INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

IEC 60601-2-4

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Medical electrical equipment –

Part 2-4: Particular requirements for the safety of cardiac defibrillators

Appareils électromédicaux –

Partie 2-4:
Règles particulières de sécurité
pour les défibrillateurs cardiaques

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 2-4: Particular requirements for the safety of cardiac defibrillators

FOREWORD

1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the 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, the IEC publishes International Standards. 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. The 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 60601-2-4 has been prepared by sub-committee 62D: Electro-medical equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This second edition of IEC 60601-2-4 cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1983 of which it constitutes a technical revision.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
62D/455/FDIS	62D/460/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.

Annexes AA and BB are for information only.

In this Particular Standard the following print types are used:

– requirements, compliance with which can be tested, and definitions: roman type;

– notes, explanations, advice, introductions, general statements, exceptions and references: smaller type;

– *test specifications, headings of subclauses and headings of items: italic type;*

– TERMS DEFINED IN CLAUSE 2 OF THE GENERAL STANDARD OR THIS PARTICULAR STANDARD: SMALL CAPITALS.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2007-08. At this date, the publication will be

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- withdrawn;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

The contents of the corrigendum of April 2004 have been included in this copy.

INTRODUCTION

This Particular Standard concerns the safety of CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATORS. It amends and supplements IEC 60601-1 (second edition, 1988): *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for safety*, including its amendments 1 (1991) and 2 (1995), hereinafter referred to as the General Standard.

A first edition of this Particular Standard, based on the first edition (1977) of IEC 60601-1 was published in 1983. The aim of this second edition is to bring this Particular Standard up to date with reference to the publications and documents mentioned above through minor changes to the technical content.

The requirements are followed by specifications for the relevant tests.

A rationale for the more important requirements, where appropriate, is given in Annex AA. It is considered that a 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. However this annex does not form part of the requirements of this standard.

Clauses and subclauses for which a corresponding rationale statement is given in Annex AA are marked with an asterisk * before their number in the text.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Part 2: Particular requirements for the safety of cardiac defibrillators

SECTION ONE – GENERAL

The clauses and subclauses of this section of the General Standard apply except as follows:

1 Scope and object

This clause of the General Standard applies except as follows:

*1.1 Scope

Addition:

This Particular Standard specifies requirements for the safety of CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATORS as defined in 2.1.101, hereinafter referred to as EQUIPMENT.

This Particular Standard does not apply to implantable defibrillators, remote control DEFIBRILLATORS, external transcutaneous pacemakers, or separate stand alone CARDIAC MONITORS (which are standardized by IEC 60601-2-27). Cardiac monitors which use separate ECG monitoring electrodes are not within the scope of this standard unless they are used as the sole basis for AED rhythm recognition detection or beat detection for synchronized cardioversion.

Defibrillation waveform technology is evolving rapidly. Published studies indicate that the effectiveness of waveforms varies. The choice of a particular waveform including waveshape, delivered energy, efficacy, and safety has been specifically excluded from the scope of this standard.

However, due to the critical importance of the therapeutic waveform, comments have been added to the rationale which address considerations in waveform selection.

1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this Particular Standard is to establish particular requirements for the safety of CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATORS as defined in 2.1.101.

1.3 Particular Standards

Addition:

This Particular Standard refers to IEC 60601-1 (1988): *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for safety* as amended by its amendment 1 (1991) and amendment 2 (1995).

For brevity, Part 1 is referred to in this Particular Standard either as the “General Standard” or as the “General Requirement(s)”.

The numbering of sections, clauses and subclauses of this Particular Standard corresponds with that of the General Standard. 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 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.

“Amendment” means that the clause or subclause of the General Standard is amended as indicated by the text of this Particular Standard.

Subclauses or figures which are additional to those of the General Standard are numbered starting from 101, additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc., and additional items aa), bb), etc.

The term “this Standard” is used to make reference to the General Standard 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, although possibly not relevant, applies without modification.

Where it is intended that any part of the General Standard, although possibly relevant, is not to be applied, a statement to that effect is given in this Particular Standard.

The requirements of this Particular Standard take priority over those of the General Standard.

1.5 Collateral Standards

Addition:

The following Collateral Standards apply:

IEC 60601-1-1:2000, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-1: General requirements for safety – Collateral standard: Safety requirements for medical electrical systems*

IEC 60601-1-2:2001, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-2: General requirements for safety – Collateral standard: Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements and tests*

IEC 60601-1-4:1996, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for safety – 4. Collateral Standard: Programmable electrical medical systems*