



International
Standard

ISO 80601-2-79

**Medical electrical equipment —
Part 2-79:
Particular requirements for basic
safety and essential performance of
ventilatory support equipment for
ventilatory impairment**

Appareils électromédicaux —

*Partie 2-79: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base
et les performances essentielles des équipements d'assistance
ventilatoire en cas de trouble ventilatoire*

**Second edition
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

ISO and IEC draw attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO and IEC take no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO and IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents and <https://patents.iec.ch>. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

This document was prepared jointly by Technical Committee ISO/TC 121, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Respiratory devices and related equipment used for patient care*, and Technical Committee IEC/TC 62, *Medical equipment, software, and systems*, Subcommittee SC D, *Particular medical equipment, software, and systems*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 215 *Respiratory and anaesthetic equipment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 80601-2-79:2018), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- alignment with IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, IEC 60601-1-2:2014+AMD1:2020 IEC 60601-1-6:2010+AMD1:2013+AMD2:2020 and IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020;
- clarified *maximum limited pressure* requirements;
- clarified high *airway pressure alarm condition* requirements; and
- harmonization with ISO 20417, where appropriate.

A list of all parts in the ISO 80601 series and the IEC 80601 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

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Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

This document specifies requirements for *ventilatory support equipment* that is intended for use in the *home healthcare environment* for *patients* who are not dependent on *ventilation* for their life support. *Ventilatory support equipment* is frequently used in locations where *supply mains* is not reliable. *Ventilatory support equipment* is often supervised by non-healthcare personnel (*lay operators*) with varying levels of training. *Ventilatory support equipment* conforming with this document can be used elsewhere (i.e. in healthcare facilities).

Ventilatory support is often used for *patients* who have stable ventilatory needs. This document addresses *patients* who have significant respiratory dysfunction resulting in an abnormality of a sufficient degree to be noticeable by the *patient*. This is best characterized by *lung* functions not worse than^[35]:

- $FEV_1/FVC^1 < 70 \%$; or
- $50 \% \leq FEV_1 < 80 \%$ predicted

where

FEV_1 is the forced expiratory volume in 1 s, and

FVC is the forced vital capacity.

Examples of diseases that require *ventilation* support are:

- mild to moderate Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD);
- mild to moderate neuromuscular/ amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS);
- obese *patients* Obese Hypoventilation Syndrome (OHS);
- Cheyne–Stokes respiration (CSR/CSA).

CSR/CSA is an abnormal pattern of breathing characterized by progressively deeper and sometimes faster breathing, followed by a gradual decrease that results in a temporary stop in breathing called an apnoea. The pattern repeats, with each cycle usually taking 30 s to 2 min.

Cardiac *patients* with CSR/CSA might be breathless without having significant reduction in FEV_1 . Reducing the work of breathing can help normalize their breathing.

This *ventilatory support equipment* is intended for *patients* who are spontaneously breathing and do not require *ventilation* for life support or intermittent periods of *ventilation* to maintain vital signs. *Ventilatory support equipment* intended for this group of *patients* typically does not require *physiological alarm conditions* as no *essential performance* exists. These *patients* can gain adequate relief from fatigue related to the work of breathing by using *ventilatory support equipment* during the night and while taking breaks during the day. This can enable a *patient* with *ventilatory impairment* to continue to move about and participate in the activities of daily living. Non-transit-operable *ventilatory support equipment* that provides ventilatory support at the bedside and beside a chair or other resting place should be adequate in this application.

In this document, the following print types are used:

- requirements and definitions: roman type;
- terms defined in *Clause 3* of the general standard², in this document or as noted: italic type; and

¹ This is also known as the Tiffeneau-Pinelli index.

- informative material appearing outside of tables, such as notes, examples and references: in smaller type; normative text of tables is also in a smaller type;

In referring to the structure of this document, the term:

- “clause” means one of the five numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 201 includes subclauses 201.7, 201.8); and
- “subclause” means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 201.7, 201.8 and 201.9 are all subclauses of Clause 201).

References to clauses within this document are preceded by the term “Clause” followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this particular document are by number only.

In this document, the conjunctive “or” is used as an “inclusive or” so a statement is true if any combination of the conditions is true.

For the purposes of this document, the auxiliary verb:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or capability; and
- “must” is used to express an external constraint.

Annex C contains a guide to the *marking* and labelling requirements in this document.

Annex D contains a summary of the *symbols* referenced in this document.

Requirements in this document have been decomposed so that each requirement is uniquely delineated. This is done to support automated requirements tracking.

² The general standard is IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance.

Medical electrical equipment

Part 2-79:

Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of ventilatory support equipment for ventilatory impairment

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, Clause 1, applies, except as follows:

201.1.1 Scope

Replacement:

NOTE 1 There is guidance or rationale for this subclause contained in Clause AA.2.

This document applies to the *basic safety* and *essential performance* of *ventilatory support equipment*, as defined in 201.3.302, for *ventilatory impairment*, as defined in 201.3.300, hereafter also referred to as *ME equipment*, in combination with its *accessories*:

- intended for use in the *home healthcare environment*;

NOTE 2 In the *home healthcare environment*, the *supply mains* driving the *ventilatory support equipment* is often not reliable.

NOTE 3 Such *ventilatory support equipment* can also be used in professional health care facilities.

- intended for use by a *lay operator*;

- intended for use with *patients* who have *ventilatory impairment*, the most fragile of these *patients*, would not likely experience injury with the loss of this *artificial ventilation*; and

- not intended for *patients* who are dependent on *artificial ventilation* for their immediate life support.

EXAMPLE 1 *Patients* with mild to moderate chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Ventilatory support equipment is not considered to use a *physiologic closed-loop control system* unless it uses a physiological *patient* variable to adjust the *artificial ventilation* therapy settings.

This document is also applicable to those *accessories* intended by their *manufacturer* to be connected to the *breathing system* of *ventilatory support equipment* for *ventilatory impairment*, where the characteristics of those *accessories* can affect the *basic safety* or *essential performance* of the *ventilatory support equipment* for *ventilatory impairment*.

EXAMPLE 2 Breathing sets, *connectors*, water traps, expiratory valve, *humidifier*, *breathing system filter*, external electrical power source, *distributed alarm system*.

If a clause or subclause is specifically intended to be applicable to *ME equipment* only, or to *ME systems* only, the title and content of that clause or subclause will say so. If that is not the case, the clause or subclause applies both to *ME equipment* and to *ME systems*, as relevant.

Hazards inherent in the intended physiological function of *ME equipment* or *ME systems* within the scope of this document are not covered by specific requirements in this document except in IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 7.2.13 and 8.4.1.

NOTE 4 Additional information can be found in IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 4.2.

NOTE 5 See ISO/TR 21954 for guidance on the selection of the appropriate *ventilator* for a given *patient*.

This document does not specify the requirements for:

- *ventilators* or *accessories* for *ventilator-dependent patients* intended for critical care applications, which are given in ISO 80601-2-12;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for anaesthetic applications, which are given in ISO 80601-2-13;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for the emergency medical services environment, which are given in ISO 80601-2-84;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for *ventilator-dependent patients* in the *home healthcare environment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-72;
- *ventilatory support equipment* or *accessories* intended for *ventilatory insufficiency*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-80;
- sleep apnoea therapy *ME equipment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-70;
- high-frequency jet *ventilators* (HFJVs)^[33], which are given in ISO 80601-2-87;
- high-frequency oscillatory *ventilators* (HFOVs)^[22];
- respiratory high flow equipment, which are given in ISO 80601-2-90;

NOTE 6 *Ventilatory support equipment* can incorporate high-flow therapy operational mode, but such a mode is only for spontaneously breathing *patients*.

- user-powered resuscitators, which are given in ISO 10651-4;
- gas-powered emergency resuscitators, which are given in ISO 10651-5;
- oxygen therapy constant flow *ME equipment*; and
- cuirass or “iron-lung” *ventilation* equipment.

201.1.2 Object

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 1.2 is replaced by:

The object of this document is to establish particular *basic safety* and *essential performance* requirements for *ventilatory support equipment*, for ventilatory impairment, as defined in 201.3.300, and its *accessories*.

Accessories are included because the combination of the *ventilatory support equipment* and the *accessories* need to be adequately safe. *Accessories* can have a significant impact on the *basic safety* or *essential performance* of the *ventilatory support equipment*.

NOTE 1 This document has been prepared to address the relevant International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF) *essential principles*^[37] and labelling^[38] guidances as indicated in Annex CC.

NOTE 2 This document has been prepared to address the relevant *essential principles of safety and performance* of ISO 16142-1:2016^[10] as indicated in Annex DD.

NOTE 3 This document has been prepared to address the relevant general safety and performance requirements of European regulation (EU) 2017/745^[39].

201.1.3 Collateral standards

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 1.3 applies with the following addition:

This document refers to those applicable collateral standards that are listed in Clause 2 of the general standard and Clause 201.2 of this document.

IEC 60601-1-2:2014+AMD1:2020, IEC 60601-1-6:2010+AMD1:2013+AMD2:2020, and IEC 60601-1-11:2015+AMD1:2020 apply as modified in Clauses 202, 206 and 211 respectively. IEC 60601-1-3, IEC 60601-1-9 and IEC 60601-1-12 do not apply. All other published collateral standards in the IEC 60601-1 series apply as published.

201.1.4 Particular standards

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 1.4 is replaced by:

In the IEC 60601 series, particular standards may modify, replace or delete requirements contained in the general standard, including the collateral standards, as appropriate for the particular *ME equipment* under consideration.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over the general standard.

For brevity, IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 is referred to in this particular document as the general standard. Collateral standards are referred to by their document number.

The numbering of clauses and subclauses of this document corresponds to that of the general standard with the prefix “201” (e.g. 201.1 in this document addresses the content of Clause 1 of the general standard) or applicable collateral standard with the prefix “2xx”, where xx is the final digits of the collateral standard document number (e.g. 202.4 in this document addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-2 collateral standard, 211.10 in this document addresses the content of Clause 10 of the IEC 60601-1-11 collateral standard, etc.). The changes to the text of the general standard are specified by the use of the following words:

“Replacement” means that the clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard is replaced completely by the text of this document.

“Addition” means that the text of this document is additional to the requirements of the general standard or applicable collateral standard.

“Amendment” means that the clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard is amended as indicated by the text of this document.

Subclauses, figures or tables that are additional to those of the general standard are numbered starting from 201.101. However, due to the fact that definitions in the general standard are numbered 3.1 through 3.154, additional definitions in this document are numbered beginning from 201.3.201. Additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc., and additional items aa), bb), etc.

Subclauses, figures or tables which are additional to those of a collateral standard are numbered starting from 20x, where “x” is the number of the collateral standard, e.g. 202 for IEC 60601-1-2, 203 for IEC 60601-1-3, etc.

The term “this document” is used to make reference to the IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, any applicable collateral standards and this document taken together.

Where there is no corresponding clause or subclause in this particular document, the clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard, although possibly not relevant, applies without modification; where it is intended that any part of the general standard or applicable collateral standard, although possibly relevant, is not to be applied, a statement to that effect is given in this particular document.

201.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, Clause 2, applies, except as follows:

Replacement:

IEC 61672-1:2013, *Electroacoustics — Sound level meters — Part 1: Specifications*

Addition:

ISO 3744:2010, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure — Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane*

ISO 4871:1996, *Acoustics — Declaration and verification of noise emission values of machinery and equipment*

ISO 5356-1:2015, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Conical connectors — Part 1: Cones and sockets*

ISO 5367:2023, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Breathing sets and connectors*

ISO 7396-1:2016/Amd 1:2017, *Medical gas pipeline systems — Part 1: Pipeline systems for compressed medical gases and vacuum*

ISO 9360-1:2000, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Heat and moisture exchangers (HMEs) for humidifying respired gases in humans — Part 1: HMEs for use with minimum tidal volumes of 250 ml*

ISO 9360-2:2001, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Heat and moisture exchangers (HMEs) for humidifying respired gases in humans — Part 2: HMEs for use with tracheostomized patients having minimum tidal volumes of 250 ml*

ISO 14937:2009, *Sterilization of health care products — General requirements for characterization of a sterilizing agent and the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices*

ISO 17664-1:2021, *Processing of health care products — Information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer for the processing of medical devices — Part 1: Critical and semi-critical medical devices*

ISO 17664-2:2021, *Processing of health care products — Information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer for the processing of medical devices — Part 2: Non-critical medical devices*

ISO 18562-1:2024, *Biocompatibility evaluation of breathing gas pathways in healthcare applications — Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process*

ISO 20417:2021, *Medical devices — Information to be supplied by the manufacturer*

ISO 23328-1:2003, *Breathing system filters for anaesthetic and respiratory use — Part 1: Salt test method to assess filtration performance*

ISO 23328-2:2002, *Breathing system filters for anaesthetic and respiratory use — Part 2: Non-filtration aspects*

ISO 80369-1:—³, *Small-bore connectors for liquids and gases in healthcare applications — Part 1: General requirements*

ISO 80601-2-74:2021, *Medical electrical equipment — Part 2-74: Particular requirements for basic safety and essential performance of respiratory humidifying equipment*

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020⁴, *Medical electrical equipment — Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*

IEC 62366-1:2015+AMD1:2020, *Medical devices — Part 1: Application of usability engineering to medical devices*

IEC 62570:2014, *Standard practice for marking medical devices and other items for safety in the magnetic resonance environment*

IEC Guide 115:2023, *Application of uncertainty of measurement to conformity assessment activities in the electrotechnical sector*

201.3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

201.3.201

accompanying information

information accompanying or *marked* on a medical device or *accessory* for the user or those accountable for the installation, use, *processing*, maintenance, decommissioning and disposal of the medical device or *accessory*, particularly regarding safe use

Note 1 to entry: The *accompanying information* shall be regarded as part of the medical device or *accessory*.

Note 2 to entry: The *accompanying information* can consist of the label, *marking*, *instructions for use*, *technical description*, installation manual, quick reference guide, etc.

Note 3 to entry: *Accompanying information* is not necessarily a written or printed document but could involve auditory, visual, or tactile materials and multiple media types (e.g. CD/DVD-ROM, USB stick, website).

[SOURCE: ISO 20417:2021, 3.2, modified — deleted note 4.]

³ Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/FDIS 80369-1:2024.

⁴ There exists a consolidated edition 3.2(2020) including IEC 60601-1:2005, its Amendment 1:2012 and its Amendment 2:2020.

201.3.202

acknowledged

state of an *alarm system* initiated by *operator* action, where the auditory *alarm signal* associated with a currently active *alarm condition* is inactivated until the *alarm condition* no longer exists or until a predetermined time interval has elapsed

Note 1 to entry: *Acknowledged* only affects *alarm signals* that are active at the time of the *operator* action.

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.37]

201.3.203

airway pressure

P_{aw}

pressure at the *patient-connection port* or at the distal *outlet* of the equipment where there is no *patient-connection port*

Note 1 to entry: The *airway pressure* can be derived from pressure measurements made anywhere within the equipment.

[SOURCE: ISO 4135:2022, 3.1.4.41.1]

201.3.204

alarm condition delay

time from the occurrence of a triggering event either in the *patient*, for *physiological alarm conditions*, or in the equipment, for *technical alarm conditions*, to when the *alarm system* determines that an *alarm condition* exists

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.2]

201.3.205

alarm limit

threshold used by an *alarm system* to determine an *alarm condition*

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.3]

201.3.206

alarm off

state of indefinite duration in which an *alarm system* or part of an *alarm system* does not generate *alarm signals*

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.4]

201.3.207

alarm paused

state of limited duration in which the *alarm system* or part of the *alarm system* does not generate *alarm signals*

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.5]

201.3.208

alarm setting

alarm system configuration, including but not limited to:

- *alarm limits*;
- the characteristics of any *alarm signal* inactivation states; and
- the values of variables or parameters that determine the function of the *alarm system*

Note 1 to entry: Some algorithmically-determined *alarm settings* can require time to be determined or re-determined.