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FINAL VERSION

VERSION FINALE

Medical electrical equipment –
Part 2-37: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of ultrasonic medical diagnostic and monitoring equipment

Appareils électromédicaux –
Partie 2-37: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances essentielles des appareils de diagnostic et de surveillance médicaux à ultrasons

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

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FOREWORD

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This Consolidated version of IEC 60601-2-37 bears the edition number 2.1. It consists of the second edition (2007-08) [documents 62B/624/CDV and 62B/657/RVC] and its amendment 1 (2015-06) [documents 62B/978/FDIS and 62B/988/RVD]. The technical content is identical to the base edition and its amendment.

This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.

International standard IEC 60601-2-37 has been prepared by IEC subcommittee 62B: Diagnostic imaging equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

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

In this standard, the following print types are used:

– Requirements and definitions: roman type.

– *Test specifications: italic type.*

– Informative material appearing outside of tables, such as notes, examples and references: in smaller type. Normative text of tables is also in a smaller type.

– TERMS DEFINED IN CLAUSE 3 OF THE GENERAL STANDARD, IN THIS PARTICULAR STANDARD OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this standard, the term

– “clause” means one of the seventeen numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 7 includes subclauses 7.1, 7.2, etc.);

– “subclause” means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 7.1, 7.2 and 7.2.1 are all subclauses of Clause 7).

References to clauses within this standard are preceded by the term “Clause” followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this particular standard are by number only.

In this standard, the conjunctive “or” is used as an “inclusive or” so a statement is true if any combination of the conditions is true.

The verbal forms used in this standard conform to usage described in Annex H of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this standard, the auxiliary verb:

– “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this standard;

– “should” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this standard;

– “may” is used to describe a permissible way to achieve compliance with a requirement or test.

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 AA.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60601 series, published under the general title: *Medical electrical equipment*, can be found on the IEC website

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment 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.

INTRODUCTION

In this particular standard, safety requirements additional to those in the general standard are specified for ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT.

A general guidance and rationale for the requirements of this particular standard are given in Annex AA.

Knowledge of the reasons for these requirements will not only facilitate the proper application of this particular standard but will, in due course, expedite any revision necessitated by changes in clinical practice or as a result of developments in technology.

The approach and philosophy used in drafting this particular standard for safety of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT are consistent with those in standards of the IEC 60601-2-xx series that apply to other diagnostic modalities, such as X-ray equipment and magnetic resonance systems.

In each case, the safety standard is intended to require increasing sophistication of output display indicators and/or controls with increasing energy levels in the interrogating field of diagnosis. Thus, for all such diagnostic modalities, it is the responsibility of the OPERATOR to understand the risk of the output of the ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, and to act appropriately in order to obtain the needed diagnostic information with the minimum risk to the PATIENT.

INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 1

The second edition of IEC 60601-2-37 was published in 2007. Since that publication, the parent standard, IEC 60601-1:2005, entered maintenance, under which an amendment (IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012) and a consolidated edition 3.1 (IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012) were published. This amendment to IEC 60601-2-37:2007 addresses three issues:

1) technical changes proposed by National Committees as a result of 4 years of practical usage,
2) technical and editorial changes resulting from the amended general standard IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and its collateral standards IEC 60601-1-xx, and
3) technical changes as a result of maintenance to normative references.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

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The clauses and subclauses of the general standard apply except as follows:

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

Clause 1 of the general standard applies, except as follows:

201.1.1 *Scope

Replacement:

This International Standard applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.217, hereinafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT.

If a clause or subclause is specifically intended to be applicable to ME EQUIPMENT only, or to ME SYSTEMS only, the title and content of that clause or subclause will say so. If that is not the case, the clause or subclause applies both to ME EQUIPMENT and to ME SYSTEMS, as relevant.

HAZARDS inherent in the intended physiological function of ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS within the scope of this standard are not covered by specific requirements in this standard except in 7.2.13 and 8.4.1 of this standard.

NOTE See also subclause 4.2 of this standard.

This particular standard does not cover ultrasonic therapeutic equipment. Equipment used for the imaging or diagnosis of body structures by ultrasound in conjunction with other medical procedures is covered.

201.1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this particular standard is to establish particular BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.217.

201.1.4 Particular standards

Replacement:

In the IEC 60601 series, particular standards may modify, replace or delete requirements contained in the general standard as appropriate for the particular ME EQUIPMENT under consideration, and may add other BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over the general standard.

For brevity, IEC 60601-1 is referred to in this particular standard as the general standard. Collateral standards are referred to by their document number.