

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



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

**Appareils électromédicaux –  
Partie 2-37: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances  
essentielles des appareils de diagnostic et de surveillance médicaux à ultrasons**

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iec/99cd28d6-5c47-4ce6-b718-3b745b4cab51/iec-60601-2-37-2024>



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	7
201.1 Scope, object and related standards .....	8
201.2 Normative references.....	10
201.3 Terms and definitions.....	10
201.4 General requirements .....	17
201.5 General requirements for testing ME EQUIPMENT .....	18
201.6 Classification of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS .....	18
201.7 ME EQUIPMENT identification, marking and documents .....	18
201.8 Protection against electrical HAZARDS from ME EQUIPMENT .....	23
201.9 Protection against MECHANICAL HAZARDS of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.....	23
201.10 Protection against unwanted and excessive radiation HAZARDS .....	23
201.11 Protection against excessive temperatures and other HAZARDS .....	24
201.12 Accuracy of controls and instruments and protection against hazardous outputs .....	29
201.13 HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS and fault conditions for ME EQUIPMENT .....	31
201.14 PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRICAL MEDICAL SYSTEMS (PEMS) .....	31
201.15 Construction of ME EQUIPMENT .....	31
201.16 ME SYSTEMS .....	31
201.17 *Electromagnetic compatibility of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS .....	31
202 ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCES – Requirements and tests.....	31
212 Requirements for medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems intended for use in the emergency medical services environment (EMS) .....	33
Annexes .....	34
Annex AA (informative) Particular guidance and rationale .....	35
Annex BB (informative) Guidance in classification according to CISPR 11 .....	43
Annex CC (informative) Guidance to the MANUFACTURER on the interpretation of <i>TI</i> and <i>MI</i> to be used to inform the OPERATOR.....	44
Annex DD (informative) Example set-up to measure surface temperature of externally applied TRANSDUCER ASSEMBLIES .....	48
Annex EE (informative) Acoustic output table intended for third parties.....	51
Bibliography.....	54
Index of defined terms .....	58
Figure AA.1 – Method a) for an external probe.....	38
Figure AA.2 – Method b) for an external probe.....	39
Figure AA.3 – Method b) for an external probe.....	39
Figure DD.1 – Set-up of an example test object to measure the surface temperature of externally applied transducers .....	50
Table 201.101 – List of symbols.....	16
Table 201.102 – Distributed essential performance requirements .....	18

Table 201.103 – Acoustic output reporting table .....	22
Table 201.104 – Overview of the tests noted under 201.11.1.3 .....	28
Table CC.1 – Relative importance of maintaining low exposure indices in various scanning situations .....	46
Table DD.1 – Acoustic and thermal properties of tissues and materials.....	48
Table DD.2 – Weight % pure components .....	49
Table EE.1 – Example of acoustic output table for third parties.....	52

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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

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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](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://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](https://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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## INTRODUCTION

In this document, safety requirements additional to those in 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.

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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

#### 201.1 Scope, object and related standards

Clause 1 of 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 201.7.2.13.

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 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 IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020.

The numbering of sections, clauses and subclauses of this document corresponds to that of 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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  
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 62127-1:2022, *Ultrasonics – Hydrophones – Part 1: Measurement and characterization of medical ultrasonic fields*

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 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.

*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 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 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**

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]

**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 – Addition of “indicator of the risk of bioeffect due to thermal mechanisms expressed as the”, and the original note has been deleted.]