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GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION
PUBLICATION GROUPEE DE SÉCURITÉ

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

**Sécurité des appareils à laser –
Partie 1: Classification des matériels et exigences**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –**Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements**

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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International Standard IEC 60825-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

This third edition of IEC 60825-1 cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2007. It constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a new class, Class 1C, was introduced;
- the measurement condition 2 (“eye loupe” condition) was removed;
- classification of the emission of laser products below a certain radiance level that are intended to be used as replacement for conventional light sources can, as an option, be based on the IEC 62471 series;
- the accessible emission limits (AELs) for Class 1, 1M, 2, 2M and 3R of pulsed sources, particularly of pulsed extended sources, were updated to reflect the latest revision of the

ICNIRP guidelines on exposure limits (accepted for publication in Health Physics 105 (3): 271 – 295; 2013, see also www.icnirp.org).

This part of IEC 60825 has the status of a Group Safety Publication, in accordance with IEC Guide 104¹⁾, for aspects of laser radiation pertaining to human safety.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
76/502/FDIS	76/506/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.

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

This part of IEC 60825 is also referred to as "Part 1" in this publication.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication 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

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- replaced by a revised edition, or
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1) IEC Guide 104:2010, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

It gives guidance to IEC technical committees and to writers of specifications concerning the manner in which safety publications should be drafted.

This guide does not constitute a normative reference and reference to it is given for information only.

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements

1 Scope and object

IEC 60825-1 is applicable to safety of laser products emitting laser radiation in the wavelength range 180 nm to 1 mm.

Although lasers exist which emit at wavelengths less than 180 nm (within the vacuum ultraviolet), these are not included in the scope of the standard since the laser beam normally has to be enclosed in an evacuated enclosure, and, therefore, the potential optical radiation hazards are inherently minimal.

A laser product may consist of a single laser with or without a separate power supply or may incorporate one or more lasers in a complex optical, electrical, or mechanical system. Typically, laser products are used for demonstration of physical and optical phenomena, materials processing, data reading and storage, transmission and display of information, etc. Such systems have found use in industry, business, entertainment, research, education, medicine and consumer products.

Laser products that are sold to other manufacturers for use as components of any system for subsequent sale are not subject to IEC 60825-1, since the final product will itself be subject to this standard. Laser products that are sold by or for manufacturers of end products for use as repair parts for the end products are also not subject to IEC 60825-1. However, if the laser system within the laser product is operable when removed from the end product, the requirements of this Part 1 apply to the removable laser system.

NOTE 1 Operable equipment does not require a tool to prepare for operation.

Any laser product is exempt from all further requirements of this Part 1 if classification by the manufacturer of that product according to Clauses 4 and 5 shows that the emission level does not exceed the AEL (accessible emission limit) of Class 1 under all conditions of operation, maintenance, service and failure. Such a laser product may be referred to as an exempt laser product.

NOTE 2 The above exemption is to ensure that inherently safe laser products are exempt from Clauses 6,7,8 and 9.

In addition to the adverse effects potentially resulting from exposure to laser radiation, some laser equipment may also have other associated hazards, such as electricity, chemicals and high or low temperatures. Laser radiation may cause temporary visual impairment, such as dazzle and glare. Such effects depend on the task and ambient lighting level and are beyond the scope of this Part 1. The classification and other requirements of this standard are intended to address only the laser radiation hazards to the eyes and skin. Other hazards are not included within its scope.

This Part 1 describes the minimum requirements. Compliance with this Part 1 may not be sufficient to achieve the required level of product safety. Laser products may also be required to conform to the applicable performance and testing requirements of other applicable product safety standards.

NOTE 3 Other standards may contain additional requirements. For example, a Class 3B or Class 4 laser product may not be suitable for use as a consumer product.

Where a laser system forms a part of equipment which is subject to another IEC product safety standard, e.g. for medical equipment (IEC 60601-2-22), IT equipment (IEC 60950 series), audio and video equipment (IEC 60065), audio-video and IT equipment (IEC 62368-1), equipment for use in hazardous atmospheres (IEC 60079), or electric toys (IEC 62115), this Part 1 will apply in accordance with the provisions of IEC Guide 104²⁾ for hazards resulting from laser radiation. If no product safety standard is applicable, then IEC 61010-1 may be applied.

For ophthalmic instruments, to ensure patient safety, ISO 15004-2 should be consulted and the principles of the limits provided there should be applied for laser radiation (see also Annex C and D).

In previous editions, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) were included in the scope of IEC 60825-1, and they may be still included in other parts of the IEC 60825 series. However, with the development of lamp safety standards, optical radiation safety of LEDs in general can be more appropriately addressed by lamp safety standards. The removal of LEDs from the scope of this Part 1 does not preclude other standards from including LEDs whenever they refer to lasers. IEC 62471 may be applied to determine the risk group of an LED or product incorporating one or more LEDs. Some other (vertical) standards may require the application of the measurement, classification, engineering specifications and labelling requirements of this standard (IEC 60825-1) to LED products.

Laser products with accessible radiance below the criteria specified in 4.4, designed to function as conventional light sources, and which satisfy the requirements specified in 4.4 may alternatively be evaluated under the IEC 62471 series of standards, "Photobiological safety of lamps and lamp systems". Such a product remains within the scope of this part of IEC 60825, except that the above-described optical radiation emission need not be considered for classification.

The MPE (maximum permissible exposure) values provided in Annex A were developed for laser radiation and do not apply to collateral radiation. However, if a concern exists that accessible collateral radiation might be hazardous, the laser MPE values may be applied to conservatively evaluate this potential hazard, or the exposure limit values in IEC 62471 should be consulted.

The MPE values in Annex A are not applicable to intentional human exposure to laser radiation for the purpose of medical or cosmetic/aesthetic treatment.

NOTE 4 Informative Annexes A to G have been included for purposes of general guidance and to illustrate many typical cases. However, the annexes are not regarded as definitive or exhaustive.

The objectives of this part of IEC 60825 are the following:

- to introduce a system of classification of lasers and laser products emitting radiation in the wavelength range 180 nm to 1 mm according to their degree of optical radiation hazard in order to aid hazard evaluation and to aid the determination of user control measures;
- to establish requirements for the manufacturer to supply information so that proper precautions can be adopted;
- to ensure, through labels and instructions, adequate warning to individuals of hazards associated with accessible radiation from laser products;
- to reduce the possibility of injury by minimizing unnecessary accessible radiation and to give improved control of the laser radiation hazards through protective features.

2) IEC Guide 104:2010, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

IEC 62471 (all parts), *Photobiological safety of lamps and lamp systems*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the definitions given in IEC 60050-845 as well as the following apply.

NOTE For convenience here, the definitions have been arranged in English alphabetical order. Departures from IEC 60050-845 are intentional and are indicated. In such cases, reference is made, between brackets, to the definition of Part 845 of IEC 60050, with the mention "modified".

3.1

access panel

part of the protective housing which provides access to laser radiation when removed or displaced

3.2

accessible emission

level of radiation determined at a position and with aperture stops (when the AEL is given in units of Watts or Joules) or limiting apertures (when the AEL is given in units of $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ or $\text{J}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$) as described in Clause 5

Note 1 to entry: The accessible emission is determined where human access is considered, as specified in Definition 3.40. The accessible emission (determined during operation) is compared with the accessible emission limit (Entry 3.3) in order to determine the class of the laser product. In the body of the standard, whenever the term "emission level" is used, it is to be understood as accessible emission.

Note 2 to entry: When the beam is larger than the aperture stop, the accessible emission when given in units of watts or joules is less than the total emitted power or energy of the laser product. When the beam is smaller than the limiting aperture, the accessible emission when given in units of $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ or $\text{J}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, i.e. as irradiance or radiant exposure averaged over the limiting aperture, is smaller than the actual irradiance or radiant exposure of the beam. See also aperture stop (3.9) and limiting aperture (3.55).

3.3

accessible emission limit

AEL

maximum accessible emission permitted within a particular class

Note 1 to entry: Wherever the text refers to "emission level not exceeding the AEL" or similar wording, it is implicit that the accessible emission is determined following the measurement criteria specified in Clause 5.

3.4

administrative control

safety measures of a non-engineering type such as: key supervision; safety training of personnel; warning notices; count-down procedures; and range safety controls

Note 1 to entry: These may be specified by the manufacturer (see Clause 8).