

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Medical electrical equipment –  
Part 2-59: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance  
of screening thermographs for human febrile temperature screening**

**Appareils électromédicaux –  
Partie 2-59: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances  
essentielle des imageurs thermiques pour le dépistage des humains fébriles**



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ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
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# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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## MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

### **Part 2-59: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of screening thermographs for human febrile temperature screening**

#### FOREWORD

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International standard IEC 80601-2-59 has been prepared by a Joint Working Group of IEC subcommittee 62D: Electromedical equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice, and of ISO subcommittee SC3: Lung ventilators and related equipment, of ISO technical committee 121: Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2008. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) updates of the normative references and the bibliography;
- b) expansion of the applicability to pandemic infectious diseases in general.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
62D/1501/FDIS	62D/1515/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this document 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.

In this document, 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 DOCUMENT OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this document, 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 document are preceded by the term “Clause” followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this particular document are by number only.

In this document, 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 document conform to usage described in Clause 7 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this document, the auxiliary verb:

- “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this document ;
- “should” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this document ;
- “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.

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- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

NOTE The attention of National Committees and Member Bodies is drawn to the fact that equipment manufacturers and testing organizations may need a transitional period following publication of a new, amended or revised IEC or ISO publication in which to make products in accordance with the new requirements and to equip themselves for conducting new or revised tests. It is the recommendation of the committees that the content of this publication be adopted for implementation nationally not earlier than 3 years from the date of publication.

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## INTRODUCTION

The minimum safety requirements specified in this document are considered to provide for a practical degree of safety in the operation of ME EQUIPMENT for human febrile temperature screening.

This document describes ME EQUIPMENT that uses infrared technology to detect naturally emitted heat at the skin surface of the FACE. Such ME EQUIPMENT can be useful at ports-of-entry or ports-of-exit and the entrances to buildings under controlled environmental conditions to separate febrile from afebrile individuals to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Care can be needed when evaluating individuals under changing environmental conditions, but the region medially adjacent to the inner canthus of the eye has been demonstrated to be a robust measurement site and is supplied by the internal carotid artery. [1]<sup>1</sup>

A body core temperature of 38 °C or above was used as the criterion to restrict traveling during the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) epidemic (April 2003). [2] The US Centers for Disease Control advises that SARS typically begins with a temperature above 38 °C, which is 1 °C higher than normal human body core temperature which averages around 37 °C. [3] It is hard to give an accurate assessment of how many people were checked by infrared temperature measurements in China during the SARS epidemic. There is official Chinese government data indicating that during a two-month period in the spring of 2003, 30 million travellers were screened in China. From this cohort, 9 292 travellers with elevated temperature were detected and 38 were suspected of being SARS carriers. SARS was diagnosed in 21 of these cases. All elevated temperatures were confirmed using traditional clinical temperature measurements of body temperature. Although it is hard to determine the human body's core temperature accurately by infrared measurement of SKIN TEMPERATURE, it can be used for screening for elevated temperature values. [2] [4] [5] Improved rates of detection may result from improved techniques.[6]

International travellers were screened during the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak. [7] [8] The pandemic potential of other influenzas such as H7N9 [9] is of concern to the World Health Organization (WHO). [10]

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012, and a total of 1 026 laboratory-confirmed cases resulting in at least 376 deaths (36,7%) have been confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as of 25 February 2015. [11] Most identified cases have had fever, although some mild and/or asymptomatic cases have been reported. [11] [12] [13] [14] The possibility of widespread dissemination of MERS-CoV during religious pilgrimage [11] and other regional travel has been investigated, but appears to be under control [15], although WHO continues to express concern. [13] [14] Fever screening at airports has also been employed during outbreaks of Dengue in Taiwan. [16] [17]

The 2014 Ebola outbreak originating in West Africa has brought issues of the potential for global pandemic to the forefront. [18] [19] [20] [21] Controversy has arisen over the effectiveness of thermography for fever screening at airports and other checkpoints [22] [23], while empirical data has demonstrated the effectiveness of this technology when used in compliance with appropriate international standards [24] [25] [26] [27] and WHO guidance. [10] [20] [21]

This document is intended to be applicable for thermographic fever screening devices for the above-mentioned and any other fever-producing infectious diseases. [10] [15] [28] [29].

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<sup>1</sup> Figures in square brackets refer to the Bibliography

## MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

### Part 2-59: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of screening thermographs for human febrile temperature screening

#### 201.1 Scope, object and related standards

Clause 1 of the general standard<sup>2</sup> applies, except as follows:

##### 201.1.1 \* Scope

*Replacement:*

This part of IEC 80601 applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of SCREENING THERMOGRAPHS intended to be used for the individual non-invasive febrile temperature screening of a human under controlled environmental conditions, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT. This document sets laboratory characterization test limits for the SCREENING THERMOGRAPH.

NOTE 101 A SCREENING THERMOGRAPH is intended for screening of a human subject and detection of SKIN TEMPERATURE elevated above normal. An elevated SKIN TEMPERATURE needs to be followed up by a subsequent temperature measurement using a clinical thermometer (see ISO 80601-2-56 [30]).

NOTE 102 The main part of such equipment is commonly referred to as an infrared camera.

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.

##### 201.1.2 Object

*Replacement:*

The object of this particular document is to establish particular BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for SCREENING THERMOGRAPHS as defined in 201.3.209.

##### 201.1.3 Collateral standards

*Addition:*

This particular document refers to those applicable collateral standards that are listed in Clause 2 of the general standard and Clause 201.2 of this document.

IEC 60601-1-2:2014, IEC 60601-1-6:2010 and IEC 60601-1-6:2010/AMD1:2013 apply as modified in Clauses 202 and 206 respectively. IEC 60601-1-3, IEC 60601-1-10, IEC 60601-1-11 and IEC 60601-1-12 do not apply. All other published collateral standards in the IEC 60601-1 series apply as published.

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<sup>2</sup> The general standard is IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*