits, equipments, and facilities of higher than 600V (General)	Insulation measurement of equipments normally operating at high working voltage (e.g. high-voltage cable, high-voltage electric equipment, and communications equipment using high voltage)

Three key points in choosing a suitable model

1. Analog type or digital type?

Analog type is suitable for visually checking the measurement.
Digital type is suitable for verifying the measurement by precise values.

2. What do you like to measure by your insulation resistance tester?

For measurement of electronic circuits and the like (See Figure ① below)
→ For easy reading of higher resistance : DM series / Digital type
For use in measurement in electric works and the like (See Figure ② below)
→ For easy reading of lower resistance : PDM series / Digital type

3. Required rated voltage

A wide voltage range is available from 15V (optimum for maintaining and controlling elevators) up to 1000V / 2000M
There are types allowing two to three ranges by one unit.

Measuring method of low-voltage circuit

In order to measure the insulation resistance of a low-voltage circuit, use an insulation resistance tester with the rated voltage of 500V. Open switches in the distribution board, shut off the power distribution and measure the insulation resistance between wires on the circuit and between wire and ground. If the measured value is below the reference value, open all branch switches and make measurements separately for each branch line of the mains line. The insulation resistance value of the low-voltage circuit is stipulated according to the Electrical Equipment Standard.

Use voltage class of circuit	Insulation resistance value
300V or less	When voltage to ground is 150V or less (Voltage to ground: Voltage between wire and the earth in case of a ground type circuit, and voltage between wires in case of a non-ground type circuit. The same applies hereinafter.) 0.1M
	Other cases 0.2M
More than 300V	0.4M

Scale-division method of the 1st and 2nd effective measurement range

① Scale of DM series



② Scale of PDM series

