
**Guidance on the selection of the
appropriate means of ventilation
based on the intended patient, use
environment, and operator**

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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).

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For an explanation on 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 the following URL: 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*, and IEC/TC 62, *Electrical equipment in medical practice*, Subcommittee SC 62D, *Electromedical equipment*.

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Introduction

This document uses common language to describe and clarify the intended PATIENT, intended USE ENVIRONMENT and intended OPERATOR that are applicable to the ventilation categories and SLEEP APNOEA BREATHING THERAPY EQUIPMENT for which there are ISO standards. There is confusion in the marketplace as to which standard (and therefore the related equipment) is appropriate for which type of PATIENT. This document is intended to help answer that question. This document does not categorize PATIENTS by size, weight or age. Throughout this document, the following considerations are delineated:

- the state of the PATIENT's health (fragility/acuity/stability);
- the PATIENT'S dependency on artificial ventilation;
- the consequence of loss of ventilation;
- the required range of ventilation modes and corresponding PATIENT monitoring;
- how often the PATIENT needs assessing by a HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL;
- how often the PATIENT needs respiratory-related care.

Additionally, there are seven annexes.

- [Annex A](#) contains the rationale for this document.
- [Annex B](#) contains a table that compares some of the most important environmental characteristics and requirements of the HOME HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT, PROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE FACILITY environment, and EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ENVIRONMENT.
- [Annex C](#) contains a table that highlights where the VENTILATORS that are covered by each of the standards are intended to be utilized.
- [Annex D](#) contains a table that compares the intended OPERATOR, intended PATIENT and intended USE ENVIRONMENT for each of the standards discussed in this document.
- [Annex E](#) contains a table that numerically compares the types of ventilation-related equipment with regard to intended PATIENT care.
- [Annex F](#) contains a comparison of selected technical requirements between various international standards for ventilation-related devices.
- [Annex G](#) contains an alphabetized list of defined terms used in this document.

TERMS used throughout this document that have been defined in [Clause 3](#) appear in SMALL CAPITALS.

An asterisk (*) as the first character of a title or at the beginning of a paragraph or table title indicates that there is guidance or rationale related to that item in [Annex A](#).