IEC 60601-2-37

Edition 3.0 2024-07
REDLINE VERSION

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

colour inside

Medical electrical equipment –
Part 2-37: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of ultrasonic medical diagnostic and monitoring equipment

IEC 60601-2-37:2024-07 RLV(en)

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MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-37: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of ultrasonic medical diagnostic and monitoring equipment

FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
9) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes 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, 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 https://patents.iec.ch. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This redline version of the official IEC Standard allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous edition IEC 60601-2-37:2007+AMD1:2015 CSV. A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text.

IEC 60601-2-37 has been prepared by subcommittee 62B: Medical imaging equipment, software, and systems, of IEC technical committee 62: Medical equipment, software, and systems. It is an International Standard.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2007 and Amendment 1:2015. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) technical and editorial changes resulting from the amended general standard IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 and its collateral standards IEC 60601-1-xx,

b) technical and editorial changes as a result of maintenance to normative references;

c) technical and editorial changes resulting from relevant developments in TC 87 Ultrasonics standards. In particular, Clause 201.11 about protection against excessive temperatures and other hazards has been fully revised.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
62B/1318/CDV	62B/1348/RVC

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

In this document, the following print types are used:

– requirements and definitions: roman type.

– *test specifications: italic type.*

– 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.

– TERMS DEFINED IN CLAUSE 3 OF IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020, IN THIS DOCUMENT OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this document, the term

– "clause" means one of the seventeen numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 7 includes subclauses 7.1, 7.2, etc.);

– "subclause" means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 7.1, 7.2 and 7.2.1 are all subclauses of Clause 7).

References to clauses within this document are preceded by the term "Clause" followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this 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.

The verbal forms used in this document conform to usage described in Clause 7 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this document, the auxiliary verb:

– "shall" means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this document;

– "should" means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this document;

– "may" is used to describe a permissible way to achieve compliance with a requirement or test.

An asterisk (*) as the first character of a title or at the beginning of a paragraph or table title indicates that there is guidance or rationale related to that item in Annex AA.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60601 series, published under the general title: *Medical electrical equipment*, can be found on the IEC website

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

In this document, safety requirements additional to those in ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012, and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 are specified for ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT.

A general guidance and rationale for the requirements of this document are given in Annex AA.

Knowledge of the reasons for these requirements will not only facilitate the proper application of this document but will, in due course, expedite any revision necessitated by changes in clinical practice or as a result of developments in technology.

The approach and philosophy used in drafting this document for safety of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT are consistent with those in standards of the IEC 60601-2 series that apply to other diagnostic modalities, such as X-ray equipment and magnetic resonance systems.

In each case, the safety standard is intended to require increasing sophistication of output display indicators and controls with increasing energy levels in the interrogating field of diagnosis. Thus, for all such diagnostic modalities, it is the responsibility of the OPERATOR to understand the risk of the output of the ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, and to act appropriately in order to obtain the needed diagnostic information with the minimum risk to the PATIENT.

~~INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 1~~

~~The second edition of IEC 60601-2-37 was published in 2007. Since that publication, the parent standard, IEC 60601-1:2005, entered maintenance, under which an amendment (IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012) and a consolidated edition 3.1 (IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012) were published. This amendment to IEC 60601-2-37:2007 addresses three issues:~~

~~1) technical changes proposed by National Committees as a result of 4 years of practical usage,~~

~~2) technical and editorial changes resulting from the amended general standard IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and its collateral standards IEC 60601-1-xx, and~~

~~3) technical changes as a result of maintenance to normative references.~~

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-37: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of ultrasonic medical diagnostic and monitoring equipment

~~The clauses and subclauses of the general standard apply except as follows:~~

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

Clause 1 of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012, and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 applies, except as follows:

201.1.1 *Scope

Replacement:

This document applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.217, hereinafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT.

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 ~~7.2.13 and 8.4.1 of this standard~~ 201.7.2.13.

~~NOTE See also subclause 4.2 of this standard.~~

This document does not cover ultrasonic therapeutic equipment. Equipment used for the imaging or diagnosis of body structures by ultrasound in conjunction with other medical procedures is covered.

201.1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this document is to establish particular BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.217.

201.1.3 Collateral standards

Addition:

This document refers to those applicable collateral standards that are listed in Clause 2 of IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 and Clause 201.2 of this document.

IEC 60601-1-2:2014, IEC 60601-1-2:2014/AMD1:2020, IEC 60601-1-12:2014 and IEC 60601-1-12:2014/AMD1:2020 apply as modified in Clause 202 and Clause 212 respectively. All other published collateral standards in the IEC 60601-1 series apply as published.

201.1.4 Particular standards

Replacement:

In the IEC 60601 series, particular standards may modify, replace or delete requirements contained in ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 as appropriate for the particular ME EQUIPMENT under consideration, and may add other BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020.

~~For brevity, IEC 60601-1 is referred to in this particular standard as the general standard. Collateral standards are referred to by their document number.~~

The numbering of sections, clauses and subclauses of this document corresponds to that of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 with the prefix "201" (e.g. 201.1 in this document addresses the content of Clause 1 of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020) or applicable collateral standard with the prefix "20x" where x is the final digit(s) of the collateral standard document number (e.g. 202.6 in this document addresses the content of Clause 6 of the IEC 60601-1-2 collateral standard, 203.4 in this document addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-3 collateral standard, etc.). The changes to the text of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 are specified by the use of the following words:

"*Replacement*" means that the clause or subclause of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 or applicable collateral standard is replaced completely by this document.

"*Addition*" means that the text of this document is additional to the requirements of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 or applicable collateral standard.

"*Amendment*" means that the clause or subclause of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 or applicable collateral standard is amended as indicated by the text of this document.

Subclauses, figures or tables which 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 or figures 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 ~~general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020, any applicable collateral standards and this document taken together.

Where there is no corresponding section, clause or subclause in this document, the section, clause or subclause of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 or applicable collateral standard, although possibly not relevant, applies without modification; where it is intended that any part of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 or

applicable collateral standard, although possibly relevant, is not to be applied, a statement to that effect is given in this document.

201.2 Normative references

Clause 2 of ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 applies except as follows:

Addition:

IEC 60601-1:2005, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*
IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012[1]
IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020

IEC 60601-1-12:2014, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-12: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: Requirements for medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems intended for use in the emergency medical services environment*
IEC 60601-1-12:2014/AMD1:2020

IEC 60601-2-18:2009, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2-18: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of endoscopic equipment*

IEC 62127-1:~~2007~~2022, *Ultrasonics – Hydrophones – Part 1: Measurement and characterization of medical ultrasonic fields ~~up to 40 MHz~~*
~~IEC 62127-1:2007/AMD1:2013~~[2]

IEC 62359:2010, *Ultrasonics – Field characterization – Test methods for the determination of thermal and mechanical indices related to medical diagnostic ultrasonic fields*
IEC 62359:2010/AMD1:2017

CISPR 11:2024, *Industrial, scientific and medical equipment – Radio-frequency disturbance characteristics – Limits and methods of measurement*

201.3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ~~the general standard~~ IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 and in IEC 62359 and the following apply.

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

NOTE 1 An index of defined terms is given after the Bibliography.

NOTE 2 A list of symbols used in this document is found in Table 201.101.

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[1] ~~There exists a consolidated edition (3.1) including IEC 60601-1:2005 and its Amendment 1 (2012).~~

[2] ~~There exists a consolidated edition (1.1) including IEC 62127-1:2007 and its Amendment 1 (2013).~~

Addition:

201.3.201
BONE THERMAL INDEX
TIB
THERMAL INDEX for applications such as foetal (second and third trimester), in which the ultrasound beam passes through soft tissue and a focal region is in the immediate vicinity of bone

Unit: None

[SOURCE: IEC 62359:2010 and IEC 62359:2010/AMD1:2017, 3.17, modified – ~~The definition no longer refers to neonatal cephalic applications, and~~ The original notes have been deleted.]

201.3.202
COMBINED-OPERATING MODE
mode of operation of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT that combines more than one DISCRETE-OPERATING MODE

201.3.203
CRANIAL-BONE THERMAL INDEX
TIC
THERMAL INDEX for applications, in which the ultrasound beam passes through bone near the beam entrance into the body, such as paediatric and adult cranial or neonatal cephalic applications

Unit: None

[SOURCE: IEC 62359:2010 and IEC 62359:2010/AMD1:2017, 3.21, modified – ~~The definition now includes a reference to neonatal cephalic applications, and~~ The original notes have been deleted.]

201.3.204
DEFAULT SETTING
specific state of control the ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT will enter upon power-up, new PATIENT select, or change from non-foetal to foetal applications

201.3.205
DISCRETE-OPERATING MODE
mode of operation of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT in which the purpose of the excitation of the ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER or ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER element group is to utilise only one diagnostic methodology

201.3.206
FULL SOFTWARE CONTROL OF ACOUSTIC OUTPUT
means by which the ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT manages the acoustic output independent of direct OPERATOR control

201.3.207
INVASIVE TRANSDUCER ASSEMBLY
transducer which, in whole or in part, penetrates inside the body, either through a body orifice or through the surface of the body

201.3.208
MECHANICAL INDEX
~~the displayed parameter representing potential cavitation bioeffects~~

Indicator of the risk for bioeffects due to mechanical or nonthermal mechanisms, such as cavitation

Symbol: *MI*

Unit: None

Note 1 to entry: See IEC 62359 for methods of determining the MECHANICAL INDEX.

201.3.209
MULTI-PURPOSE ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT
ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT that is intended for more than one clinical application

201.3.210
NON-SCANNING MODE
mode of operation of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT that involves a sequence of ultrasonic pulses that give rise to ultrasonic scan lines that follow the same acoustic path

201.3.211
PRUDENT USE STATEMENT
affirmation of the principle that only necessary clinical information should be acquired and that high exposure levels and long exposure times should be avoided

[SOURCE: IEC 62359:2010 and IEC 62359:2010/AMD1:2017, 3.40~~, modified – The definition has been reworded.~~]

201.3.212
SCANNING MODE
mode of operation of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT that involves a sequence of ultrasonic pulses that give rise to scan lines that do not follow the same acoustic path

201.3.213
SOFT TISSUE THERMAL INDEX
TIS
THERMAL INDEX related to soft tissues

Unit: None

[SOURCE: IEC 62359:2010, 3.52, modified – The original notes have been deleted.]

201.3.214
THERMAL INDEX
TI
indicator of the risk of bioeffect due to thermal mechanisms expressed as the ratio of ATTENUATED OUTPUT POWER at a specified point to the ATTENUATED OUTPUT POWER required to raise the temperature at that point in a specific tissue model by 1 °C

Unit: None

[SOURCE: IEC 62359:2010 and IEC 62359:2010/AMD1:2017, 3.56, modified –~~ The term "ATTENUATED ACOUSTIC POWER" has been replaced twice by the term "ATTENUATED OUTPUT POWER"~~ Addition of “indicator of the risk of bioeffect due to thermal mechanisms expressed as the”, and the original note has been deleted.]