

CONSOLIDATED VERSION

VERSION CONSOLIDÉE



**Medical electrical equipment –
Part 2-37: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance
of ultrasonic medical diagnostic and monitoring equipment**

**Appareils électromédicaux –
Partie 2-37: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances
essentielle des appareils de diagnostic et de surveillance médicaux à ultrasons**



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REDLINE VERSION

VERSION REDLINE



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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	7
INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 1	7
201.1 Scope, object and related standards.....	8
201.2 Normative references	9
201.3 Terminology Terms and definitions	10
201.4 General requirements	15
201.5 General requirements for testing ME EQUIPMENT	16
201.6 Classification of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.....	16
201.7 ME EQUIPMENT identification, marking and documents.....	17
201.8 Protection against electrical HAZARDS from ME EQUIPMENT.....	22
201.9 Protection against MECHANICAL HAZARDS of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS	22
201.10 Protection against unwanted and excessive radiation HAZARDS	22
201.11 Protection against excessive temperatures and other HAZARDS	23
201.12 Accuracy of controls and instruments and protection against hazardous outputs	27
201.13 Hazardous situations and fault conditions	29
201.14 PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRICAL MEDICAL SYSTEMS (PEMS).....	29
201.15 Construction of ME EQUIPMENT.....	29
201.16 ME SYSTEMS	29
201.17 *Electromagnetic compatibility of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.....	29
202.6 ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY	29
Annex AA (informative) Guidance and rationale for particular subclauses	32
Annex BB (informative) Guidance in classification according to CISPR 11	38
Annex CC (informative) Guidance to the MANUFACTURER on the interpretation of <i>T_I</i> and <i>M_I</i> to be used to inform the OPERATOR.....	39
Annex DD (informative) Example set-up to measure surface temperature of externally applied TRANSDUCER ASSEMBLIES	42
Annex EE (informative) Acoustic output table intended for 3rd parties	45
Bibliography.....	48
Index of defined terms	51
Figure DD.1 – Set-up of an example test object to measure the surface temperature of externally applied transducers	44
Table 201.101 – List of symbols.....	15
Table 201.102 – Distributed essential performance requirements	16
Table 201.103 – Acoustic output reporting table	20
Table 201.104 – Overview of the tests noted under 201.11.1.3	26
Table CC.1 – Relative importance of maintaining low exposure indices in various scanning situations	41

Table DD.1 – Acoustic and thermal properties of tissues & materials42
Table DD.2 – Weight % pure components43

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

**Part 2-37: Particular requirements for the basic safety
and essential performance of ultrasonic medical
diagnostic and monitoring equipment**

FOREWORD

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This Consolidated version of IEC 60601-2-37 bears the edition number 2.1. It consists of the second edition (2007-08) [documents 62B/624/CDV and 62B/657/RVC] and its amendment 1 (2015-06) [documents 62B/978/FDIS and 62B/988/RVD]. The technical content is identical to the base edition and its amendment.

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions and deletions are displayed in red, with deletions being struck through. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

International standard IEC 60601-2-37 has been prepared by IEC subcommittee 62B: Diagnostic imaging equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

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 particular 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 amendment 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

In this particular standard, safety requirements additional to those in the general standard are specified for ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT.

A general guidance and rationale for the requirements of this particular standard are given in Annex AA.

Knowledge of the reasons for these requirements will not only facilitate the proper application of this particular standard but will, in due course, expedite any revision necessitated by changes in clinical practice or as a result of developments in technology.

The approach and philosophy used in drafting this particular standard for safety of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT are consistent with those in standards of the IEC 60601-2-xx series that apply to other diagnostic modalities, such as X-ray equipment and magnetic resonance systems.

In each case, the safety standard is intended to require increasing sophistication of output display indicators and/or controls with increasing energy levels in the interrogating field of diagnosis. Thus, for all such diagnostic modalities, it is the responsibility of the OPERATOR to understand the risk of the output of the ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, and to act appropriately in order to obtain the needed diagnostic information with the minimum risk to the PATIENT.

INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 1

The second edition of IEC 60601-2-37 was published in 2007. Since that publication, the parent standard, IEC 60601-1:2005, entered maintenance, under which an amendment (IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012) and a consolidated edition 3.1 (IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012) were published. This amendment to IEC 60601-2-37:2007 addresses three issues:

- 1) technical changes proposed by National Committees as a result of 4 years of practical usage,
- 2) technical and editorial changes resulting from the amended general standard IEC 60601-1:2005 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and its collateral standards IEC 60601-1-xx, and
- 3) technical changes as a result of maintenance to normative references.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-37: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of ultrasonic medical diagnostic and monitoring equipment

The clauses and subclauses of the general standard apply except as follows:

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

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

201.1.1 *Scope

~~Addition~~ Replacement:

This International Standard applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.217, hereinafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT.

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 or ME SYSTEMS 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 this standard.

NOTE See also subclause 4.2 of this standard.

This particular standard does not cover ultrasonic therapeutic equipment. Equipment used for the imaging or diagnosis of body structures by ultrasound in conjunction with other medical procedures is covered.

201.1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this particular standard is to establish particular BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.217.

201.1.4 Particular standards

Replacement:

In the IEC 60601 series, particular standards may modify, replace or delete requirements contained in the general standard as appropriate for the particular ME EQUIPMENT under consideration, and may add other BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over the general standard.

For brevity, IEC 60601-1 is referred to in this particular standard as the general standard. Collateral standards are referred to by their document number.

The numbering of sections, clauses and subclauses of this particular standard corresponds to that of the general standard with the prefix “201” (e.g. 201.1 in this particular standard addresses the content of Clause 1 of the general standard) or applicable collateral standard with the prefix “20x” where x is the final digit(s) of the collateral standard document number (e.g. 202.6 in this particular standard addresses the content of Clause 6 of the 60601-1-2 collateral standard, 203.4 in this particular standard addresses the content of Clause 4 of the 60601-1-3 collateral standard, etc.). The changes to the text of the general standard are specified by the use of the following words:

"Replacement" means that the clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard is replaced completely by the text of this particular standard.

"Addition" means that the text of this particular standard is additional to the requirements of the general standard or applicable collateral standard.

"Amendment" means that the clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard is amended as indicated by the text of this particular standard.

Subclauses, figures or tables which are additional to those of the general standard are numbered starting from 201.101, additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc., and additional items aa), bb), etc.

Subclauses or figures which are additional to those of a collateral standard are numbered starting from 20x, where “x” is the number of the collateral standard, e.g. 202 for IEC 60601-1-2, 203 for IEC 60601-1-3, etc.

The term "this standard" is used to make reference to the general standard, any applicable collateral standards and this particular standard taken together.

Where there is no corresponding section, clause or subclause in this particular standard, the section, clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard, although possibly not relevant, applies without modification; where it is intended that any part of the general standard or applicable collateral standard, although possibly relevant, is not to be applied, a statement to that effect is given in this particular standard.

201.2 Normative references

Clause 2 of the general standard applies except as follows:

Addition:

IEC 60601-1:2005, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*
IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012¹

IEC 60601-2-18:2009, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2-18: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of endoscopic equipment*

IEC 62127-1:2007, *Ultrasonics – Hydrophones – Part 1: Measurement and characterization of medical ultrasonic fields up to 40 MHz*
IEC 62127-1:2007/AMD1:2013²

¹ There exists a consolidated edition (3.1) including IEC 60601-1:2005 and its Amendment 1 (2012).

² There exists a consolidated edition (1.1) including IEC 62127-1:2007 and its Amendment 1 (2013).

IEC 62359:2010, *Ultrasonics – Field characterization – Test methods for the determination of thermal and mechanical indices related to medical diagnostic ultrasonic fields*

201.3 Terminology Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in the general standard and in IEC 62359, as well as the following additions apply:

NOTE 1 An index of defined terms is given after the Bibliography.

NOTE 2 A list of symbols used in this particular standard is found in Table 201.101.

201.3.201

BONE THERMAL INDEX

TIB

THERMAL INDEX for applications such as foetal (second and third trimester) ~~or neonatal cephalic (through the fontanelle) applications~~, in which the ultrasound beam passes through soft tissue and ~~there is bone close to~~ a focal region **is in the immediate vicinity of bone**

Unit: None

~~NOTE – See IEC 62359 for methods of determining the BONE THERMAL INDEX.~~

[SOURCE: IEC 62359:2010, 3.17, modified – The definition no longer refers to neonatal cephalic applications, and the original notes have been deleted]

201.3.202

COMBINED-OPERATING MODE

mode of operation of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT that combines more than one DISCRETE-OPERATING MODE

201.3.203

CRANIAL-BONE THERMAL INDEX

TIC

THERMAL INDEX for applications, in which the ultrasound beam passes through bone near the beam entrance into the body, such as paediatric and adult cranial **or neonatal cephalic** applications

Unit: None

~~NOTE – See IEC 62359 for methods of determining the CRANIAL-BONE THERMAL INDEX.~~

[SOURCE: IEC 62359:2010, 3.21, modified – The definition now includes a reference to neonatal cephalic applications, and the original notes have been deleted.]

201.3.204

DEFAULT SETTING

specific state of control the ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT will enter upon power-up, new PATIENT select, or change from non-foetal to foetal applications

201.3.205

DISCRETE-OPERATING MODE

mode of operation of ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT in which the purpose of the excitation of the ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER or ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER element group is to utilise only one diagnostic methodology

201.3.206

FULL SOFTWARE CONTROL OF ACOUSTIC OUTPUT

means by which the ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT manages the acoustic output independent of direct OPERATOR control