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2004-06

Safety of laser products –

**Part 2:
Safety of optical fibre communication
systems (OFCS)**



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Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems (OFCS)

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems (OFCS)

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60825-2 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2000. It constitutes a technical revision to bring the hazard level nomenclature used in this document into correspondence with the revised classification system introduced in IEC 60825-1(2001). Additionally, the standard has been thoroughly revised throughout.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
76/288/FDIS	76/293/RVD

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

IEC 60825 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Safety of laser products*:

- Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user's guide
- Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems (OFCS)
- Part 3: Guidance for laser displays and shows
- Part 4: Laser guards
- Part 5: Manufacturer's checklist for IEC 60825-1
- Part 6: Safety of products with optical sources, exclusively used for visible information transmission to the human eye
- Part 7: Safety of products emitting infrared optical radiation, exclusively used for wireless 'free air' data transmission and surveillance
- Part 8: Guidelines for the safe use of medical laser equipment
- Part 9: Compilation of maximum permissible exposure to incoherent optical radiation
- Part 10: Application guidelines and explanatory notes to IEC 60825-1
- Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for transmission of information
- Part 14: A user's guide

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result 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 standard may be published at a later date.

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems (OFCS)

1 Scope and object

This Part 2 of IEC 60825 provides requirements and specific guidance for the safe operation and maintenance of optical fibre communication systems (OFCS). In these systems optical power may be accessible outside the confinements of transmitting equipment or at great distance from the optical source.

This Part 2 requires the assessment of hazard levels at accessible locations as a replacement for classification according to IEC 60825-1. It applies to the complete installed end-to-end OFCS, including its components and subassemblies that generate or amplify optical radiation. Individual components and subassemblies that are sold only to OEM vendors for incorporation into a complete installed end-to-end OFCS need not be assessed to this standard, since the final OFCS should itself be assessed according to this standard.

NOTE The above statement is not intended to prevent manufacturers of such components and subassemblies from using this standard if they wish to do so, or are required to do so by contract.

This standard does not apply to optical fibre systems primarily designed to transmit optical power for applications such as material processing or medical treatment.

In addition to the hazards resulting from laser radiation, OFCS may also give rise to other hazards, such as fire.

This standard does not address safety issues associated with explosion or fire with respect to OFCS deployed in explosive atmospheres.

Throughout this part of IEC 60825, a reference to 'laser' is taken to include light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and optical amplifiers.

The objective of this Part 2 of IEC 60825 is to:

- protect people from optical radiation resulting from OFCS;
- provide requirements for manufacturers, installation organizations, service organizations and operating organizations in order to establish procedures and supply information so that proper precautions can be adopted;
- ensure adequate warnings are provided to individuals regarding the potential hazards associated with OFCS through the use of signs, labels and instructions.

Annex A gives a more detailed rationale for this part of IEC 60825.

The safety of an OFCS depends to a significant degree on the characteristics of the equipment forming that system. Depending on the characteristics of the equipment, it may be necessary to mark safety relevant information on the product or include it within the instructions for use.

Where required by the level of potential hazard, it places the responsibility for the safe deployment and use of these systems on the installer or end-user / operating organization or both. This standard places the responsibility for adherence to safety instructions during installation and service operations on the installation organization and service organizations as appropriate, and operation and maintenance functions on the end-user or operating organization. It is recognised that the user of this standard may fall into one or more of the aforementioned categories of manufacturer, installation organization, end-user or operating organization.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60825-1, *Safety of laser products – Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user's guide*¹⁾

Amendment 1 (1997)

Amendment 2 (2001)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions contained in IEC 60825-1 as well as the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

accessible location

any part or location within an OFCS at which, under reasonably foreseeable events, human access to laser radiation is possible without the use of a tool

3.2

automatic power reduction (APR)

a feature of an OFCS by which the accessible power is reduced to a specified level within a specified time, whenever there is an event which could result in human exposure to radiation, e.g. a fibre cable break

NOTE The term "automatic power reduction" (APR) used in this standard encompasses the following terms used in recommendations of the International Telecommunication Union ITU:

- automatic laser shutdown (ALS);
- automatic power reduction (APR);
- automatic power shutdown (APSD).

3.3

end-user

person or organization using the OFCS in the manner the system was designed to be used

NOTE 1 The end-user cannot necessarily control the power generated and transmitted within the system.

NOTE 2 If the person or organization is using the OFCS for a communications application in a manner other than as designed by the manufacturer, then that person/organization assumes the responsibilities of a manufacturer or installation organization.

3.4

hazard level

the potential hazard at any accessible location within an OFCS. It is based on the level of optical radiation which could become accessible in a reasonably foreseeable event, e.g. a fibre cable break. It is closely related to the laser classification procedure in IEC 60825-1

3.5

hazard level 1

hazard level 1 is assigned to any accessible location within an OFCS at which, under reasonably foreseeable events, human access to laser radiation in excess of the accessible emission limits of Class 1 for the applicable wavelengths and emission duration will not occur

¹⁾ A consolidated edition 1.2 exists including IEC 60825-1 (1993) and its Amendment 1 (1997) and Amendment 2 (2001).