

# iec 61131 3 programming industrial automation systems

Iec 61131 3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems IEC 61131-3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems is a foundational standard in the field of industrial automation, shaping how control systems are designed, programmed, and maintained worldwide. As industries evolve towards more flexible, efficient, and reliable automation solutions, understanding IEC 61131-3 becomes essential for engineers, programmers, and automation professionals. This article provides a comprehensive overview of IEC 61131-3 programming, its significance in industrial automation systems, and how it influences modern control technology.

**What is IEC 61131-3?** IEC 61131-3 is the third part of the international standard IEC 61131, which defines the programming languages, data types, and programming environment for programmable logic controllers (PLCs). Published by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), IEC 61131-3 specifically focuses on the programming languages used to develop control programs for automation systems. The standard aims to:

- Provide a universal framework for PLC programming
- Enable interoperability between different automation devices and software
- Simplify the development, maintenance, and integration of control systems

Since its inception, IEC 61131-3 has become the de facto standard for PLC programming, supporting a wide range of industrial applications, from manufacturing lines to building automation.

**Core Components of IEC 61131-3** IEC 61131-3 introduces several critical elements that form the basis of programming industrial automation systems:

- Programming Languages** IEC 61131-3 specifies five programming languages, each suited for different types of control tasks:
  1. **Ladder Diagram (LD)**: Visual, relay-like language resembling electrical circuit diagrams; ideal for relay logic and simple control.
  2. **Function Block Diagram (FBD)**: Graphical language emphasizing data flow between function blocks; suitable for complex control processes.
  3. **Structured Text (ST)**: High-level textual language similar to Pascal or C; used for complex algorithms and data processing.
  4. **Instruction List (IL)**: Low-level, assembly-like language, now deprecated but historically used for simple, fast control routines.
  5. **Sequential Function Charts (SFC)**: Graphical language for modeling sequential control processes, including state transitions and steps.
- 2 Data Types and Variables** IEC 61131-3 standardizes data types such as **BOOL**, **INT**, **DINT**, **REAL**, and **STRING**, promoting consistency across programming environments. Variables can be global, local, or instance-specific, facilitating modular and reusable code.
- Program Organization** The standard advocates a modular approach, organizing control logic into:
  - **Programs**
  - **Function Blocks**
  - **Functions**This modularity improves code clarity, reusability, and maintenance.
- Execution Models** IEC 61131-3 supports different execution models, including cyclic and event-driven execution, enabling flexible control strategies tailored to specific industrial needs.

**Advantages of Using IEC 61131-3 in Industrial Automation** Implementing IEC 61131-3 programming standards offers numerous benefits:

- Interoperability:** Compatibility across devices from different manufacturers simplifies system integration.
- Flexibility:** Multiple programming languages allow engineers to select the most suitable approach for each application.

task. Standardization: Consistent programming practices improve maintainability and reduce errors. Reusability: Modular code components can be reused across different projects, saving development time. Scalability: The standard supports small control applications and large, complex systems. Enhanced Debugging and Testing: Standardized environments facilitate troubleshooting and validation. Implementing IEC 61131-3 in Modern Automation Systems Modern industrial automation leverages IEC 61131-3 through a combination of hardware and software solutions. Here's an outline of how the implementation typically proceeds:

- Selection of PLC Hardware Choose programmable controllers that support IEC 61131-3 programming languages. Many manufacturers provide PLCs compatible with multiple languages, enabling flexibility.
- Development Environment Use specialized IEC 61131-3 compatible software platforms (like Siemens TIA Portal, Beckhoff TwinCAT, or Codesys) for programming, simulation, and debugging.
- Programming Process - Define control requirements and system architecture.
- Develop programs using the appropriate IEC 61131-3 language(s).
- Test and simulate control logic within the development environment.
- Deploy the code to the PLC hardware.
- Monitor and maintain the system during operation.

Benefits of Software Compatibility The availability of multiple programming languages allows engineers to:

- Develop intuitive ladder logic for straightforward control tasks.
- Write complex algorithms in structured text.
- Model sequential processes with SFC.
- Use function blocks for reusable control modules, such as motor drives or valve controllers.

Future Trends in IEC 61131-3 and Industrial Automation As technology advances, IEC 61131-3 continues to evolve to meet the demands of Industry 4.0, IoT, and smart manufacturing. Key trends include:

- Integration with IoT Protocols: Enhancing communication capabilities for real-time data exchange.
- Hybrid Control Strategies: Combining IEC 61131-3 with high-level programming languages like C++ or Python.
- Cybersecurity Considerations: Developing secure programming practices to protect automation systems.
- Edge Computing: Running IEC 61131-3 programs at the edge for faster response times and reduced latency.
- Enhanced Visualization and HMI Integration: Connecting control logic seamlessly with human-machine interfaces.

Conclusion IEC 61131-3 programming industrial automation systems has revolutionized how control systems are designed, implemented, and maintained in industrial environments. Its standardized languages, modular approach, and interoperability facilitate the development of reliable, scalable, and flexible automation solutions. As industries move further into digitalization and smart manufacturing, mastery of IEC 61131-3 becomes increasingly valuable for automation professionals seeking to innovate and optimize industrial processes. By adhering to this international standard, organizations can ensure their automation systems are future-proof, efficient, and aligned with global best practices.

QuestionAnswer 4 What is IEC 61131-3 and why is it important in industrial automation? IEC 61131-3 is a standard for programming industrial automation systems, defining programming languages and software architecture for programmable logic controllers (PLCs). It ensures interoperability, ease of programming, and consistency across automation projects, making it essential for reliable and efficient system design.

Which programming languages are supported by IEC 61131-3? IEC 61131-3 supports five main programming languages: Ladder Diagram (LD), Function Block Diagram (FBD), Structured Text (ST), Instruction List (IL), and Sequential Function Charts (SFC). These provide flexibility for engineers to choose the most suitable language for their application.

How does IEC 61131-3 facilitate interoperability between different

automation devices? By standardizing programming languages, data types, and communication protocols, IEC 61131-3 enables compatible software development and integration across various PLC brands and devices, simplifying system upgrades and maintenance. What are the benefits of using IEC 61131-3 compliant tools in industrial automation projects? Using IEC 61131-3 compliant tools improves code portability, reduces development time, enhances maintainability, and ensures consistency across different hardware platforms, leading to more reliable and scalable automation systems. Are there any recent updates or extensions to the IEC 61131-3 standard that industry professionals should be aware of? While IEC 61131-3 remains a foundational standard, recent developments include support for object-oriented programming, integration with IoT and cloud platforms, and enhancements in safety and security features, reflecting the evolving needs of modern industrial automation. IEC 61131-3 Programming for Industrial Automation Systems: A Comprehensive Guide In the rapidly evolving world of industrial automation, the ability to develop reliable, flexible, and maintainable control systems is paramount. One of the foundational standards that underpin modern automation programming is IEC 61131-3, which provides a comprehensive framework for programming industrial control systems. This standard not only streamlines the development process but also ensures interoperability and consistency across different hardware and software platforms. --- What is IEC 61131-3? IEC 61131-3 is the third part of the IEC 61131 international standard, which specifies the programming languages and associated tools for programmable logic controllers (PLCs). Originally published in 1993 and subsequently revised, IEC 61131-3 has become the de facto standard for programming industrial automation systems worldwide. The Purpose and Significance The main objective of IEC 61131-3 is to establish a common programming language environment that facilitates: - Portability: Ability to transfer programs between different PLC brands. - Reusability: Use of common code modules Iec 61131 3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems 5 across multiple projects. - Maintainability: Easier troubleshooting and updates. - Standardization: Uniform programming practices across industries. The standard delineates five programming languages, each suited to different types of control tasks, along with associated programming tools and data types. --- The Five Programming Languages of IEC 61131-3 IEC 61131-3 defines five programming languages, each with unique characteristics and ideal use cases: 1. Ladder Diagram (LD) - Description: Graphical language resembling relay ladder logic. - Use Cases: Discrete control, machine control logic, safety interlocks. - Strengths: Intuitive for electricians and technicians familiar with relay logic; easy to visualize control sequences. 2. Function Block Diagram (FBD) - Description: Graphical language using blocks interconnected by signals. - Use Cases: Continuous control, process automation. - Strengths: Modular and reusable; suitable for complex control algorithms. 3. Structured Text (ST) - Description: High-level textual programming language akin to Pascal or C. - Use Cases: Complex mathematical computations, algorithms, data processing. - Strengths: Powerful and flexible; ideal for advanced logic and data manipulation. 4. Instruction List (IL) - Description: Low-level, assembly-like language. - Use Cases: Very simple routines, resource-constrained systems. - Note: Deprecated in newer versions of the standard. 5. Sequential Function Chart (SFC) - Description: Graphical language for defining sequential control processes. - Use Cases: Batch processes, multi-step procedures. - Strengths: Clear visualization of process sequences. --- Core Concepts and Data Types in IEC 61131-3 Understanding the core concepts and data types is critical for effective

programming within the IEC 61131-3 framework. Data Types - Basic Data Types - BOOL: Boolean (true/false) - INT: Integer - REAL: Floating-point number - STRING: Text strings - BYTE, WORD, DWORD, LWORD: Bit and byte data types - Derived Data Types - Arrays, records, and user-defined types for complex data structures. Program Organization - Programs: Main control routines. - Function Blocks: Encapsulate logic with internal states, reusable and instantiable. - Functions: Stateless routines returning a value. - Global Variables: Shared data accessible across program modules. Execution Cycle IEC 61131-3 programs operate within a cyclic execution model, where control logic is evaluated repeatedly in a scan cycle. This ensures real-time responsiveness and consistency. --- Advantages of Using IEC 61131-3 in Industrial Automation Adopting IEC 61131-3 offers several benefits: - Interoperability: Compatibility across different vendors' hardware. - Modularity: Break down complex systems into manageable, reusable components. - Scalability: Suitable for small to large- scale systems. - Ease of Maintenance: Standardized structure simplifies troubleshooting and updates. - Cost Efficiency: Reusable code reduces development time and costs. --- Practical Implementation of IEC 61131-3 Programming Step 1: Define Control Requirements Begin by clearly understanding the control process, the sensors, actuators, and the desired logic. Document all inputs, outputs, and process sequences. Step 2: Choose Appropriate Languages Select the programming language that best fits the task: - Iec 61131 3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems 6 Use Ladder Diagram for straightforward relay logic. - Use Function Block Diagram for modular control. - Use Structured Text for complex calculations or algorithms. Step 3: Develop Modular Code Leverage Function Blocks to encapsulate logic: - Create reusable modules. - Implement control algorithms as Function Blocks. - Use global variables judiciously for shared data. Step 4: Simulate and Test Before deploying to hardware, simulate the program in development environments such as PLC programming software. Validate logic and performance. Step 5: Deploy and Monitor Upload the program to the PLC hardware. Monitor system behavior and troubleshoot issues using diagnostic tools. --- Best Practices and Tips for IEC 61131-3 Programming - Maintain Clear Documentation: Comment code extensively to facilitate future modifications. - Use Modular Design: Break down complex control logic into smaller, manageable Function Blocks. - Implement Error Handling: Anticipate and manage fault conditions gracefully. - Follow Industry Standards: Adhere to safety standards and best practices. - Regularly Update and Backup Code: Ensure system reliability and ease of recovery. --- Challenges and Considerations While IEC 61131-3 standardizes programming, practitioners should be aware of potential challenges: - Vendor-Specific Implementations: Variations in software tools may require adaptation. - Learning Curve: Mastery of multiple languages and concepts takes time. - Complexity Management: Large projects require disciplined organization. --- Conclusion IEC 61131-3 programming provides a robust, standardized framework for developing, deploying, and maintaining industrial automation control systems. Its multi-language approach caters to various control tasks, from simple relay logic to complex algorithms. By understanding its core principles, data types, and best practices, automation engineers can create systems that are reliable, scalable, and easier to troubleshoot. As automation continues to grow in complexity and importance, IEC 61131-3 remains a critical foundation for advancing industrial control technology. Whether you're designing a small machine controller or a large manufacturing process, mastering IEC 61131-3 programming will significantly enhance your capability to develop efficient and future- proof automation

solutions. IEC 61131-3, PLC programming, industrial automation, programmable logic controllers, automation standards, ladder logic, structured text, function blocks, control systems, industrial control programming

IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems  
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PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST)  
IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems  
PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3  
IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems  
PLC Programming In Instruction List According To IEC 61131-3  
IEC 61131-3 Programming Methodology  
PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD)  
IEC 61131-3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems  
Mastering PLC Programming  
PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD), Monochrome  
Programmable Logic Controllers  
PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD), Wire-O  
PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 Monochrome  
BS EN IEC 61131-3  
Programmable Controllers  
Modelling Control Systems Using IEC 61499  
PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 Wire-O  
The Industrial Information Technology Handbook  
PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V4 Karl-Heinz John Karl-Heinz John Tom Mejer  
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this practical book gives a comprehensive introduction to the concepts and languages of the new standard iec 61131 used to program industrial control systems a summary of the special requirements in programming industrial automation systems and the corresponding features in the iec 61131 3 standard makes it suitable for students as well as plc experts the material is presented in an easy to understand form using numerous examples illustrations and summary tables there is also a purchaser s guide and a cd rom containing two reduced but functional versions of programming systems these increase the value of the book for plc programmers and for those in charge of purchasing software in industrial companies

the programming of industrial controllers has developed into a fully fledged engineering

discipline in its own right over the last few years it soon became apparent that the concepts and languages used in office automation were not equal to the task rugged software and fast adaptability are just two examples of the additional demands made by industrial automation technology to standardise a variety of modern concepts and languages for the benefit of users the international electrotechnical commission iec developed a standard for using industrial controllers based on experience with existing plc languages five programming languages were defined together with a data concept using modern software development methods this book introduces these new programming concepts assesses the value of the standard in the industrial context and provides a checklist to enable users to appraise the functionality of a programming system it also includes two free programming packages on cd rom inviting the reader to try out iec 61131 programming the iec 61131 programming systems openpcs and step 7 are supplied by infoteam software gmbh infoteam de and siemens ag siemens de this book is the product of more than 15 years of experience in the development of plc programming systems especially a number of iec systems the purpose of writing it was not only to present the user with the formal language structure but also to explain the concepts and methods underlying the different languages

this book gives an introduction to structured text st used in programmable logic control plc the book can be used for all types of plc brands including siemens structured control language scl and programmable automation controllers pac contents background advantage and challenge when st programming syntax and fundamental st programming widespread guide to reasonable naming of variables ctu tof ton case struct enum array string guide to split up into program modules and functions more than 90 plc code examples fifo rnd 3d array and digital filter examples from ladder to st programming guide to solve programming exercises many clarifying explanations to the plc code and focus on the fact that the reader should learn how to write a stable robust readable structured and clear code are also included in the book furthermore the focus is that the reader will be able to write a plc code which does not require a specific plc type and plc code which can be reused the basis of the book is a material which is currently compiled with feedback from lecturers and students attending the ap education in automation engineering at the local dania academy erhvervsakademi dania randers denmark the material is thus currently updated so that it answers all the questions which the students typically ask through out the period of studying the author is bachelor of science in electrical engineering b sc e e and has 25 years of experience within specification development and supplying complex control solutions and supervision systems within these years the author has 7 years of experience within pascal programming and 12 years of experience with solutions and systems containing plc the author is assistant professor and teaching plc control systems at higher educations at a danish academy of business and technology erhvervsakademi dania randers denmark linkedin linkedin com in tommejerantonsen

the rapid advances in performance and miniaturisation in microtechnology are constantly opening up new markets for the programmable logic controller plc specially designed controller hardware or pc based controllers extended by hardware and software with real time capability now control highly complex automation processes this has been extended by the new subject of safe related controllers aimed at preventing

injury by machines during the production process the different types of plc cover a wide task spectrum ranging from small network node computers and distributed compact units right up to modular fail tolerant high performance plcs they differ in performance characteristics such as processing speed networking ability or the selection of i o modules they support throughout this book the term plc is used to refer to the technology as a whole both hardware and software and not merely to the hardware architecture the iec61131 programming languages can be used for programming classical plcs embedded controllers industrial pcs and even standard pcs if suitable hardware e g fieldbus board for connecting sensors and actors is available

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this textbook and exercise book provides a solid basic knowledge and comprehensive practical skills in dealing with plc programming numerous exercises help to deepen the material with the accompanying simulation software and sample solutions the acquired knowledge can be applied immediately the software can be downloaded via the internet the knowledge of number systems and digital technology conveyed in the book is an important prerequisite for skilful and clever plc programming the programming language used instruction list according to iec 61131 3 provides the best insights into the

functioning of a plc the didactically prepared programming examples for switching networks signal memories time functions counters function blocks and functions program structures sequence controls data types and much more enable systematic learning of programming the 5th corrected edition experiences an expansion of the exercises with a didactically prepared project for the control of a mountain railway the associated simulation software plc lite enables the realisation of controls for the mountain railway and the realistic representation of the cableway movements on the screen

this book is an introduction to the programming language ladder diagram ld used in programmable logic controllers plc the book provides a general introduction to plc controls and can be used for any plc brands with a focus on enabling readers without an electrical education to learn ladder programming the book is suitable for learners without prior knowledge of ladder programming the book contains numerous illustrations and program examples based on real world practical problems in the field of automation contents background benefits and challenges of ladder programming plc hardware sensors and basic ladder programming practical guides and tips to achieve good program structures theory and examples of flowcharts block diagrams and sequence diagrams design guide to develop functions and function blocks examples of organizing code in program modules and functions sequencing using self hold set reset and move compare complex code examples for a pump station tank control and conveyor belt design development testing and simulation of plc programs the book describes ladder programming as described in the standard iec 61131 3 plc vendors understand this standard in different ways and not all vendors follows the standard exactly this will be clear through material from the vendor this means that some of the program examples in this book may not work as intended in the plc type you are using in addition there is a difference in how the individual plc type shows graphic symbols and instructions used in ladder programming note this is a book for beginners and therefore advanced techniques such as array loops struct enum string pid and fifo are not included

introduction building blocks of iec 61131 3 variables data types and common elements innovative plc programming system

learn plc programming from the software perspective to understand advanced concepts such as oop and hmi development and design reusable portable and robust code purchase of the print or kindle book includes a free pdf ebook key features take a deep dive into object oriented plc programming to gain hands on knowledge explore software engineering concepts such as sdlc debugging and solid programming get a thorough grasp on hmi development to build various hmi projects book descriptionobject oriented programming oop is a new feature of plc programming that has taken the automation world by storm this book provides you with the necessary skills to succeed in the modern automation programming environment the book is designed in a way to take you through advanced topics such as oop design solid programming the software development lifecycle sdlc library design hmi development general software engineering practices and more to hone your programming skills each chapter has a simulated real world project that ll enable you to apply the skills you ve learned in all this book not only covers complex plc programming topics but it also removes the financial barrier that comes with most books as all examples utilize free software this means that to follow along you

do not need to purchase any plc hardware or software by the end of this plc book you will have what it takes to create long lasting codebases for any modern automation project what you will learn find out how to write plc programs using advanced programming techniques explore oop concepts for plc programming delve into software engineering topics such as libraries and solid programming explore hmis hmi controls hmi layouts and alarms create an hmi project and attach it to a plc in codesys gain hands on experience by building simulated plc and hmi projects who this book is for this book is for automation programmers with a background in software engineering topics such as object oriented programming and general software engineering knowledge automation engineers software engineers electrical engineers plc technicians hobbyists and upper level university students with an interest in automation or robotics will also find this book useful and interesting anyone with a basic knowledge of plcs can benefit from reading this book

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widely used across industrial and manufacturing automation programmable logic controllers plcs perform a broad range of electromechanical tasks with multiple input and output arrangements designed specifically to cope in severe environmental conditions such as automotive and chemical plants programmable logic controllers a practical approach using codesys is a hands on guide to rapidly gain proficiency in the development and operation of plcs based on the iec 61131 3 standard using the freely available software tool codesys which is widely used in industrial design automation projects the author takes a highly practical approach to plc design using real world examples the design tool codesys also features a built in simulator soft plc enabling the reader to undertake exercises and test the examples key features introduces to programming techniques using iec 61131 3 guidelines in the five plc recognised programming languages focuses on a methodical approach to programming based on

boolean algebra flowcharts sequence diagrams and state diagrams contains a useful methodology to solve problems develop a structured code and document the programming code covers i o like typical sensors signals signal formats noise and cabling features power point slides covering all topics example programs and solutions to end of chapter exercises via companion website no prior knowledge of programming plcs is assumed making this text ideally suited to electronics engineering students pursuing a career in electronic design automation experienced plc users in all fields of manufacturing will discover new possibilities and gain useful tips for more efficient and structured programming register at codesys com wiley com go hanssen logiccontrollers

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in electrical engineering b sc e e and has 25 years experience in specification development programming and supplying complex control solutions and supervision systems the author is assistant professor and teaches plc programming at dania academy a higher education institution in randers denmark

the iec 61499 standard was developed to model distributed control systems this book introduces the main concepts and models defined in the iec 61499 standard particularly the use of function blocks covering service interface function blocks event function blocks industrial application examples and future development the book is written as a user guide for the application of the standard for modeling distributed systems and will be useful for those working in industrial control software engineering and manufacturing systems lewis is the uk expert on two iec working groups annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

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the industrial information technology handbook focuses on existing and emerging industrial applications of it and on evolving trends that are driven by the needs of companies and by industry led consortia and organizations emphasizing fast growing areas that have major impacts on industrial automation and enterprise integration the handbook covers topics such as industrial communication technology sensors and embedded systems the book is organized into two parts part 1 presents material covering new and quickly evolving aspects of it part 2 introduces cutting edge areas of industrial it the handbook presents material in the form of tutorials surveys and technology overviews combining fundamentals and advanced issues with articles grouped into sections for a cohesive and comprehensive presentation the text contains 112 contributed reports by industry experts from government companies at the forefront of development and some of the most renowned academic and research institutions worldwide several of the reports on recent developments actual deployments and trends

cover subject matter presented to the public for the first time

this book gives an introduction to the programming language structured text st which is used in programmable logic controllers plc the book can be used for all types of plc brands including siemens structured control language scl and programmable automation controllers pac this 4th edition has been updated revised and improved incorporating feedback and suggestions from readers and students bugs have been fixed additional illustrations added and new program examples included contents background benefits and challenges of st programming syntax data types best practices and basic st programming if then else case for ctu ton struct enum array string guide for best practice naming troubleshooting test and program structure sequencer and code split up into functions and function blocks fifo rnd sorting scaling toggle simulation signals and digital filter tank controls conveyor belts adaptive pump algorithm and robot control plc program structure for pumping station 3d car park and car wash examples from ladder diagram to st programming the book contains more than 150 plc code examples with a focus on learning how to write robust readable and structured code the book systematically covers basic programming offering advice and practical examples based on the author s extensive industrial experience and feedback from readers the book is used in educational programs such as the academy profession ap graduate in automation engineering as well as other courses that include plc programming such as engineering automation the author has 30 years of experience in specifying programming and delivering complex control solutions and monitoring systems holds a bachelor of science in electrical engineering b sc e e and is a certified lecturer associate professor has been teaching plc control in higher education at business academy dania in randers denmark since 2016 has published several books and sold more than 12 000 copies

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