

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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**Ultrasonics – Non-focusing short pressure pulse sources including ballistic  
pressure pulse sources – Characteristics of fields**





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**Ultrasonics – Non-focusing short pressure pulse sources including ballistic pressure pulse sources – Characteristics of fields**

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**ULTRASONICS – NON-FOCUSING SHORT PRESSURE  
 PULSE SOURCES INCLUDING BALLISTIC  
 PRESSURE PULSE SOURCES – CHARACTERISTICS OF FIELDS**

## FOREWORD

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The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| FDIS        | Report on voting |
| 87/741/FDIS | 87/743/RVD       |

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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

Words in **bold** in the text are defined in Clause 3.

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## INTRODUCTION

In this document, **pressure pulses** are single pulses of ultrasonic energy of up to 25  $\mu\text{s}$  duration which have only one significant positive and one negative peak carrying more than 95 % of the energy (see definitions). Focused **pressure pulses** (sometimes called "strongly focused") are characterized by a peak acoustic pressure in a point in the sound field distant from the **source aperture**. Parameters and measurement methods for focusing **pressure pulse** sources are described in IEC 61846. The parameters and measurement methods of any other types of **pressure pulses**, i.e. weakly focused and non-focused **pressure pulses**, are described in this document.

Devices with non-focusing/weakly focusing **pressure pulse** sources are used for the extracorporeal treatment of soft tissue pain situations in, for example, the shoulder, the heel spur or the tennis elbow and for trigger point therapy. Further, still under research are applications in orthopaedics, pain therapy, treatment of angina pectoris, stem cell therapy of infarcted cardiac areas, treatment of erectile dysfunction, of cellulitis, and wound repair.

The patients receive between 3 to 5 treatments of 10 min to 20 min duration with approximately or on average 1 000 pulses. Each **pressure pulse** consists of one significant compressional part and a trailing negative part and has an overall duration of less than 25  $\mu\text{s}$ . In present devices, 1 to 35 pulses per second are released to the target tissue. The pulses are usually applied to the patient by a manually guided hand piece. Targeting is commonly done by asking the patient to direct the pulses to the point of maximum pain.

The first use of non-focused/weakly focused **pressure pulses** to treat soft tissue pain situations was described in 1999. The first devices used the ballistic principle for the generation of the **pressure pulses**, which is based on an "air-gun" like acceleration of a projectile by pressurized air. The projectile impinges on the rear side of a larger metal **applicator**, the front side of which instantly releases one fast **pressure pulse** to the patient. Today, most of the devices on the market use this design and often are called "radial shock wave devices" or "ballistic sources" although a true shock wave is not created. Also, other pulse generating principles are being applied including variations of common lithotripter sources (electromagnetic, piezoelectric, electrohydraulic).

Before this first occurrence, focused **pressure pulses** were used clinically beginning in 1993 for the treatment of shoulder calcifications, tennis elbow pain and heel spur pain, initially using lithotripter-like electrohydraulic, electromagnetic or piezoelectric sources. These focused **pressure pulses** can be characterized by IEC 61846, but the parameters described therein are not sufficiently applicable to characterize the parameters and fields of weakly focused and non-focused **pressure pulses** and their propagation characteristics.

This document specifies methods of measuring and characterizing the acoustic **pressure pulses** generated by non-focusing/weakly focusing **pressure pulse equipment** and their propagation characteristics.

# ULTRASONICS – NON-FOCUSING SHORT PRESSURE PULSE SOURCES INCLUDING BALLISTIC PRESSURE PULSE SOURCES – CHARACTERISTICS OF FIELDS

## 1 Scope

This document is applicable to

- therapy equipment using extracorporeally induced non-focused or weakly focused **pressure pulses**;
- therapy equipment producing extracorporeally induced non-focused or weakly focused mechanical energy,

where the **pressure pulses** are released as single events of duration up to 25  $\mu\text{s}$ .

This document does not apply to

- therapy equipment using focusing **pressure pulse** sources such as extracorporeal lithotripsy equipment;
- therapy equipment using other acoustic waveforms like physiotherapy equipment, low intensity ultrasound equipment and HIFU/HITU equipment.

This document specifies

- measurable parameters which are used in the declaration of the acoustic output of extracorporeal equipment producing a **non-focused** or **weakly focused pressure pulse field**,
- methods of measurement and characterization of **non-focused** or **weakly focused pressure pulse fields**.

NOTE 1 The parameters defined in this document do not – at the time of publication – allow quantitative statements to be made about clinical efficacy and possible hazard. In particular, it is not possible to make a statement about the limits for these effects.

NOTE 2 Figure B.1 to Figure B.10 and Figure 2 to Figure 4 are useful to understand the geometry of the field applied in this document.

This document has been developed for equipment intended for use in **pressure pulse** therapy, for example therapy of orthopaedic pain like shoulder pain, tennis elbow pain, heel spur pain, muscular trigger point therapy, lower back pain, etc. It is not intended to be used for extracorporeal lithotripsy equipment (as described in IEC 61846), physiotherapy equipment using other waveforms (as described in IEC 61689) and HIFU/HITU equipment (see IEC 60601-2-62 and IEC TR 62649).

## 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.

IEC 60565-1, *Underwater acoustics – Hydrophones – Calibration of hydrophones – Part 1: Procedures for free-field calibration of hydrophones*

IEC 60565-2, *Underwater acoustics – Hydrophones – Calibration of hydrophones – Part 2: Procedures for low frequency pressure calibration*