

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Medical electrical equipment – Dosimeters with ionization chambers as used in radiotherapy**

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**Appareils électromédicaux – Dosimètres à chambres d'ionisation utilisés en radiothérapie**

[IEC 60731:2011](#)

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –  
DOSIMETERS WITH IONIZATION CHAMBERS  
AS USED IN RADIOTHERAPY****FOREWORD**

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**In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.**

International Standard IEC 60731 has been prepared by subcommittee 62C: Equipment for radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and radiation dosimetry of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

The technical modifications versus the second edition of this standard concerns performance requirements of RADIO THERAPY DOSIMETERS intended for the measurement of ABSORBED DOSE TO WATER or AIR KERMA in heavy ion RADIATION FIELDS and SCANNING-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for relative dose distribution measurements with a SCANNING SYSTEM such as an automatic water PHANTOM.

In this standard, the following print types are used:

- requirements, compliance with which can be tested, and definitions: in roman type;
- explanations, advice, general statements, exceptions and notes: in small roman type;
- *test specifications: in italic type;*
- terms used throughout this particular standard that have been listed in the Index of defined terms and defined in Clause 3, or in other standards: SMALL CAPITALS.

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## INTRODUCTION

This International Standard is applicable to the performance of RADIOTHERAPY DOSIMETERS with IONIZATION CHAMBERS as used in RADIOTHERAPY.

The effectiveness of treatment of PATIENTS receiving RADIOTHERAPY depends on the accuracy of the dose of radiation received, as well as on the accuracy of their spatial distribution. An excessive dose can lead to excessive tissue damage, while an insufficient dose will not provide the therapeutic benefit sought. The equipment covered by this standard plays an essential part in achieving the required accuracy.

This standard is not concerned with the safety aspects of dosimeters. The relevant IEC standards covering safety depend upon the way in which the dosimeter is used:

- if it is used in the PATIENT environment, the requirements for safety applying to dosimeters with IONIZATION CHAMBERS as used in RADIOTHERAPY are contained in IEC 60601-1;
- if it is not used in the PATIENT environment, then the safety requirements for dosimeters with IONIZATION CHAMBERS as used in RADIOTHERAPY are contained in IEC 61010-1.

Dosimeters which comply with this standard should nevertheless be used in accordance with the relevant national or international dosimetry protocol (code of practice). In particular, measurements should be made to determine the ion collection efficiency and polarity effect of the chamber under the exact conditions of use.

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# MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT – DOSIMETERS WITH IONIZATION CHAMBERS AS USED IN RADIOTHERAPY

## 1 Scope and object

### 1.1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the performance requirements of RADIOTHERAPY DOSIMETERS, intended for the measurement of ABSORBED DOSE TO WATER or AIR KERMA (and their rates and spatial distributions) in PHOTON, ELECTRON, proton or heavy ion RADIATION FIELDS as used in RADIOTHERAPY.

The DOSE MONITORING SYSTEMS incorporated in RADIOTHERAPY treatment machines are not covered by this standard, neither are the re-entrant IONIZATION CHAMBERS used for BRACHYTHERAPY source calibration and constancy check devices.

This standard is applicable to the following types of dosimeter:

- a) FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for
  - 1) the measurement of KERMA or dose in a RADIATION BEAM, either in air or in a PHANTOM;
  - 2) in vivo skin surface or intracavitary measurements of dose on PATIENTS.
- b) REFERENCE-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for the calibration of FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS;  
  
NOTE REFERENCE-CLASS DOSIMETERS may be used as FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS.
- c) SCANNING-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for relative dose distribution measurements with a SCANNING SYSTEM such as an automatic water PHANTOM.

### 1.2 Object

The object of this standard is:

- to establish requirements for a satisfactory level of performance for RADIOTHERAPY DOSIMETERS;
- to standardize methods for the determination of compliance with this level of performance.

Three levels of performance are specified:

- a lower level of performance applying to FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS;
- a higher level of performance applying to REFERENCE-CLASS DOSIMETERS;
- a specific level of performance applying to SCANNING-CLASS DOSIMETERS.

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

IEC 60601-1-3:2008, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-3: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: Radiation protection in diagnostic X-ray equipment*

IEC 60601-2-8:2010, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2-8: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of therapeutic X-ray equipment operating in the range 10 kV to 1 MV*

IEC/TR 60788:2004, *Medical electrical equipment – Glossary of defined terms*

IEC 60976:2007, *Medical electrical equipment – Medical electron accelerators – Functional performance characteristics*

IEC 61010-1:2010, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61187, *Electrical and electronic measuring equipment – Documentation*

IEC 61267:2005, *Medical diagnostic X-ray equipment – Radiation conditions for use in the determination of characteristics*

IEC 61676:2002, *Medical electrical equipment – Dosimetric instruments used for non-invasive measurement of X-ray tube voltage in diagnostic radiology*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3:2008, *Uncertainty of measurement – Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, *International vocabulary of metrology – Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)*

ISO 3534-1:2006, *Statistics – Vocabulary and symbols – Part 1: General statistical terms and terms used in probability*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard the terms and definitions listed in index of defined terms and the following apply.

NOTE The definitions given in this standard are generally in agreement with those in IEC TR 60788:2004 and ISO International vocabulary of basic and general terms in metrology, except that some definitions have been made more restricted. Any such special definitions should be regarded as applying only to this standard.

Any terms not defined in this standard have the meanings defined in the above publications or are assumed to be in general scientific usage.

Throughout this standard:

- if no material is specified, the term "ABSORBED DOSE" or "dose" means "ABSORBED DOSE TO WATER (in water)" and the term "KERMA" means "AIR KERMA (in air)";
- when the quantity "AIR KERMA (in air)" in units "Gy" is used, the quantity "EXPOSURE" in units "C/kg" is also allowable;