IEC 60601-2-31

Edition 2.1 2011-09

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Medical electrical equipment –
Part 2-31: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of external cardiac pacemakers with internal power source

Appareils électromédicaux –
Partie 2-31: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances essentielles des stimulateurs cardiaques externes à source d'énergie interne

IEC 60601-2-31:2008+A1:2011

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Email: inmail@iec.ch
Web: www.iec.ch

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Tél.: +41 22 919 02 11
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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-31: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of external cardiac pacemakers with internal power source

FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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This consolidated version of IEC 60601-2-31 consists of the second edition (2008) [documents 62D/603/CDV and 62D/667/RVC] and its amendment 1 (2011) [documents 62D/918/FDIS and 62D/931/RVD]. It bears the edition number 2.1.

The technical content is therefore identical to the base edition and its amendment and has been prepared for user convenience. A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendment 1. Additions and deletions are displayed in red, with deletions being struck through.

International standard IEC 60601-2-31 has been prepared by IEC subcommittee 62D: Electromedical equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This second edition of IEC 60601-2-31 is aligned with IEC 60601-1:2005, and contains minimal technical revisions from the first edition.

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 collateral 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 amendments 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.

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INTRODUCTION

The minimum safety requirements specified in this particular standard are considered to provide for a practical degree of safety in the operation of external cardiac pacemakers with an internal power source.

Basically, CARDIAC PACEMAKERS treat cardiac arrhythmias. Such arrhythmias reduce cardiac output and can lead to confusion, dizziness, loss of consciousness and death. The objective of pacing is to restore cardiac rhythm and output appropriate to the PATIENT's physiological needs.

There are two distinct families of CARDIAC PACEMAKERS, ~~IMPLANTABLE~~ implantable PACEMAKERS and EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS. EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS are used to pace PATIENTS temporarily prior to implanting an ~~IMPLANTABLE~~ implantable PACEMAKER as well as for temporary pacing related to other medical procedures, e.g. open heart surgery.

CARDIAC PACEMAKERS differ in the various ways in which they maintain and monitor cardiac activity in different circumstances. The simplest model stimulates the atrium or ventricle independently of the cardiac activity; others detect atrial or ventricular activity and stimulate the atrium or ventricle as and when this is necessary; others, more complex, detect the spontaneous heart activity and stimulate appropriately the atrium and/or the ventricle. Certain PACEMAKERS work on preset frequency values, amplitudes and impulse duration. Others can have several values for parameters.

Standards for EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS require attention to information which will aid in selecting and applying these devices. It is through these aspects of standardization that the central role of clinical experience should be, or has been, acknowledged. The ability to predict how a ~~pacemaker~~ PACEMAKER will perform in a specific ~~patient~~ PATIENT based on testing of a device to a set of technical criteria is limited.

This particular standard does not take into consideration the specific safety aspects of EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS that are connected to a SUPPLY MAINS while simultaneously connected to the PATIENT.

This particular standard amends and supplements IEC 60601-1 (third edition, 2005): *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*, hereinafter referred to as the general standard (see 1.4).

The requirements are followed by specifications for the relevant tests.

Following the decision taken by subcommittee 62D at the meeting in Washington in 1979, a "General guidance and rationale" section giving some explanatory notes, where appropriate, about the more important requirements is included in Annex AA.

Clauses or subclauses for which there are explanatory notes in Annex AA are marked with an asterisk (*).

An inventory of the PATIENT's safety posed by EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS and a rationale for the safety requirements contained in this particular standard are given in Annex AA. It is considered that knowledge of the reasons for these requirements will not only facilitate the proper application of the standard but will, in due course, expedite any revision necessitated by changes in clinical practice or as a result of developments in technology. However, this annex does not form part of the requirements of this standard.

INTRODUCTION
(to amendment 1)

The purpose of this amendment is to address comments received during the process of harmonizing the standard in Europe, update several references to defined terms that were not printed in SMALL CAPS, and improve terminology usage.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-31: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of external cardiac pacemakers with internal power source

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

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

201.1.1 * Scope

Replacement:

This International Standard applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS powered by an INTERNAL ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCE, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT.

~~This standard applies to PATIENT CABLES as defined in 201.3. 109.~~

This standard applies to PATIENT CABLES as defined in 201.3.109, but does not apply to LEADS as defined in 201.3.106.

~~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 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 the general standard.

NOTE See also 4.2 of the general standard.

This standard does not apply to the implantable parts of ~~active implantable medical devices~~ ACTIVE IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICES covered by ISO 14708-1 This standard does not apply to EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS which can be connected directly or indirectly to a SUPPLY MAINS.

This standard does not apply to transthoracic and oesophageal pacing ME EQUIPMENT and antitachycardia ME EQUIPMENT.

201.1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this particular standard is to establish particular BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for EXTERNAL PACEMAKERS ~~AS DEFINED IN~~ as defined in 201.3. 103.

201.1.3 Collateral standards

Addition:

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1) The general standard is IEC 60601-1:2005.