Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to establish uniform annunciator terminology, sequence designations, and sequence presentation, where a sequence is a chronological series of steps that provide visual and audible indications to call attention to process changes.

This standard is intended to improve communications among those who specify, distribute, design, manufacture, or use annunciators.

History

Based on work started in 1955 by an ISA survey committee titled Instrument Alarms and Interlocks, the 8D-RP18 Committee on Annunciator Systems of the Production Processes was formed. Tentative recommended practice ISA-RP18.1, *Specifications and Guides for the Use of General Purpose Annunciators*, was completed by that committee in 1965.

That committee, reactivated as ISA18, Instrument Signals and Alarms, began revising ISA-RP18.1 in 1976 to reflect then-current industry practice for annunciators. In 1979, ISA released, as a product of the ISA18 and ISA67 committees, ISA-18.1-1979, *Annunciator Sequences and Specifications.*

Organization

This standard is organized in two parts. The first part is introductory in nature (Clauses 1–4). The main body of the standard (Clause 5) presents mandatory (normative) requirements. The annex sections present nonmandatory (informative) recommendations as noted. If a clause contains no mandatory requirements, then it is noted as informative.

1 Scope

1.1 General applicability

This standard is primarily for use with annunciators, devices or groups of devices that call attention to changes in process conditions. Annunciators can range from a single annunciator cabinet, to complex annunciator systems with many visual display cabinets and remote logic cabinets, to computer-based displays. Both hardware and software annunciators are included. The annunciator may also include interfaces to the process historian.

The sequence designations are provided to describe basic annunciator sequences and also many sequence variations. This standard specifies the sequence logic for several standard sequences used for annunciators; however, detailed design requirements and documentation formats are beyond the scope of this standard.

1.2 Technical relationship to ISA-18.2

ISA-18.2 (see Clause 2) addresses alarm systems that notify operators of abnormal process conditions or equipment malfunctions that require an operator response to prevent or mitigate related consequences. Many of the principles contained in ISA-18.2 apply also to the annunciators described in ISA-18.1, but annunciators are not restricted only to process conditions that qualify as alarms.

1.3 Exclusions

This standard is not intended to be used directly as an annunciator system purchase specification. This standard may be useful in developing an annunciator specification. It will not eliminate the need for sound engineering judgment. No particular technology is mandated.

This standard is not intended to be used for mobile devices that can also call attention to process conditions.

2 References

For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ANSI/ISA-18.2-2016, *Management of Alarm Systems for the Process Industries*

ANSI/ISA-61511-1-2018, *Functional Safety – Safety Instrumented Systems for the Process Industry Sector – Part 1: Framework, Definitions, System, Hardware and Application Programming Requirements*

ANSI/ISA-84.91.01-2021, *Identification and Mechanical Integrity of Process Safety Controls, Alarms, and Interlocks in the Process Industry*

ANSI/ISA-101.01-2015, *Human Machine Interfaces for Process Automation Systems*