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**Dentistry — Portable dental  
equipment for use in non-permanent  
healthcare environment —**

**Part 1:  
General requirements**

*Médecine bucco-dentaire — Matériel dentaire portatif utilisable dans  
des environnements de soins de santé non permanents —*

*Partie 1: Exigences générales*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 106, *Dentistry*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Dental equipment*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 55, *Dentistry*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

A list of all parts in the ISO 23402 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Transportable dental equipment is used by dental professionals to provide care to patients in a variety of settings. Because the intended use applications and intended means for transporting such equipment vary considerably, a wide variety of transportable dental equipment is commercially available. For example, certain transportable equipment is designed and constructed to be carried or rolled on its own wheels between rooms within a healthcare facility, while other transportable dental equipment is made to be folded and packed to carry over terrain which can be rugged and used in transient dental care settings which can have only limited shelter and utility services.

Transportable equipment that can be moved from one location to another while being carried by one or more persons is referred to as portable equipment. The term, portable equipment, applies to equipment that can be carried from room to room in a given facility or to remote parts of the world. This document focuses on portable dental equipment which is specifically designed and constructed to be transported between non-clinical environments and used by dental professionals to provide dental care in such settings, including temporary field clinics.

Such portable dental equipment for use in non-permanent healthcare environments enables dental professionals to provide a high standard of care to patients who do not have access to, or are not able to, travel to traditional health care facilities. Settings in which this equipment is commonly used include military field environments, humanitarian aid field clinics, public health outreach clinics, patient residences, long-term care facilities, prisons, schools and workplaces.

A number of trends in health care have driven increased utilization of portable dental equipment in non-permanent healthcare environments. Military forces use portable dental equipment in support of mobilized forces or for humanitarian outreach. A variety of government and non-government organizations are increasingly providing humanitarian dental care to underserved populations and populations affected by disasters. Civilian health care workers are also increasingly providing dental services to a growing population who are simply unable to visit traditional dental clinics due to age, disability, or income. Academic and research bodies regularly conduct dental education programs, particularly at external/off-site locations (including dentistry, dental hygiene, dental assisting).

The transport and end-use conditions for portable dental equipment used in non-permanent healthcare environments drive certain unique requirements which generally do not apply to portable, mobile or stationary dental equipment used in traditional dental clinics or hospitals. Because portable equipment used in non-permanent healthcare environments is intended to be moved between venues, and in some cases carried over rugged terrain or in inclement conditions, it needs to be designed and constructed to be safely transported by humans without damage, be efficiently assembled and disassembled, and deliver reliable service at the point of use. Special consideration is given to the austerity of the environment in which the equipment can be used and the availability and quality of utility supplies (such as electrical power, water, compressed air). In order for the equipment to be sufficiently portable and capable of operating in extreme conditions, certain requirements for dental equipment intended for use in traditional clinical settings may not be practical and is to be reconsidered for portable dental equipment for use in non-permanent healthcare environments. There can also be unique safety and infection control concerns to consider.

This document is one in a series with the objective of standardizing requirements for portable dental equipment for use in non-permanent healthcare environments.

