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TECHNICAL REPORT

General testing procedures for medical electrical equipment

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IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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GENERAL TESTING PROCEDURES FOR MEDICAL ELECTRICAL 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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The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC 62354, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 62A: Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2009. This edition constitutes a technical revision intended to align the guidance in this technical report with Amendment 1 to IEC 60601:2005. Several tests have been updated and additional test procedures added. The following tests have been added or significantly revised:

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This technical report is intended to be read in conjunction with IEC 60601-1:1988 (including the collateral provisions of IEC 60601-1-1:2000) and IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
62A/936/DTR	62A/947/RVC

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

In this technical report, the terms defined in Clause 2 of IEC 60601-1:1988 or Clause 3 of IEC 60601-1:2005 are printed in SMALL CAPITALS.

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

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.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

INTRODUCTION

IEC/TR 60513, *Fundamental aspects of safety standards for medical electrical equipment* published by IEC sub-committee 62A provided the basis for inclusion of the test methods for ME EQUIPMENT in the safety standards.

"Technical requirements and test methods are interrelated elements of product standards and should always be considered together.

Product standards should identify where medically informed judgements are required in deciding whether a particular requirement applies.

Wherever possible, the standards should contain test specifications for completely and clearly checking compliance with the technical requirements. In some cases, a compliance statement such as 'visual inspection', 'manual testing' or similar is adequate for this purpose if such a method gives an accurate assessment.

It should be easy to recognize which test methods apply to each technical requirement. Appropriate headings should designate the appropriate test and a reference should be made to the clause containing the requirement. This also applies for references which are made to other relevant test standards."

It was deemed necessary to support IEC 60601-1 with guidelines for general testing PROCEDURES for MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

In developing the test PROCEDURES, the advice given in IEC/TR 60513 and ISO/IEC Guide 51 was considered as follows:

a) test results should be reproducible within defined limits. When considered necessary, the test method should incorporate a statement as to its limit of uncertainty;
b) where the sequence of tests can influence the results, the correct sequence should be specified.

There is also growing support for the idea that all the test PROCEDURES for ME EQUIPMENT should be found within one international standard.

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, highlights the need for a single series of requirements covering test PROCEDURES.

IEC/TR 60513 includes a major new principle referring to testing:

> “In specifying minimum safety requirements, provision is made for assessing the adequacy of the design PROCESS where this provides an appropriate alternative to the application of laboratory testing with specific pass/fail criteria, (e.g. in assessing the safety of new technologies such as programmable electronic systems).”

GENERAL TESTING PROCEDURES FOR MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

1 Scope and object

This technical report applies to MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (as defined in Subclauses 3.63 of IEC 60601-1:2005 and 2.2.15 of IEC 60601-1:1988), hereinafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT.

The object of this technical report is to provide guidance on general testing PROCEDURES according to IEC 60601-1:1988 (including the collateral provisions of IEC 60601-1-1:2000) and IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60086-4, *Primary batteries – Part 4: Safety of lithium batteries*

IEC 60127-1, *Miniature fuses – Part 1: Definitions for miniature fuses and general requirements for miniature fuse-links*

IEC 60252-1, *AC motor capacitors – Part 1: General – Performance, testing and rating – Safety requirements – Guide for installation and operation*

IEC 60364-4-41, *Low voltage electrical installations – Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock*

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment.* Available from: http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment

IEC/TR 60513, *Fundamental aspects of safety standards for medical electrical equipment*

IEC 60529:1989, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*
IEC 60529:1989/AMD1:1999[1]

IEC 60601-1:1988, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for safety*[2]
IEC 60601-1:1998/AMD1:1991
IEC 60601-1:1998/AMD2:1995

IEC 60601-1:2005, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*
IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012[3]

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1 A consolidated version 2.1 (2001) exists that includes IEC 60529:1989 and its Amendment 1:1999.

2 The second edition of IEC 60601-1, cancelled and replaced by the third edition in 2005.

3 A consolidated version 3.1 (2012) exists that includes IEC 60601-1:2005 and its Amendment 1:2012.

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

IEC 61010 (all parts), *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use*

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

IEC 61672-1, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 61672-2, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 2: Pattern evaluation tests*

IEC 62133, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications*

ISO 17665-1, *Sterilization of health care products – Moist heat – Part 1: Requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices*

ISO 11135-1, *Medical devices – Validation and routine control of ethylene oxide sterilization*[4]

ISO 11137-1, *Sterilization of health care products – Radiation – Part 1: Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices*

ISO 14971:2007, *Medical devices – Application of risk management to medical devices*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 80000-1, *Quantities and units – Part 1: General*

3 Terms, definitions, abbreviations and acronyms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60601-1:1988 and IEC 60601-1:2005 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 An index of defined terms is found beginning on page 209.

NOTE 3 When used in the body of this document, N/A means “Not applicable”.

[4] Withdrawn and replaced by ISO 11135:2014.

3.2 Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation	Term
a.c.	Alternating current
d.c.	Direct current
DUT	Device under test
MAR	Mean angle resolvable
MD	Measuring device
ME	MEDICAL ELECTRICAL
RH	Relative humidity
r.m.s.	Root mean square
SI	System international
SIP/SOP	SIGNAL INPUT/OUTPUT PART

4 Types of tests

4.1 GENERAL

"TYPE TESTS" are required for verifying the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of the product design.

NOTE 1 The tests described in this technical report can also be used by the MANUFACTURER to ensure the quality of the product and the manufacturing PROCESS. See Annex I.

A test need not be carried out if analysis shows that the condition being tested has been adequately evaluated by other tests or methods.

The results of the RISK ANALYSIS should additionally be used to determine which combination(s) of simultaneous faults should be tested.

NOTE 2 The test results might render it necessary to revise the RISK ANALYSIS.

When testing the ME EQUIPMENT, relevant information provided by the MANUFACTURER in the instruction for use should be taken into account.

Before commencing testing, the ME EQUIPMENT under test (the device under test or DUT) should be disconnected from the SUPPLY MAINS. If not possible, special precautions should be taken to prevent HARM to the personnel performing the tests and measurements or other individuals who might be affected.

Connections such as data lines or functional earth conductors can act like PROTECTIVE EARTH CONNECTIONS. Such additional, but unintentional, PROTECTIVE EARTH CONNECTIONS can create measurement errors.

Unless otherwise specified in IEC 60601-1, ME EQUIPMENT is to be tested under the least favourable working conditions. The working conditions are specified in the ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS. The least favourable working conditions are to be documented for every test where they apply.

Considering the ambient temperature, humidity and pressure described in the technical description, tests should be performed at the worst-case extremes depending on the test and the effects of these parameters on the test results. If the test is not impacted by these parameters, then test can be conducted anywhere within the specified range.

4.2 Visual inspection

Covers and housings should be opened only:

– if required in the instructions for use for the ME EQUIPMENT, or
– if specified in this technical report, or
– if there is an indication of a HAZARD or HAZARDOUS SITUATION.

Special attention should be paid to the following:

– all fuses accessible from the outside should be marked (type, ratings) on the ME EQUIPMENT or marked by reference and specified in the ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS;
– the markings are legible and complete;
– any damage;
– relevant ACCESSORIES should be assessed together with the ME EQUIPMENT (e.g. DETACHABLE or FIXED POWER SUPPLY CORDS, PATIENT leads, tubing etc.);
– all required documentation, such as instructions for use, is present and complete and reflects the current revision of the ME EQUIPMENT.

5 State of the ME EQUIPMENT

Some tests specified in this document are conducted in the NORMAL CONDITION whilst others are conducted in SINGLE FAULT CONDITIONS.

NORMAL CONDITION and SINGLE FAULT CONDITIONS are described in both IEC 60601-1:1988 and IEC 60601-1:2005.

6 Number of samples

TYPE TESTS are performed on a representative sample of the item being assessed.

Multiple samples can be utilized simultaneously if the validity of the results is not significantly affected.

7 Applicable test items to the clauses of IEC 60601-1

Table 2, Table 5 and Table 10 relate the test PROCEDURES described in this technical report to the relevant subclauses of IEC 60601-1:2005. When applicable, these tables also provide a cross reference to the relevant subclauses of IEC 60601-1:1988.

Annex G and Annex H contain an index of the tests in this technical report sorted by the relevant subclause in IEC 60601-1:2005. Annex I and Annex J contain the lists sorted in alphabetical order by test title.

8 Sequence of tests

Unless stated otherwise, the tests in this technical report are to be sequenced in such a way so that the results of any test do not influence the results of other tests. Tests should, if applicable, be performed in the sequence indicated in Annex A, unless otherwise stated by particular standards.

However, this does not preclude the possibility of conducting a test that preliminary inspection suggests might cause failure.