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TITLE:

Ultrasonics - Surgical systems - Measurement and declaration of the basic output characteristics

PROPOSED STABILITY DATE: 2027

NOTE FROM TC/SC OFFICERS:

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ULTRASONICS – SURGICAL SYSTEMS –

Measurement and declaration of the basic output characteristics

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61847 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 87: Ultrasonics.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
87/XXX/FDIS	87/XXX/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.

Annexes A, B and C are for information only.

In this standard the following print types are used:

- Requirements: in roman type
- *Test specifications: in italic type*
- Notes: in small roman type
- Words in **bold** in the text are defined in clause 3.

A bilingual version of this standard is expected to be issued at a later date.

115

INTRODUCTION

116

117 Ultrasonic surgical systems, operating in the 20 kHz to 120 kHz range, are used widely in
118 ophthalmology and neurosurgery to fragment or disintegrate and aspirate unwanted tissue.
119 Their commercial use in ophthalmology started in 1970. Their application in neurosurgery
120 followed about 10 years later. Ultrasonic surgical systems are also widely used in oncology
121 surgery. The use of these devices has expanded to areas such as liposuction and wound
122 treatments.

123 This International Standard defines the parameters which characterize the output and
124 performance of open and closed site ultrasonic surgical systems, and indicates which
125 parameters should be declared. In addition, measurement procedures are described so that
126 technically qualified people will be able to report on the parameters in a uniform and
127 understandable fashion. An open surgical site is one in which the area of use is large relative
128 to the size of the applicator tip being inserted thus precluding any increase in pressure of the
129 organ due to an imbalance of irrigant flow and suction flow. An example of a closed surgical
130 site is an eye where the incision is closely controlled.

131 This International Standard does not provide any guidance on what is the resultant safety or
132 efficacy of devices described by these parameters. While available data indicate that inertial
133 cavitation is an important component of efficacy for certain applications, other effects such as
134 acoustic streaming can be more important in other applications. Overall, it is recommended that
135 manufacturers provide users with quantified acoustic and vibrational output metrics, so that
136 systems can be properly compared, and so that users can improve their surgical technique by
137 minimizing output while maintaining surgical efficacy.

138 It is recognised that manufacturers can develop systems with complicated vibrational patterns
139 and applicator tip geometries. In order to properly compare acoustic output dynamics of such
140 system, it is the recommendation that acoustic pressure measurements be taken, which, when
141 combined with excursion and frequency information, allow for the derivation of the effective
142 acoustic output area. This area is fundamental to the operation of ultrasound surgical devices
143 and is a key metric for device and applicator tip comparison.

144 It is recognized that there are difficulties performing acoustic measurements when cavitation,
145 either inertial or non-inertial, occurs. Therefore, this standard only requires measurements to
146 be performed at low vibration excursion levels when no cavitation is present. The acoustic
147 output at higher excursions shall be linearly extrapolated from low level measurements. In
148 addition, the excursion level at which cavitation is first detected should be reported, as
149 information for the user. Cavitation measurement techniques are discussed in other standards
150 currently under development.

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ULTRASONICS – SURGICAL SYSTEMS – Measurement and declaration of the basic output characteristics

155 1 Scope

156 This International Standard specifies:

- 157 – the essential non-thermal output characteristics of ultrasonic surgical units;

158 NOTE 1 – One of the parameters of interest is output acoustic power. This standard primarily addresses the low-
159 frequency (under 120 kHz) component of the total delivered energy. The high-frequency component, which relates
160 to cavitation developed at the tip, is discussed but not required as a reported parameter (see A.4). However, the
161 vibration amplitude at which cavitation occurs shall be measured, noted and reported

- 162 – methods of measurement of these output characteristics;

- 163 – those characteristics which should be declared by the manufacturers of such equipment.

164 NOTE 2 – In the interest of clarity a straight tubular shape is used in the basic description of the parameters and
165 measurements to be made. Guidance is provided to the user of this standard to adapt the basic methodology
166 described to more complex designs as required. It is recognized that complex designs and vibration patterns are
167 design features of many surgical devices, and therefore it is important that output characteristics be declared for
168 those conditions. The manufacturer is required to declare which vibrational modes and excursion directions are under
169 user control, and provide information on all such modes.

170 This International Standard is applicable to equipment which meets the requirements of a, b
171 and c below:

- 172 a) ultrasonic surgical systems operating in the frequency range 20 kHz to 120 kHz; and
- 173 b) ultrasonic surgical systems, whose use is the fragmentation, emulsification, debridement,
174 or cutting of human tissue, whether or not those effects are delivered in conjunction with
175 tissue removal or coagulation; and
- 176 c) ultrasonic surgical systems, in which an acoustic wave is conducted by means of a
177 specifically designed wave guide to deliver energy to the surgical site.

178 NOTE 3 – Examples of these types of systems are surgical aspirators, phacoemulsifiers, intracorporeal lithotripters,
179 end-cutting devices, ultrasonic liposuction devices, etc. Devices which do not make direct contact with the surgical
180 or wound site are covered by this Standard, although the acoustic power calculation must be modified to account for
181 the acoustic characteristics of air rather than tissue.

182 NOTE 4 – The upper frequency limit has been set to accommodate more recently developed devices operating at
183 higher frequencies than the original standard. The requirements and techniques of this standard are also applicable
184 to devices operating at higher frequencies that use the same mechanisms of action.

185 This International Standard is not applicable to:

- 186 – lithotripsy equipment which uses extracorporeally induced pressure pulses, focussed
187 through liquid conducting media and the soft tissues of the body;
- 188 – surgical devices used as part of the therapeutic process (hyperthermia systems);
- 189 - surgical devices whose mechanism of action is through frictional heat generated by tissue
190 in contact with the wave guide, e.g. clamp coagulator/cutters
- 191 - surgical devices whose mechanism of action is through focused ultrasound for either thermal
192 degradation (High Intensity Focused Ultrasound – HIFU/HITU) or cavitation erosion
193 (Histotripsy) of tissue remote from the ultrasound transducer.
- 194 - surgical devices whose mechanism of action is through erosion of hard tissues in contact
195 with the applicator tip, e.g. bone cutting/drilling, although declaration of vibrational
196 frequency(ies) and amplitude(s) shall be required for these systems.

197 This International Standard does not deal with the effectiveness or safety of ultrasonic surgical
198 systems.

199 NOTE 5 – Throughout this standard, the term accuracy means the overall uncertainty expressed at the 95 %
200 confidence level.

2 Normative references

202 The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text,
203 constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions
204 indicated were valid. All normative documents are subject to revision, and parties to agreements
205 based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying
206 the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO
207 maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

208 IEC 60500:2017, *Underwater acoustics - Hydrophones - Properties of hydrophones in the*
209 *frequency range 1 Hz to 500 kHz*

210 IEC 60565-1:2020 *Underwater acoustics - Hydrophones - Calibration of hydrophones - Part 1:*
211 *Procedures for free-field calibration of hydrophones*

212 IEC TR 62781:2012 *Ultrasonics - Conditioning of water for ultrasonic measurements*

213 IEC 62127-1:2022 *Ultrasonics - Hydrophones - Part 1: Measurement and characterization of*
214 *medical ultrasonic fields*

215 IEC 62127-2:2007 - *Ultrasonics - Hydrophones - Part 2: Calibration for ultrasonic fields up to*
216 *40 MHz*

217 IEC TS 63001:2024 - *Measurement of cavitation noise in ultrasonic baths and ultrasonic*
218 *reactors*

219 IEC 60601-2-58 Ed. 1:2014 - *Medical electrical equipment—particular requirements for the*
220 *basic safety and essential performance of lens removal devices and vitrectomy devices for*
221 *ophthalmic surgery*

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223 **3 Definitions**

224 For the purpose of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

225 **3.1 3.1**

226 **applicator tip; applied part**

227 that part of the surgical tool which comes into direct contact with body tissues

228 **3.2 3.2**

229 **cavitation**

230 formation, oscillation, vibration, and potential collapse of a bubble or bubbles (gas or vapor)
231 within a liquid medium

232 Note 1 to entry – The definitions of cavitation are taken from IEC TS63001 ed. 2, 3.2, 3.4, and 3.5, with modifications

233 **3.3 3.2.1**

234 **acoustic cavitation**

235 cavitation driven by the presence of an acoustic field

236 **3.4 3.2.2**

237 **inertial cavitation**

238 cavitation in which the collapse of bubbles is driven by the inertia of the medium, including
239 repetitively, in response to an externally applied acoustic field

240 **3.5 3.1.3**

241 **non-inertial cavitation**

242 oscillation in the size or shape of bubbles in a medium, in response to an externally applied
243 acoustic field and generally sustained over multiple cycles of the **drive frequency**, but not
244 involving the collapses ascribed to **inertial cavitation**

245 **3.6 3.3**

246 **directivity pattern**

247 $p_{fd}(\Theta)$

248 normalized variation in acoustic pressure as a function of angle at constant range from the
249 **applicator tip**

250 Note 1 to entry – This parameter is used to confirm that the applicator tip produces the directivity pattern that
251 conforms to the acoustic model used, i.e., monopole or dipole.

252 Note 2 to entry – The **directivity pattern** is dimensionless.

253 **3.7 3.4**

254 **drive frequency**

255 f_d

256 mean frequency of the driving voltage or current

257 Note 1 to entry – This parameter, coupled with tip vibration excursion, allows the user to compare the velocities of
258 applicator tips. For some systems, the tip vibration frequency f_{rp} can happen at a higher or sub-harmonic of this
259 frequency.

260 Note 2 to entry – For some system, there can be more than one drive frequency, depending on the intended modes
261 of operation. In this case, each shall be described with additional subscripts, e.g., f_{d1} , f_{d2} .

262 Note 3 to entry – The **drive frequency** is expressed in Units of Hertz (Hz).

263 **3.8 3.5**

264 **duty cycle**

265 D_{cy}

266 for those systems which modulate the electrical drive power, the ratio of the voltage or current
267 pulse duration (on time) to the duration of one complete modulation cycle while the equipment
268 is active

269 Note 1 to entry – The **duty cycle** is dimensionless and is typically expressed as a percentage.

270 **3.9 3.6**

271 **output acoustic power**

272 P_a

273 the acoustic power delivered by the **applicator tip** into water

274 Note 1 to entry – Measurement of acoustic power delivered by **applicator tips** having different output areas and/or
275 excursion amplitudes will facilitate application of the ALARA principle, the use of exposure levels that are as low as
276 reasonably achievable.

277 Note 2 to entry – For some system, there can be more than one operating condition, with different drive frequencies,
278 excursions, and effective radiating areas. In this case, each shall be described with additional subscripts, e.g., P_{a1} ,
279 P_{a2} .

280 Note 3 to entry – The hydrophone method is the recommended (Section 6.5). The calorimetric method had been
281 previously proposed (Informative Annex), but difficulties in the measurement of ultrasonic surgical devices, especially
282 those systems that involve fluid irrigation and aspiration, result in large uncertainties. For limited cases, the
283 calorimetric method can be used if the technique can be demonstrated to meet the uncertainty requirements.

284 Note 4 to entry - The **output acoustic power** is expressed in Units of Watts (W).

285 **3.10 3.7** 286 **primary vibration mode**

287 the direction of tip vibration that is considered by the manufacturer to be the default or primary
288 one that is under user control.

289 **3.11 3.8** 290 **Secondary vibration mode**

291 Additional vibration modes other than the primary vibration mode. If the vibration mode is not
292 under user control, i.e., it is a vibration mode associated with the primary vibration mode as a
293 parasitic, then it shall be measured but it is not required to be reported. If the vibration mode
294 is under user control, i.e., it represents a specific alternate mode of operation from the
295 primary vibration mode, then it shall be measured and reported.

296 **3.12 3.9** 297 **primary acoustic output area**

298 A_{ap}

299 the area of the projection of the solid part of the **applicator tip** in the direction of **primary tip**
300 **vibration excursion**

301 Note 1 to entry – **Primary acoustic output area** is used in determining the energy radiated from the end of an
302 **applicator tip** for different tips operating at the same vibration excursion and frequency. For hollow or blunt cylinder
303 **applicator tips** operated in an excursion direction perpendicular to their face, the **primary acoustic output area**
304 can be computed from geometric considerations (see 6.9). For more complex shapes, or for movement that is not
305 perpendicular to a flat surface, the acoustic output area can be derived from measurements of the tip vibration
306 frequency, tip excursion, and the pressure measured at a known distance from the tip, using the equations and
307 methods within this standard.

308 Note 2 to entry - The **primary acoustic output area** is expressed in Units of meters-squared (m^2).

309 **3.13 3.10** 310 **primary tip vibration excursion**

311 S_p

312 peak-to-peak displacement of the **applicator tip** in the direction of maximum amplitude, at a
313 point on the **applicator tip** not more than 1 mm from its free end in the direction of maximum
314 amplitude

315 Note 1 to entry – The ability to fragment tissue can be correlated to **primary tip vibration excursion**.

316 Note 2 to entry – For some systems, the primary tip vibration direction is not colinear with the direction of motion
317 generated by the vibrational source.

318 Note 3 to entry - The **primary tip vibration excursion** is expressed in Units of meters (m).

319 **3.14 3.11** 320 **primary tip vibration excursion modulation**

321 M_{sp}

322 for those systems which modulate the electrical drive power, the percentage change in the
323 **primary tip vibration excursion** from its maximum value to its minimum value

324 Note 1 to entry - The **primary tip vibration excursion modulation** is dimensionless and is expressed as a
325 percentage.