



**International
Standard**

ISO 18562-3

**Biocompatibility evaluation
of breathing gas pathways in
healthcare applications —**

**Part 3:
Tests for emissions of volatile
organic substances**

*Évaluation de la biocompatibilité des chemins de gaz respiratoire
utilisés dans le domaine de la santé —*

*Partie 3: Essais concernant les émissions de substances
organiques volatiles*

**Second edition
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Contents

	Page
Foreword.....	iv
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references.....	1
3 Terms and definitions.....	2
4 General principles.....	2
5 Volatile organic substance emissions.....	2
5.1 General.....	3
5.2 Test method.....	3
5.3 Assessment of <i>inhalation dose</i>	7
6 Reporting.....	8
Annex A (informative) Rationale and guidance.....	9
Annex B (informative) Reference to the IMDRF <i>essential principles</i> and labelling guidances.....	12
Annex C (informative) Reference to the <i>essential principles</i>.....	13
Annex D (informative) Terminology — Alphabetized index of defined terms.....	14
Bibliography.....	15

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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 document 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).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 121, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Lung ventilators and related equipment*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 215, *Respiratory and anaesthetic equipment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18562-3:2017), which has been technically revised.

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The main changes are as follows:

- added informative mapping annexes to relevant regulatory requirements;
- clarified terms and definitions used in the document;
- broke the term *VOC* (now *VOS*) into parts based on boiling point.

A list of all parts of the ISO 18562 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.

Introduction

This document is intended to protect *patients* connected to *medical devices* from excessive amounts of *volatile organic substances* that arise from within the *gas pathways* of those *medical devices*. This document represents the application of the best-known science by addressing the *risks* from potentially hazardous *volatile organic substances* being conveyed to the *patient* by the gas stream.

This document is intended to cover the biological evaluation of *gas pathways* of *medical devices* within a *risk management process*, as part of the overall *medical device* evaluation and development. This approach combines the review and evaluation of existing data from all sources with, where necessary, the selection and application of additional tests.

In general, the ISO 10993 series is intended to cover the biological evaluation of *medical devices*. However, the ISO 10993 series does not appropriately address the biological evaluation of the *gas pathways* of *medical devices*. For example, the ISO 10993 series does not provide guidance how to evaluate the presence of *VOSs*.

It is not within the scope of this document to address contamination arising from the source of the breathing gases entering such *medical devices*, but rather only address the potential contamination generated from within the *medical device* itself. This contamination might be from the original manufacturing *process* or generated by the *medical device* itself during use.

This document is concerned with *volatile organic substances* that could be conveyed to the *patient* by the breathing gases. *Volatile organic substances* can have health effects ranging from unpleasant odour and irritation of the mucous membranes to possible long-term effects on the nervous system. It is accepted that there is no point in setting levels that are lower than those found in air that people might breathe every day.

The tests for the presence of *volatile organic substances* generated by respiratory *medical devices* are based on advanced laboratory practice and require specialist training and equipment to generate meaningful results.

The methods to determine the acceptable levels of contamination are contained in ISO 18562-1.

This document has been prepared in consideration of:

- the *Essential Principles of Safety and Performance of Medical Devices and IVD Medical Devices*, IMDRF/GRRP WG/N47:2018^[7] as indicated in [Annex B](#);
- the *Labelling Principles for Medical Devices and IVD Medical Devices*, IMDRF/GRRP WG/N52:2019^[8] as indicated in [Annex B](#);
- the *essential principles of safety and performance* according to ISO 16142-1:2016 as indicated in [Annex C](#); and
- the general safety and performance requirements of a *medical device* according to regulation (EU) 2017/745^[9].

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or capability.

Biocompatibility evaluation of breathing gas pathways in healthcare applications —

Part 3: Tests for emissions of volatile organic substances

1 Scope

This document specifies tests for the emissions of *volatile organic substances* from the *gas pathways* of a *medical device*, its parts or *accessories*, which are intended to provide respiratory care or supply substances via the respiratory tract to a *patient* in all environments. The tests of this document are intended to quantify emissions of *volatile organic substances* that are added to the respirable gas stream by the materials of the *gas pathway*. This document establishes acceptance criteria for these tests.

NOTE Gaseous emission of *volatile organic substances* includes emissions of *volatile organic compounds*, *semi-volatile organic compounds* and *very volatile organic compounds*.

This document addresses potential contamination of the gas stream arising from the *gas pathways* of *medical devices* or *accessories*, which is then conducted to the *patient*.

This document applies over the *expected lifetime* of the *medical device* in *normal use* and takes into account the effects of any intended *processing*.

This document does not address biological evaluation of the surfaces of *gas pathways* that are in direct contact with the *patient*. The requirements for direct contact surfaces are found in the ISO 10993 series.

Medical devices, parts or *accessories* containing *gas pathways* that are addressed by this document include, but are not limited to, ventilators, anaesthesia workstations (including gas mixers), breathing systems, oxygen conserving devices, oxygen concentrators, nebulizers, low-pressure hose assemblies, humidifiers, heat and moisture exchangers, respiratory gas monitors, respiration monitors, masks, medical respiratory personal protective equipment, mouth pieces, resuscitators, breathing tubes, breathing systems filters, Y-pieces and any breathing *accessories* intended to be used with such devices. The enclosed chamber of an incubator, including the mattress, and the inner surface of an oxygen hood are considered to be *gas pathways* and are also addressed by this document.

This document does not address contamination already present in the gas supplied from the gas sources while *medical devices* are in *normal use*.

EXAMPLE Contamination arriving at the *medical device* from gas sources such as *medical gas pipeline systems* (including the non-return valves in the pipeline outlets), outlets of pressure regulators connected or integral to a medical gas cylinder or room air taken into the *medical device* is not addressed by ISO 18562 series.

This document is intended to be read in conjunction with ISO 18562-1.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

ISO 16000-3:2022, *Indoor air — Part 3: Determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in indoor and test chamber air — Active sampling method*

ISO 18562-3:2024(en)

ISO 16000-4:2011, *Indoor air — Part 4: Determination of formaldehyde — Diffusive sampling method*

ISO 16000-6:2021, *Indoor air — Part 6: Determination of organic compounds (VVOC, VOC, SVOC) in indoor and test chamber air by active sampling on sorbent tubes, thermal desorption and gas chromatography using MS or MS FID*

ISO 18562-1:2024, *Biocompatibility evaluation of breathing gas pathways in healthcare applications — Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 18562-1:2024 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

NOTE For convenience, an alphabetized index of all defined terms and their sources used in this document are given in [Annex D](#).

3.1

rated

<value> term referring to a value assigned by the *manufacturer* for a specified operating condition

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.97]

3.2

target compounds

compounds that are believed likely to be present and therefore need to be deliberately looked for

3.3

thermal stability

condition under which the temperature of an object does not change by more than 2 °C over a period of 1 h

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.125, modified — “increase” has been changed to “change”.]

4 General principles

All *gas pathways* of *medical devices* or *accessories* shall be evaluated using the strategy detailed in ISO 18562-1:2024.

The fundamental consideration in assessing a substance is to determine the *inhalation dose* of this substance to the *patient*.

Limits for toxicological purposes are most often quoted in µg/kg body mass/d (*tolerable intake*). Limits for environmental purposes, and the quantity that is measured by test laboratories, are usually quoted as concentrations in µg/m³. The *inhalation dose* depends on the concentration of the substance (in µg/m³) multiplied by the volume inhaled by the *patient* in a day (in m³/d).

Standard daily breathing volumes are found in ISO 18562-1:2024, 6.2.

5 Volatile organic substance emissions

NOTE There is guidance or rationale for this Clause contained in [Clause A.2](#).

5.1 General

- a) All *gas pathways* of a *medical device* or *accessory* shall be evaluated for the emission of *volatile organic substances*.

NOTE 1 Gaseous emission of *volatile organic substances* includes emissions of *VOCs*, *SVOCs* and *VVOCs*.

- b) In the selection of materials to be used in the *medical device* manufacture, the first consideration should be given for fitness for purpose with regard to characteristics and properties of the material, which include physical, mechanical, chemical and toxicological properties.

- 1) Knowledge of materials should inform the nature and extent of screening for substances including any *target compounds*.
- 2) Specific sampling methods may be required for *target compounds*.

EXAMPLE Aldehydes from polyoxymethylene plastics, isocyanates and degradation products from polyurethanes.

- c) The evaluation should use the *risk management process* to assess if testing is required.

NOTE 2 The evaluation of some components, which are identical in *formulation*, manufacturing or application processes and preparation for use to an existing component of a *medical device* that has been previously tested, might conclude that no further testing is required. Refer to ISO 18562-1:2024, Figure 1. Manufacturing and application processes include *processing* (i.e. cleaning/disinfection/sterilization either prior to use or between uses).

- d) A *medical device*, part or *accessory* shall not add to the gas that could be inspired by the *patient* substances at levels that create an unacceptable *risk* to the *patient*.

NOTE 3 Parts downstream of the *patient* can be evaluated for emissions if there is a *risk* that the *patient* might inspire gas that has been in contact with them.

- e) If the *risk management process* determines that testing is required, the tests of 5.2 shall be performed.

5.2 Test method

Perform emission testing as follows.

- a) Set up the *medical device*, part or *accessory* according to the instructions for use.
 - 1) It can be necessary to use additional *accessories* in order to perform this test (for example, hoses or a test lung). When using such additional items, care needs to be taken to prepare them so that they do not interfere with the measurements being made.
 - 2) Alternatively, the test may be run with all the *accessories* in place, but without the *medical device* under test to produce a blank value. This blank value is then subtracted from the value obtained when running the test again with the *medical device* in the circuit.
 - 3) The *medical device*, part or *accessory* should be a representative sample that has been subject to normal manufacturing, shipping and handling delays.
 - 4) The tests should be performed at a time after manufacture that represents the shortest reasonable time that could elapse between manufacture and use with a *patient*.
 - 5) It may be necessary, if needed, to use more than one *medical device* in this test, to allow the results to be greater than the limits of measurement.
- b) Maintain the *medical device*, part or *accessory* at its highest clinically relevant *rated* ambient temperature until the *medical device*, part or *accessory* has achieved *thermal stability*.
 - 1) The test may be performed at higher temperatures to facilitate faster or accelerated testing. However, care is needed to ensure that higher temperatures do not alter the chemical composition

ISO 18562-3:2024(en)

of the *VOSs* emitted. In such a case, a supporting rationale, based on composition and *processing* to confirm that this is not expected to result either in thermal changes to chemical composition of the sample, or loss of *VVOC* before the start of sampling, shall be documented in the biological evaluation plan.

- c) Choose a sampling site to be representative of the gas that would be inhaled by the *patient*.
- 1) It may be necessary to use a chamber to hold the *medical device* in this test and sample the air in the chamber.
- d) Set the gas flowrate, through the *medical device*, part or *accessory* to a value that is representative of the clinical use for the *medical device* and gives the worst case *inhalation dose*, as follows.

NOTE 1 There is guidance or rationale for this list item contained in [Clause A.2](#).

- 1) For an active flow *medical device* and its accessories (e.g. ventilator and ventilator breathing system) set the flowrate by selecting the lowest usable setting for delivery to the patient, considering flowrates, volumes and pressures.
 - i) The sampling pump flowrate shall be less than 80 % of the selected *medical device* flowrate.
- 2) For a passive flow *medical device* (e.g. where the flowrate is dependent on a spontaneously breathing *patient*) use a flowrate derived from the default daily breathing volume found in ISO 18562-1:2024, Table 1, for the smallest intended *patient* group.
- 3) The *manufacturer*
 - i) may justify a different flowrate, but
 - ii) the justification shall be documented, and
 - iii) the flowrate shall be clinically relevant.

EXAMPLE 1 Sleep apnoea breathing therapy equipment *patients* are at rest so the resting nominal breathing volume column is appropriate.

EXAMPLE 2 Sleep apnoea breathing therapy equipment and some neonatal ventilators have a very high flow, of which only a portion enters the *patient's* lungs, the rest is vented to atmosphere.

- 4) For an intermittently used *medical device* operate the *medical device* in a clinically relevant manner, for the maximum intended duration of a use.
- 5) Ensure that the sampling period enables capturing sufficient gas to make a meaningful measurement.
 - i) If the clinical maximum duration of operation is insufficient to permit making a meaningful measurement, it can be that a toxicological *hazard* does not exist, and testing is unnecessary. If this is the case, rationale shall be documented in the biological evaluation plan.

- e) Sample the breathing gas.

NOTE 2 There is guidance or rationale for this list item contained in [Clause A.2](#).

NOTE 3 The concentration of emitted volatile organic compounds from plastic materials is highest when the parts are new. The emissions of *VOSs* typically decay over time, as more of them get flushed out of the walls of the *gas pathway* as shown in [Figure 1](#). If a measurement is only made at the start of use, then the total dose to the *patient* can be severely overestimated. Ideally, the sampling could extend over the whole duration of use of the *medical device*, and the total dose the *patient* receives measured directly. However many current sampling techniques do not allow this. To calculate the *inhalation dose* requires calculating the area under the concentration-versus-time curve. To minimize the test burden, the following method for prolonged exposure (>24 h, <30 d) use or long-term exposure (≥30 d) use *medical devices* can be used.