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**Safety of laser products –
Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements**

**Sécurité des appareils à laser –
Partie 1: Classification des matériels et exigences**

IEC 60825-1:2007

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SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements

INTERPRETATION SHEET 1

This interpretation sheet has been prepared by committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

The text of this interpretation sheet is based on the following documents:

ISH	Report on voting
76/415/ISH	76/418/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this interpretation sheet can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

Subclauses 9.2 and 9.3

These subclauses are clarified by the following:

Introduction

For emissions in the wavelength range of 400 nm to 1 400 nm, the need to perform measurements for Condition 2 (eye loupe viewing) can be greatly reduced by recognising that Condition 3 (unaided viewing) in many cases will be the most restrictive criterion.

Interpretation

The following table outlines the process in this interpretation of IEC 60825-1, subclauses 9.2 and 9.3.

IF	THEN
Angular Subtense > 1,5 mrad @ 100 mm from the reference point	Condition 2 need not be considered
Angular Subtense ≤ 1,5 mrad @ 100 mm; or the angular subtense is not determined	Use simplified Condition 2, $C_6 = 1$
<i>Optional for intermediate sources:</i> Angular Subtense ≤ 1,5 mrad @ 100 mm AND > 1,5 mrad using Figure 5	CAN use Figure 5 (with C_6 determined using Figure 5) if simplified Condition 2 is too restrictive for the application

Rationale

Based on independent studies (see for instance reference [1]), it is found that for extended sources and for radiation in the wavelength range of 400 nm to 1 400 nm, Condition 3 will in most cases be more restrictive than Condition 2 for extended sources (Figure 5). The main reason for this is the magnification of the source obtained with Condition 2. Also, the aperture stop of Condition 2 is limited to 3,5 mm since it simulates a case where there is a high level of ambient lighting, while Condition 3 uses a 7 mm aperture stop, as it simulates a general viewing condition including accidental exposure.

Row 1 in the table above:

If it can be shown that the apparent source is extended ($\alpha > 1,5$ mrad) for unaided viewing at 100 mm distance from the reference point, Condition 2 does not have to be considered.

Row 2 in the table above:

If the source is not extended for unaided viewing (i.e. the angular subtense of the apparent source is less than 1,5 mrad at 100 mm distance from the reference point), or if the angular subtense of the apparent source is not determined (default simplified evaluation), Condition 2 needs to be considered, as it could be more restrictive than Condition 3.

Row 3 in the table above:

For the case that the optional application of Condition 2 for extended sources (Figure 5) is considered, the following cases can be distinguished:

- a) if the angular subtense of the apparent source is determined to be less than 1,5 mrad at 100 mm from the reference point, but appears extended ($\alpha > 1,5$ mrad) using Condition 2 for extended sources (Figure 5) (due to the magnification of the eye loupe), Condition 2 for extended sources may be less restrictive than the simplified Condition 2 and can be applied for the test. If Condition 2 for extended sources (per Figure 5) is used, the corresponding angular subtense is also to be determined using this measurement setup. It should be noted that in this case Condition 3 (where $C_6 = 1$) can be more restrictive than Condition 2 for extended sources (Figure 5) and has to be considered.
- b) if the angular subtense of the apparent source is determined to be less than 1,5 mrad at 100 mm from the reference point, and is also less than 1,5 mrad using Condition 2 for extended sources (Figure 5), the simplified Condition 2 (Table 11) is applicable.

NOTE For the default (simplified) evaluation described in 9.3.2 of the standard, it is not necessary to determine the angular subtense of the apparent source. The apparent source can be assumed to be a small source to simplify the analysis, since this would be the most restrictive case. The simplified measurement conditions listed in Table 11 would apply (Row 2 in the table above).

References

[1] *Influence of magnifiers on ocular exposure levels*, G Veas, R Gilber and K Schulmeister, ILSC Paper 503, ILSC 2009 Proceedings (Laser Institute of America)

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements

INTERPRETATION SHEET 2

This interpretation sheet has been prepared by technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

The text of this interpretation sheet is based on the following documents:

ISH	Report on voting
76/437/ISH	76/440/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this interpretation sheet can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

Subclause 8.3 f 3)

This subclause is clarified by the following:

Introduction

For pulse durations shorter than 1 ns, the application of the criterion given in 8.3 f 3) a) (the „N^{-0,25} criterion“) produces overly-restrictive results when compared to the TOTP criterion 8.3 f 3) b).

NOTE This Interpretation Sheet also applies to MPE analyses (subclause A.3 c)).

Interpretation

In the wavelength range of 400 nm to 1 400 nm, the TOTP criterion (8.3 f 3) b)) can be applied for the case of pulse trains with pulses of the same energy and duration.

NOTE 1 If the “N^{-0,25} criterion” is applied, it would have to be adopted as follows so that it results in equivalent evaluations as the TOTP criterion:

Pulses with durations less than T_i are assigned pulse durations of T_i . If two or more pulses occur within a duration of T_i , these pulse groups are assigned a pulse duration of T_i . The reduction factor C_5 is applied to the AEL that is applicable for T_i (i.e. $C_5 \cdot AEL(T_i)$). If one pulse occurs within T_i , the energy of that pulse is compared with the reduced AEL, i.e. with $C_5 \cdot AEL(T_i)$. If more than one pulse occurs within T_i , the sum of the energies of these pulses is compared with the reduced AEL.

NOTE 2 For the heading of 8.3 f 3) b)), instead of “for varying pulse widths or varying pulse durations” the intended wording was “for varying pulse widths or varying pulse intervals” as corrected in Corrigendum 1”.

Rationale

For constant pulse durations and energies, the two criteria (the N^{-0,25} and the TOTP criterion) should be, as a general principle, equivalent for all pulse durations, as both reflect the same

thermal additivity of multiple pulse exposures and constant pulse trains are a special case of non-constant pulse trains.

For pulse durations longer than T_i , the TOTP and the $N^{-0,25}$ criteria, as given in IEC 60825-1:2077, do produce mathematically identical evaluations. For pulse trains where individual pulse durations are shorter than 1 ns, because the $N^{-0,25}$ criterion is applied in IEC 60825-1 to the AEL for the single pulse (which for pulse durations less than 1 ns is smaller than the AEL for T_i of 18 μs or 50 μs), the $N^{-0,25}$ criterion and the TOTP criterion produce different results. Since both rules are intended to reflect thermal additivity of pulses, the TOTP is the more general criterion. Criteria that would make the current $N^{-0,25}$ criterion equivalent with the TOTP criterion are outlined in NOTE 1 above.

This instruction will remain valid until a new version of IEC 60825-1 is published.



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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
1 Scope and object.....	7
2 Normative references	9
3 Terms and definitions	9
4 Engineering specifications.....	22
4.1 General remarks.....	22
4.2 Protective housing.....	22
4.3 Access panels and safety interlocks	22
4.4 Remote interlock connector	23
4.5 Manual reset	23
4.6 Key control	24
4.7 Laser radiation emission warning	24
4.8 Beam stop or attenuator	24
4.9 Controls	24
4.10 Viewing optics	24
4.11 Scanning safeguard.....	25
4.12 "Walk-in" access	25
4.13 Environmental conditions	25
4.14 Protection against other hazards	25
5 Labelling	26
5.1 General.....	26
5.2 Class 1 and Class 1M.....	28
5.3 Class 2 and Class 2M.....	29
5.4 Class 3R.....	30
5.5 Class 3B.....	30
5.6 Class 4.....	30
5.7 Aperture label.....	30
5.8 Radiation output and standards information.....	30
5.9 Labels for access panels	31
5.10 Warning for invisible laser radiation.....	32
5.11 Warning for visible laser radiation	32
6 Other informational requirements	32
6.1 Information for the user	32
6.2 Purchasing and servicing information	34
7 Additional requirements for specific laser products	34
7.1 Other parts of the standard series IEC 60825.....	34
7.2 Medical laser products	35
7.3 Laser processing machines	35
7.4 Electric toys	35
7.5 Consumer electronic products	35
8 Classification.....	35
8.1 Introduction	35
8.2 Classification responsibilities.....	36
8.3 Classification rules	36

9	Determination of the accessible emission level.....	40
9.1	Tests.....	40
9.2	Measurement of laser radiation	41
9.3	Measurement geometry.....	51
	Annex A (informative) Maximum permissible exposure values.....	57
	Annex B (informative) Examples of calculations	64
	Annex C (informative) Description of the classes and potentially associated hazards.....	74
	Annex D (informative) Biophysical considerations	80
	Annex E (informative) MPEs and AELs expressed as radiance	90
	Annex F (informative) Summary tables	94
	Annex G (informative) Overview of associated parts of IEC 60825.....	97
	Bibliography.....	99
	Figure 1 – Warning label – Hazard symbol.....	27
	Figure 2 – Explanatory label	28
	Figure 3 – Measurement set-up to limit angle of acceptance by imaging the apparent source onto the plane of the field stop.....	53
	Figure 4 – Measurement set-up to limit angle of acceptance by placing a circular aperture or a mask (serving as field stop) close to the apparent source.....	54
	Figure 5 – Experimental set-up for the determination of the accessible emission (above) and the angular subtense of the apparent source (below) for condition 2 when an extended source is to be considered (i.e. not using the default, simplified evaluation).....	55
	Figure B.1 – Flowchart guide for the classification of laser products from supplied output parameters.....	66
	Figure B.2 – Flowchart guide for the classification of Class 1M and Class 2M laser products	68
	Figure B.3 – AEL for Class 1 ultra-violet laser products for selected emission durations from 10^{-9} s to 10^3 s	69
	Figure B.4 – AEL for Class 1 ultra-violet laser products for emission durations from 10^{-9} s to 10^3 s at selected wavelengths.....	69
	Figure B.5 – AEL for Class 1 visible and selected infra-red laser products (case $C_6 = 1$)	70
	Figure D.1 – Anatomy of the eye.....	80
	Figure D.2 – Diagram of laser-induced damage in biological systems	82
	Figure E.1 – Radiance as a function of wavelength.....	90

Table 1 – Requirements for safety interlocking	23
Table 2 – Additivity of effects on eye and skin of radiation of different spectral regions.....	37
Table 3 – Times below which pulse groups are summed	40
Table 4 – Accessible emission limits for Class 1 and Class 1M laser products and $C_6 = 1$	44
Table 5 – Accessible emission limits for Class 1 laser products in the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm (retinal hazard region): extended sources	45
Table 6 – Accessible emission limits for Class 2 and Class 2M laser products	46
Table 7 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3R laser products and $C_6 = 1$	47
Table 8 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3R laser products in the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm (retinal hazard region): extended sources	48
Table 9 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3B laser products	49
Table 10 – Correction factors and breakpoints for use in AEL and MPE evaluations	50
Table 11 – Measurement aperture diameters and measurement distances for the default (simplified) evaluation	52
Table 12 – Reference points	52
Table 13 – Limiting angle of acceptance γ_{ph}	55
Table A.1 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) for $C_6 = 1$ at the cornea for exposure to laser radiation.....	58
Table A.2 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) at the cornea for exposure to laser radiation from extended sources in the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm (retinal hazard region)	59
Table A.3 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) of the skin to laser radiation.....	60
Table A.4 – Aperture diameters for measuring laser irradiance and radiant exposure	60
Table D.1 – Summary of pathological effects associated with excessive exposure to light	84
Table D.2 – Explanation of measurement apertures applied to the MPEs.....	88
Table E.1 – Maximum radiance of a diffused source for Class 1.....	91
Table F.1 – Summary of the physical quantities used in this Part 1	94
Table F.2 – Summary of manufacturer's requirements	95
Table G.1 – Overview of additional data in associated parts of IEC 60825	98

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements

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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International Standard IEC 60825-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

This second edition of IEC 60825-1 cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1993, its Amendment 1 (1997) and its Amendment 2 (2001). It constitutes a technical revision. The user's guide has been removed from this part of the IEC 60825 series and is now a separate document (Part 14). Light emitting diodes (LEDs) have been removed from the scope of this part of IEC 60825, but may still be included in other parts.

This part of IEC 60825 has the status of a Group Safety Publication, in accordance with IEC Guide 104¹⁾, for aspects of laser radiation pertaining to human safety.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
76/338/CDV	76/357/RVC

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

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The list of all parts of the IEC 60825 series, published under the title *Safety of laser products*, can be found on the IEC website.

This part of IEC 60825 is also referred to as "Part 1" in this publication.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

The contents of the corrigendum of August 2008 have been included in this copy.

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1) IEC Guide 104:1997, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*
It gives guidance to IEC technical committees and to writers of specifications concerning the manner in which safety publications should be drafted.
This guide does not constitute a normative reference and reference to it is given for information only.

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements

1 Scope and object

IEC 60825-1 is applicable to safety of laser products emitting laser radiation in the wavelength range 180 nm to 1 mm.

A laser product may consist of a single laser with or without a separate power supply or may incorporate one or more lasers in a complex optical, electrical, or mechanical system. Typically, laser products are used for demonstration of physical and optical phenomena, materials processing, data reading and storage, transmission and display of information, etc. Such systems have found use in industry, business, entertainment, research, education, medicine and consumer products.

Laser products that are sold to other manufacturers for use as components of any system for subsequent sale are not subject to IEC 60825-1, since the final product will itself be subject to this standard. However, if the laser system within the laser product is operable when removed from the equipment, the requirements of this Part 1 apply to the removable unit.

NOTE 1 Operable equipment does not require a tool to prepare for operation.

Any laser product is exempt from all further requirements of this Part 1 if classification by the manufacturer of that product according to Clauses 3, 8 and 9 shows that the emission level does not exceed the AEL (accessible emission limit) of Class 1 under all conditions of operation, maintenance, service and failure.

NOTE 2 The above exemption is to ensure that inherently safe laser products are not unnecessarily subject to the standard.

In addition to the hazards resulting from laser radiation, laser equipment may also give rise to other hazards such as fire and electric shock.

NOTE 3 However, the classification and other requirements of this standard are intended to address only the laser radiation hazards to the eyes and skin. Other hazards are not included within its scope.

This Part 1 describes the minimum requirements. Compliance with this Part 1 may not be sufficient to achieve the required level of product safety. Laser products must conform to the applicable performance and testing requirements of the applicable product safety standards.

NOTE 4 Other standards may contain additional requirements. Consideration should also be given to the intended application and user group. For example, a class 3B or class 4 laser product may not be suitable for use as a consumer product.

Where a laser system forms a part of equipment which is subject to another IEC product safety standard (e.g. for medical equipment (IEC 60601-2-22), IT equipment (IEC 60950), audio and video equipment (IEC 60065), equipment for use in hazardous atmospheres (IEC 60079), or electric toys (IEC 62115)), this Part 1 will apply in accordance with the provisions of IEC Guide 104²⁾ for hazards resulting from laser radiation. If no product safety standard is applicable, then IEC 61010-1 applies.

In previous editions, LEDs were included in the scope of IEC 60825-1, and they may be still included in other parts of the IEC 60825 series. However, with the development of lamp safety standards, optical radiation safety of LEDs in general can be more appropriately addressed by lamp safety standards. The removal of LEDs from the scope of this Part 1 does not preclude other standards from including LEDs whenever they refer to lasers. CIE S009 may be applied to determine the risk group class of an LED or product incorporating one or more LEDs.

The MPE (maximum permissible exposure) values of this Part 1 were developed for laser radiation and do not apply to collateral radiation. However, if a concern exists that accessible collateral radiation might be hazardous, the laser MPE values may be applied to conservatively evaluate this potential hazard.

The MPE values are not applicable to intentional human exposure to laser radiation for the purpose of medical or cosmetic/aesthetic treatment.

NOTE 5 Annexes A to H have been included for purposes of general guidance and to illustrate many typical cases. However, the annexes are not regarded as definitive or exhaustive and reference should always be made to the appropriate clause(s) in the normative part of this document.

The objectives of this part of IEC 60825 are the following:

- to introduce a system of classification of lasers and laser products according to their degree of optical radiation hazard in order to aid hazard evaluation and to aid the determination of user control measures;
- to establish requirements for the manufacturer to supply information so that proper precautions can be adopted;
- to ensure, through labels and instructions, adequate warning to individuals of hazards associated with accessible radiation from laser products;
- to reduce the possibility of injury by minimizing unnecessary accessible radiation and to give improved control of the laser radiation hazards through protective features.

²⁾ IEC Guide 104:1997, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*