

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Safety of laser products –
Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for
transmission of information**

**Sécurité des appareils à laser –
Partie 12: Sécurité des systèmes de communication optiques en espace libre
utilisés pour la transmission d'informations**



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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 31.260

ISBN 978-2-8322-6458-4

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –**Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for transmission of information**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60825-12 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2004. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) LEDs have been removed from the scope.
- b) Normative references have been changed to refer the latest edition of the standards.
- c) A description of the Condition 2 measurement and determination method for access level has been added.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
76/616/FDIS	76/617/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.

The list of all parts of the IEC 60825 series, published under the general title *Safety of laser products*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for transmission of information

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60825 provides requirements and specific guidance for the manufacture and safe use of laser products and systems used for point-to-point or point-to-multipoint free space optical data transmission in the wavelength range from 180 nm to 1 mm. This document only addresses the open beam portion of the system. If portions of the equipment or system incorporate optical fibre that extends from the confinements of the enclosure(s), the manufacturing and safety requirements in IEC 60825-2 apply to those portions only. This document does not apply to systems designed for the purposes of transmitting optical power for applications such as material processing or medical treatment. This document also does not apply to the use of systems in explosive atmospheres (see IEC 60079-0).

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) employed by free space optical communication systems (FSOCSs), used for the purpose of free space optical data transmission, do not fall into the scope of this document. This document covers lasers employed by FSOCSs used for the purpose of free space optical data transmission.

This document:

- provides information to protect people from potentially hazardous optical radiation produced by FSOCSs by specifying engineering controls and requirements, administrative controls and work practices according to the degree of the hazard; and
- specifies requirements for manufacturing, installation, service and operating organizations in order to establish procedures and provide written information so that proper precautions can be adopted.

Because of the nature of FSOCSs, also known as optical wireless or free-air information transmission systems, care is taken in their manufacture as well as their installation, operation, maintenance and service to assure the safe deployment and use of these systems. This document places the responsibility for certain product safety requirements, as well as requirements for providing appropriate information on how to use these systems safely, on the manufacturer of the system and/or transmitters. It places the responsibility for the safe deployment and use of these systems on the installer and/or operating organization. It places the responsibility for adherence to safety instructions during installation and service operations on the installation and service organizations as appropriate, and during operation and maintenance functions on the operating organization. It is recognized that the user of this document may fall into one or more of the categories of manufacturer, installer, service organization and/or operating organization as mentioned above.

This document does not apply to a laser product if classification by the manufacturer according to IEC 60825-1 shows that the emission level does not exceed the accessible emission limit (AEL) of Class 1 under all conditions of operation, maintenance, service and reasonably foreseeable failure.

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 60825-1, *Safety of laser products – Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements*

IEC 60825-2, *Safety of laser products – Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

access level

potential hazard at any accessible position associated with a free space optical communication system (FSOCS) installation

Note 1 to entry: The access level is based on the level of optical radiation which could become accessible in reasonably foreseeable circumstances, e.g. walking into an open beam path. It is closely related to the laser classification procedure in IEC 60825-1.

Note 2 to entry: Practically speaking, it takes two or more seconds to fully align an optical aid with a beam (which might occur in an unrestricted location), and this delay is incorporated into the method for determining access level.

3.2

access level 1

level for which, under reasonably foreseeable circumstances, human access to laser radiation in excess of the accessible emission limits (AEL) of Class 1 for the applicable wavelengths and emission duration will not occur

Note 1 to entry: The level of radiation is measured with the conditions for Class 1 laser products (see IEC 60825-1), but with Condition 2 and C₇ being as defined in 4.2.3 of this document (IEC 60825-12).

3.3

access level 1M

level for which, under reasonably foreseeable circumstances, human access to laser radiation in excess of the accessible emission limits (AEL) of Class 1M for the applicable wavelengths and emission duration will not occur

Note 1 to entry: The level of radiation is measured with the conditions for Class 1M laser products (see IEC 60825-1), but with Condition 2 and C₇ being as defined in 4.2.3 of this document (IEC 60825-12).

Note 2 to entry: If the applicable limit of access level 1M is larger than the limit of 3R and less than the limit of 3B, access level 1M is allocated.

3.4

access level 2

level for which, under reasonably foreseeable circumstances, human access to laser radiation in excess of the accessible emission limits of Class 2 for the applicable wavelengths and emission duration will not occur

Note 1 to entry: The level of radiation is measured with the conditions for Class 2 laser products (see IEC 60825-1), but with Condition 2 and C₇ being as defined in 4.2.3 of this document (IEC 60825-12).

3.5

access level 2M

level for which, under reasonably foreseeable circumstances, human access to laser radiation in excess of the accessible emission limits of Class 2M for the applicable wavelengths and emission duration will not occur