IEC 60601-2-27

Edition 3.0 2011-03

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Medical electrical equipment –
Part 2-27: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of electrocardiographic monitoring equipment

Appareils électromédicaux –
Partie 2-27: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances essentielles des appareils de surveillance d'électrocardiographie

IEC 60601-2-27:2011

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-27: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of electrocardiographic 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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International standard IEC 60601-2-27 has been prepared by IEC subcommittee 62D: Electromedical equipment of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition of IEC 60601-2-27 published in 2005. This edition constitutes a technical revision to the new structure of IEC 60601-1:2005 (third edition).

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

FDIS	Report on voting
62D/900/FDIS	62D/913/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this particular 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 this 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 PARTICULAR STANDARD OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this standard, 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 standard are preceded by the term "Clause" followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this particular 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.

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 publication will remain unchanged until the stability 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 May 2012 have been included in this copy.

INTRODUCTION

This particular standard concerns the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT. It amends and supplements IEC 60601-1 (third edition, 2005): *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance* hereinafter referred to as the general standard.

The aim of this third edition is to bring this particular standard up to date with reference to the third edition of the general standard through reformatting and technical changes.

The requirements of this particular standard take priority over those of the general standard.

A “General guidance and rationale” for the more important requirements of this particular standard is included in Annex AA. It is considered that knowledge of the reasons for these requirements will not only facilitate the proper application of the standard but will, in due course, expedite any revision necessitated by changes in clinical practice or as a result of developments in technology. However, Annex AA does not form part of the requirements of this standard.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-27: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of electrocardiographic monitoring equipment

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

Clause 1 of the general standard[1)] applies, except as follows:

201.1.1 *Scope

Replacement:

This particular standard applies to BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC (ECG) MONITORING EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.63 and hereinafter also referred to as ME EQUIPMENT. This particular standard applies to ME EQUIPMENT used in a hospital environment as well as when used outside the hospital environment, such as in ambulances and air transport. This particular standard also applies to ECG telemetry systems used in a hospital environment.

ME EQUIPMENT intended for use under extreme or uncontrolled environmental conditions outside the hospital environment, such as in ambulances and air transport, shall comply with this particular standard. Additional standards may apply to ME EQUIPMENT for those environments of use.

This standard is not applicable to electrocardiographic monitors for home use. However, MANUFACTURERS should consider using relevant clauses of this standard as appropriate for their INTENDED USE.

Ambulatory ("Holter") monitors, fetal heart rate monitoring, pulse plethysmographic devices, and other ECG recording equipment are outside the scope of this particular standard.

201.1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this particular standard is to establish BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC (ECG) MONITORING EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.63.

201.1.3 Collateral standards

Addition:

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

IEC 60601-1-2:2007 and IEC 60601-1-8:2006 apply as modified in Clauses 202 and 208 respectively. IEC 60601-1-3 does not apply. All other published collateral standards in the IEC 60601-1 series apply as published.

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

201.1.4 Particular standards

Replacement:

In the IEC 60601 series, particular standards may modify, replace or delete requirements contained in the general standard and collateral standards 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.

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 clauses and subclauses of this particular standard corresponds to that of the general standard with the prefix "201" (e.g. 201.1 in this standard addresses the content of Clause 1 of the general standard) or applicable collateral standard with the prefix "20x" where x is the final digit(s) of the collateral standard document number (e.g. 202.4 in this particular standard addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-2 collateral standard, 203.4 in this particular standard addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-3 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 particular standard.

"Addition" means that the text of this particular standard 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 particular standard.

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 3.139, additional definitions in this standard 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 standard" is used to make reference to the general standard, any applicable collateral standards and this particular standard taken together.

Where there is no corresponding clause or subclause in this particular standard, 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 standard.

201.2 Normative references

Clause 2 of the general standard applies, except as follows:

Replacement:

IEC 60601-1-2:2007, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements and tests*

IEC 60601-1-8:2008, *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*

Addition:

IEC 60601-2-2:2009, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2-2: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of high frequency surgical equipment and high frequency surgical accessories*

IEC 60601-2-25:___[2)] *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2-25: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of electrocardiographs*

IEC 60601-2-49___[3)], *Medical electrical equipment - Part 2-49: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of multifunction patient monitoring equipment*

NOTE Informative references are listed in the bibliography beginning on page 68.

201.3 Terms and definitions

NOTE An index of defined terms is found beginning on page 69.

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60601-1:2005 apply, except as follows:

Replacement:

201.3.63
ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC (ECG) MONITORING EQUIPMENT
ME EQUIPMENT
device including ELECTRODES, LEAD WIRES and interconnecting means for the monitoring and/or recording of heart action potentials from one PATIENT and displaying the resultant data

NOTE An ECG telemetry transmitter and receiver including its associated display of one PATIENT'S data forms an ME EQUIPMENT. ECG telemetry is typically used to display that data of a PATIENT at a remote location. Implementations of these remote displays frequently display data from several PATIENTS at the same time, but logically separate the data of each PATIENT on such a display.

Additional definitions:

201.3.201
COMMON MODE REJECTION (CMR)
ability of the ME EQUIPMENT including the PATIENT CABLE and ELECTRODES, high frequency filters, protection networks, amplifier input, etc., to discriminate between signals with differences between amplifier inputs (differential signal) and signals common to the amplifier inputs (common signal), in the presence of an ELECTRODE impedance imbalance

201.3.202
ELECTRODE
sensor in contact with a specified part of the body to detect electrical cardiac activity

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2) Second edition, to be published.

3) Second edition, to be published.

201.3.203
ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG)
graphical presentation of one or more LEADS over time

201.3.204
GAIN
ratio of the amplitude of the output signal to the amplitude of the input signal

NOTE GAIN is expressed in mm/mV

201.3.205
GAIN INDICATOR
graphical indication on a PERMANENT DISPLAY or NON-PERMANENT DISPLAY that allows the clinical OPERATOR to visually estimate the amplitude of the ECG input signal

201.3.206
LEAD
voltage between ELECTRODES

201.3.207
LEAD SELECTOR
system to select certain LEADS

201.3.208
LEAD WIRE
cable connected between an ELECTRODE and either a PATIENT CABLE or the ME EQUIPMENT

201.3.209
NEUTRAL ELECTRODE
reference point for differential amplifiers and/or interference suppression circuits, not intended to be used to calculate any LEAD

NOTE A NEUTRAL ELECTRODE is sometimes referred to as a reference ELECTRODE.

201.3.210
NOISE
unwanted signals of any frequency present in the ELECTROCARDIOGRAM

201.3.211
NON-PERMANENT DISPLAY
a non-persistent presentation of an ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG)

NOTE An example of NON-PERMANENT DISPLAY is a LCD screen across which an ECG waveform is moving or a transient presentation of an ECG waveform.

201.3.212
PATIENT CABLE
multiwire cable used to connect LEAD WIRES to ME EQUIPMENT

201.3.213
PERMANENT DISPLAY
a persistent presentation of an ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG)

NOTE Examples of PERMANENT DISPLAYS are hardcopy printouts of an ECG.

201.4 General requirements

Clause 4 of the general standard applies, except as follows:

201.4.3 ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE

Addition:

201.4.3.101 Additional ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements

Additional ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT are found in the subclauses listed in Table 201.101

Table 201.101 – ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements

Requirement	Subclause
Defibrillator protection	201.8.5.5.1
Interruption of the power supply / SUPPLY MAINS to ME EQUIPMENT	201.11.8
Protection against depletion of battery	201.11.8.101
ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of ME EQUIPMENT	201.12.1.101
Electrosurgery interference	202.6.2.101
Time to alarm for heart rate ALARM CONDITIONS	208.6.6.2.103
TECHNICAL ALARM CONDITIONS indicating inoperable ME EQUIPMENT	208.6.6.2.104

201.5 General requirements for testing of ME EQUIPMENT

Clause 5 of the general standard applies, except as follows:

201.5.4 Other conditions

Addition:

Unless otherwise stated, tests shall be carried out with the ACCESSORIES and the recording materials specified by the MANUFACTURER.

For ME EQUIPMENT with an INTERNAL ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCE, if the test result is affected by the INTERNAL ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCE voltage, then the test shall be performed using the least favourable INTERNAL ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCE voltage specified by the MANUFACTURER. If necessary for the purpose of conducting the test, an external battery or d.c. power supply may be used to provide the necessary test voltage.

The values used in test circuits, unless otherwise specified, shall have at least an accuracy as given below:

– resistors: ±1 %;
– capacitors: ±10 %;
– inductors: ±10 %;
– test voltages: ±1 %

201.5.8 *Sequence of tests

Amendment:

Tests called for in 201.8.5.5.1 of this particular standard and in 8.5.5 of the general standard shall be carried out prior to the LEAKAGE CURRENT and dielectric strength tests described in subclauses 8.7 and 8.8 of the general standard and prior to the tests specified in subclauses 201.11.6.5 and 201.12.1.101 of this particular standard. The tests for subclauses 201.12.1.101.7, 201.12.1.101.9 and 201.12.1.101.16 b) shall be performed (in that order) before the tests for the remaining subclauses of 201.12.1.101 are performed.

201.6 Classification of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS

Clause 6 of the general standard applies, except as follows:

201.6.2 *Protection against electric shock

Replacement of the last paragraph:

APPLIED PARTS shall be classified as TYPE CF APPLIED PARTS (see 7.2.10 and 8.3 of the general standard). APPLIED PARTS shall be classified as DEFIBRILLATION-PROOF APPLIED PARTS (see 8.5.5 of the general standard).

201.6.6 Mode of operation

Replacement:

ME EQUIPMENT shall be classified for CONTINUOUS OPERATION (see 7.2.11 of the general standard).

201.7 ME EQUIPMENT identification, marking and documents

Clause 7 of the general standard applies, except as follows:

201.7.2.4 ACCESSORIES

Addition:

201.7.2.4.101 Marking of LEAD WIRES

In order to minimize the possibility of incorrect connections the PATIENT CABLE where the LEAD WIRES are connected shall be permanently marked with at least one of the identifiers (ELECTRODE identifier and/or colour code) specified in Table 201.102. Both ends of detachable LEAD WIRES shall be permanently marked with the same identifiers.

Table 201.102 – ELECTRODES and NEUTRAL ELECTRODE, their position, identification and colour

LEAD System	Code 1 (usually European)		Code 2 (usually American)		ELECTRODE position on body surface
	ELECTRODE Identifier	ELECTRODE Colour code	ELECTRODE Identifier	ELECTRODE Colour code	
Limb	R	Red	RA	White	Right arm
	L	Yellow	LA	Black	Left arm
	F	Green	LL	Red	Left leg
Chest according to Wilson	C	White	V	Brown	Single movable chest electrode
	C1	White/red	V1	Brown/Red	Fourth intercostal space at right border of sternum
	C2	White/yellow	V2	Brown/Yellow	Fourth intercostal space at left border of sternum
	C3	White/green	V3	Brown/Green	Fifth rib between C2 and C4
	C4	White/brown	V4	Brown/Blue	Fifth intercostal space on left midclavicular line
	C5	White/black	V5	Brown/Orange	Left anterior axillary line at the horizontal level of C4
	C6	White/violet	V6	Brown/Violet	Left midaxillary line at the horizontal level of C4
Position according to Frank	I	Light blue/red	I	Orange/Red	At the right midaxillary line [a]
	E	Light blue/yellow	E	Orange/Yellow	At the front midline [a]
	C	Light blue/green	C	Orange/Green	Between the front midline and left midaxillary line of 45 degrees
	A	Light blue/brown	A	Orange/Brown	At the left midaxillary line [a]
	M	Light blue/black	M	Orange/Black	At the back midline [a]
	H	Light blue/violet	H	Orange/Violet	On the back of the neck
	F	Green	F	Red	On the left leg
	N or RF	Black	RL	Green	Right leg (NEUTRAL ELECTRODE)

[a] Located at the transverse level of the ventricles, if known, or otherwise at the fifth intercostal space

201.7.9.2.9 Operating instructions

Addition:

201.7.9.2.9.101 Additional instructions for use

a) The operating instructions shall include the following:

1) the INTENDED USE including the environment of use;

2) that conductive parts of ELECTRODES and associated connectors for APPLIED PARTS, including the NEUTRAL ELECTRODE, should not contact any other conductive parts including earth;

3) instructions for connecting a POTENTIAL EQUALIZATION CONDUCTOR, if applicable;

4) * precautions to take when using a defibrillator on a PATIENT; a description of how the discharge of a defibrillator affects the ME EQUIPMENT; a warning that defibrillator protection requires use of MANUFACTURER specified ACCESSORIES including ELECTRODES, LEAD WIRES and PATIENT CABLES. The specification (or type-number) of such ACCESSORIES (see 201.8.5.5.1) shall be disclosed;

5) advice to the clinical OPERATOR regarding whether the ME EQUIPMENT incorporates means to protect the PATIENT against burns when used with HIGH-FREQUENCY (HF) SURGICAL EQUIPMENT. Advice shall be given regarding the location of