# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# IEC 60601-1-2

Third edition
2007-03

## Medical electrical equipment –

## Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements and tests



*This **English-language** version is derived from the original **bilingual** publication by leaving out all French-language pages. Missing page numbers correspond to the French-language pages.*

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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# MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

# Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements and tests

## 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 60601-1-2 has been prepared by IEC subcommittee 62A: Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This third edition constitutes a collateral standard to IEC 60601-1: *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for safety and essential performance* hereafter referred to as the general standard.

This document cancels and replaces the second edition of IEC 60601-1-2, and constitutes a technical revision.

This edition of IEC 60601-1-2 was revised to structurally align it with the 2005 edition of IEC 60601-1 and to implement the decision of IEC subcommittee 62A that the clause numbering structure of collateral standards written to IEC 60601-1:2005 would adhere to the form specified in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2:2004. The principle technical changes are in Clause 4, which now recognizes that there is a general requirement for a risk management process in IEC 60601-1:2005.

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

| FDIS | Report on voting |
|---|---|
| 62A/560/FDIS | 62A/567/RVD |

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.

In the 60601 series of publications, collateral standards specify general requirements for safety applicable to:

– a subgroup of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (e.g. radiological equipment); or
– a specific characteristic of all MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, not fully addressed in the general standard (e.g. alarm systems).

In this collateral standard, 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 THE GENERAL STANDARD, IN THIS COLLATERAL STANDARD OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

NOTE Defined terms are not printed in SMALL CAPITALS in Table 1 through Table 8, in the tables in Annex C and in statements required to appear in the technical description or instructions for use because they are intended for the OPERATOR or RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION, who may not be familiar with the defined terms of IEC 60601 standards.

In referring to the structure of this standard, the term

– “clause” means one of the six numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 6 includes 6.1, 6.2, etc.);
– “subclause” means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 6.1, 6.2 and 6.2.1 are all subclauses of Clause 6).

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

In this standard, 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 standard conform to usage described in Annex H of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this standard, the auxiliary verb:

– “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this standard;

– “should” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this standard;

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

Clauses, subclauses, items and definitions for which a rationale is provided in informative Annex A are marked with an asterisk (*).

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

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.

# INTRODUCTION

The need for establishing specific ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY standards for MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS is well recognized.

In particular, the existence of ELECTROMAGNETIC EMISSION standards is essential for the protection of:

– safety services;

– other MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS;

– electrical equipment that is not ME EQUIPMENT (e.g. computers);

– telecommunications (e.g. radio/TV, telephone, radio-navigation).

Of even more importance, the existence of ELECTROMAGNETIC IMMUNITY standards is essential to assure safety of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS. ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY (see Definition 3.4) differs from other aspects of safety covered by IEC 60601-1 because the electromagnetic phenomena exist, with varying degrees of severity, in the normal use environment of all MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS and by definition the equipment must "perform satisfactorily" within its intended environment in order to establish ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY. This means that the conventional single fault approach to safety is not appropriate for application to ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY standards. The ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE environment can be compared to ambient temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure. MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS may experience environmental conditions within the expected range at any time, and for extended periods of time. As with atmospheric pressure and humidity, the OPERATOR of the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM may not be aware of ambient levels on a continuous basis. The IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS specified in this collateral standard (IEC 60601 TEST LEVELS) represent the range found in the general medical use environment. Therefore, under these conditions, the performance of the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM would also be expected to be normal.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS are used in the practice of medicine because they provide needed FUNCTIONS. If MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or a MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM does not provide its needed FUNCTION, because of a lack of IMMUNITY to events expected in the normal use environment, this interferes with the practice of medicine and cannot be considered an acceptable situation.

This edition recognizes that there is a shared responsibility between MANUFACTURERS, RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS and OPERATORS to ensure that MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS are designed and operated as intended. The MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM MANUFACTURER'S responsibility is to design and manufacture to meet the requirements of this collateral standard and to disclose information to the RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION or OPERATOR so that a compatible ELECTROMAGNETIC ENVIRONMENT can be maintained in order that the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM will perform as intended.

Because the practice of medicine involves many specialities, there will by necessity be MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS that are designed to perform a variety of FUNCTIONS. Some FUNCTIONS involve, for example, measurement of signals from a PATIENT that are of very low levels when compared to ELECTROMAGNETIC NOISE levels that can be coupled into MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS during the ELECTROMAGNETIC IMMUNITY testing specified in this collateral standard. Because of the proven benefits of many such MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, this collateral standard allows the IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS to be lowered, provided there is sufficient justification based on physical, technological or physiological limitations. In this case, the MANUFACTURER is required to disclose the levels at which the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM meets the performance requirements of this collateral standard and to specify the characteristics of the ELECTROMAGNETIC use environment and how this environment is established, in which the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM will perform as intended.

This collateral standard also recognizes that for certain environments, higher IMMUNITY LEVELS may be required. Research necessary to determine how to identify the environments that may require higher IMMUNITY LEVELS, as well as what the levels should be, is in progress.

Finally, this collateral standard recognizes that for LIFE-SUPPORTING MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, higher levels of IMMUNITY are necessary in order to establish a broader safety margin, even for use in the general medical use environment. Therefore, this collateral standard specifies additional requirements for LIFE-SUPPORTING MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS.

This collateral standard is based on existing IEC standards prepared by subcommittee 62A, technical committee 77 (electromagnetic compatibility between electrical equipment including networks) and CISPR (International special committee on radio interference).

The ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY requirements specified by this collateral standard are generally applicable to MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS as defined in 3.63 and 3.64 in the general standard. For certain types of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, these requirements may need to be modified by the special requirements of a particular standard. Writers of particular standards are encouraged to refer to Annex E for guidance in the application of this collateral standard.

# MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

# Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements and tests

## 1 Scope, object and related standards

### 1.1 * Scope

This International Standard applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.

This collateral standard applies to ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.

### 1.2 Object

The object of this collateral standard is to specify general requirements and tests for ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS. They are in addition to the requirements of the general standard and serve as the basis for particular standards.

### 1.3 Related standards

#### 1.3.1 IEC 60601-1

For ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS, this collateral standard complements IEC 60601-1.

When referring to IEC 60601-1 or to this collateral standard, either individually or in combination, the following conventions are used:

– "the general standard" designates IEC 60601-1 alone;

– "this collateral standard" designates IEC 60601-1-2 alone;

– "this standard" designates the combination of the general standard and this collateral standard.

#### 1.3.2 Particular standards

A requirement in a particular standard takes priority over the corresponding requirement in this collateral standard.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*

IEC 60601-1:2005, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*

IEC 60601-1-8:2006, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-8: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: General requirements, tests and guidance for alarm systems in medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems*

IEC 61000-3-2, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 3-2: Limits – Limits for harmonic current emissions (equipment input current ≤ 16 A per phase)*

IEC 61000-3-3, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 3-3: Limits – Limitation of voltage fluctuations and flicker in low-voltage supply systems for equipment with rated current ≤ 16 A*

IEC 61000-4-2, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-2: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrostatic discharge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-3, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-3: Testing and measurement techniques – Radiated, radio-frequency, electromagnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-4, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-4: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrical fast transient/burst immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-5, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-5: Testing and measurement techniques – Surge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-6:2003, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-6: Testing and measurement techniques – Immunity to conducted disturbances, induced by radio-frequency fields* [1)]
Amendment 1 (2004)
Amendment 2 (2006)

IEC 61000-4-8, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-8: Testing and measurement techniques – Power frequency magnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-11, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-11: Testing and measuring techniques –Voltage dips, short interruptions and voltage variations immunity tests*

CISPR 11, *Industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) radio-frequency equipment – Electromagnetic disturbance characteristics – Limits and methods of measurement*

CISPR 14-1, *Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements for household appliances, electric tools and similar apparatus – Part 1: Emission*

CISPR 15, *Limits and methods of measurement of radio disturbance characteristics of electrical lighting and similar equipment*

CISPR 16-1-2, *Specification for radio disturbance and immunity measuring apparatus and methods – Part 1-2: Radio disturbance and immunity measuring apparatus – Ancillary equipment – Conducted disturbances*

CISPR 22, *Information technology equipment – Radio disturbance characteristics – Limits and methods of measurement*



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1) There exists a consolidated edition 2.2 (2006) that includes IEC 61000-4-6 (2003) and its Amendment 1 (2004) and Amendment 2 (2006).

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1-8:2006 and the following definitions apply.

NOTE 1 Where the terms “voltage” and “current” are used in this document, they mean the r.m.s. values of an alternating, direct or composite voltage or current unless stated otherwise.

NOTE 2 The term “electrical equipment” is used to mean ME EQUIPMENT or other electrical equipment. This standard also uses the term “equipment” to mean ME EQUIPMENT or other electrical or non-electrical equipment in the context of an ME SYSTEM.

NOTE 3 An index of defined terms is found beginning on page 241.

**3.1**
**(IMMUNITY) COMPLIANCE LEVEL**
level less than or equal to the IMMUNITY LEVEL for which the ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEM meets the requirements of the applicable subclause of 6.2

NOTE Additional requirements for COMPLIANCE LEVELS are specified in 5.2.2.

**3.2**
*** DEGRADATION (of performance)**
undesired departure in the operational performance of ME EQUIPMENT or an ME SYSTEM from its intended performance

NOTE The term "DEGRADATION" can apply to temporary or permanent failure.

[IEV 161-01-19, modified]

**3.3**
*** EFFECTIVE RADIATED POWER**
**ERP**
power required at the input of a lossless reference antenna to produce, in a given direction at any specified distance, the same power flux density as that radiated by a given device

NOTE As used by the ITU and as used in Chapter 712 of the IEV, the term “effective radiated power” appears without qualification only when the reference antenna is a half-wave dipole.

[IEV 161-04-16, modified]

**3.4**
**ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY**
**EMC**
ability of ME EQUIPMENT or an ME SYSTEM to function satisfactorily in its ELECTROMAGNETIC ENVIRONMENT without introducing intolerable ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCES to anything in that environment

[IEV 161-01-07, modified]

**3.5**
*** ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE**
any electromagnetic phenomenon that may degrade the performance of a device, equipment or system

NOTE An ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE may be ELECTROMAGNETIC NOISE, an unwanted signal or a change in the propagation medium itself.

[IEV 161-01-05, modified]