

New Safety Standard Replacing VDE 0884 Optoisolator applications often include environments where high voltages are present. The ability of the optoisolator or optocoupler to sustain and to isolate high voltages, both transient as well as working, is the driving reason why optocouplers are required in many designs. Equipment operators and circuits within equipment may need safe isolation and protection from high voltages. The safety performance of the optoisolator is determined during the design and the assembly of the product, so process control and design robustness are key to overall safety performance. When used for isolation, optocouplers are treated like transformers in that they must satisfy internal and external creepage and clearance distances, and dielectric strength requirements. Many agencies require that optocoupler be approved to VDE 0884.

Starting January 1, 2004 a new **Safety Standard** IEC/EN/DIN EN 60747-5-2 replaces the VDE 0884 safety standard, following the obsolescence of the VDE 0884 standard. The Isolation Products Division of Agilent Technologies has been following closely with the changes in standardization, and has obtained certification for IEC/EN/DIN EN 60747-5-2.

For detailed information, the revised Agilent Regulatory Guide to Isolation Circuits can be downloaded from the Web site with effect from April 1, 2004: <http://literature.agilent.com/litweb/pdf/5989-0342EN.pdf>.