

TECHNICAL REPORT

**Safety of laser products –
Part 17: Safety aspects for use of passive optical components and optical
cables in high power optical fibre communication systems**

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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IEC 60825-17, which is a technical report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
76/425/DTR	76/435/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.

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

A list of all parts of the IEC 60825 series, published under the general title *Safety of laser products*, can be found on the IEC website.

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- withdrawn,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.

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of applications such as the internet and business intranets requiring high bitrates has caused a dramatic increase in the need for high capacity data connections. This increase in capacity has resulted in a requirement for a corresponding increase in power levels used in optical fibre communications systems. There are a number of areas of concern including the use of erbium doped fibre amplifiers (EDFA), high power dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) systems, and Raman amplification.

The power levels associated with these systems are typically greater than 500 mW (i.e. Class 4), but some studies have shown additional thermal effects can occur at lower powers. These additional thermal and related hazards mean that it is necessary to address a number of new issues. It should be noted that the vast majority of these systems use single mode fibre.

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