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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# IEC 60825-1

Edition 1.2

2001-08

Edition 1:1993 consolidated with amendments 1:1997 and 2:2001

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GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION

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## Safety of laser products –

### Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user's guide

*Sécurité des appareils à laser –*

*Partie 1:  
Classification des matériels, prescriptions  
et guide de l'utilisateur*

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	6
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### SECTION ONE – GENERAL

1 Scope and object.....	8
1.1 Scope.....	8
1.2 Object .....	9
2 Normative references .....	9
3 Definitions .....	10

### SECTION TWO – MANUFACTURING REQUIREMENTS

4 Engineering specifications .....	20
4.1 General remarks.....	20
4.2 Protective housing.....	20
4.3 Access panels and safety interlocks .....	20
4.4 Remote interlock connector .....	21
4.5 Key control .....	21
4.6 Laser radiation emission warning .....	21
4.7 Beam stop or attenuator .....	22
4.8 Controls .....	22
4.9 Viewing optics .....	22
4.10 Scanning safeguard.....	22
4.11 Alignment aids.....	22
4.12 "Walk-in" access .....	22
4.13 Environmental conditions .....	22
4.14 Protection against other hazards .....	23
5 Labelling .....	23
5.1 General .....	23
5.2 Class 1 .....	23
5.3 Class 2 .....	24
5.4 Class 3R .....	24
5.5 Class 3B.....	24
5.6 Class 4 .....	24
5.7 Aperture label.....	25
5.8 Radiation output and standards information.....	25
5.9 Labels for access panels .....	25
5.10 Warning for invisible laser radiation.....	26
5.11 Warning for visible laser radiation .....	26
5.12 Warning for LED radiation .....	26
6 Other informational requirements.....	27
6.1 Information for the user .....	27
6.2 Purchasing and servicing information .....	27

7	Additional requirements for specific laser products .....	28
7.1	Medical laser products .....	28
7.2	Other parts of the standard series IEC 60825 .....	28
8	Classification .....	28
8.1	Introduction .....	28
8.2	Description of laser classes .....	28
8.3	Classification responsibilities .....	29
8.4	Classification rules .....	29
9	Measurements for classification .....	32
9.1	Tests .....	32
9.2	Measurement of laser radiation .....	33
9.3	Measurement geometry .....	34

### SECTION THREE – USER'S GUIDE

10	Safety precautions .....	41
10.1	General .....	41
10.2	Use of remote interlock connector .....	41
10.3	Key control .....	41
10.4	Beam stop or attenuator .....	41
10.5	Warning signs .....	42
10.6	Beam paths .....	42
10.7	Specular reflections .....	42
10.8	Eye protection .....	42
10.9	Protective clothing .....	43
10.10	Training .....	44
10.11	Medical supervision .....	44
11	Hazards incidental to laser operation .....	44
11.1	Atmospheric contamination .....	44
11.2	Collateral radiation hazards .....	44
11.3	Electrical hazards .....	45
11.4	Cryogenic coolants .....	45
11.5	Materials processing .....	45
11.6	Other hazards .....	45
12	Procedures for hazard control .....	45
12.1	General .....	45
12.2	Hazard evaluation for lasers used outdoors .....	46
12.3	Personal protection .....	46
12.4	Laser demonstrations, displays and exhibitions .....	46
12.5	Laboratory and workshop laser installations .....	47
12.6	Outdoor and construction laser installations .....	48
13	Maximum permissible exposures .....	49
13.1	General remarks .....	49
13.2	Limiting apertures .....	50
13.3	Repetitively pulsed or modulated lasers .....	50
13.4	Measurement conditions .....	51
13.5	Extended source lasers .....	52

Annex A (informative) Examples of calculations .....	68
Annex B (informative) Biophysical considerations .....	96
Annex C (informative) Bibliography .....	105
Annex D (informative) Summary tables .....	106
Annex E (informative) High power laser considerations particularly appropriate to materials-processing laser products .....	109
Annex F (informative) Related IEC Standards .....	112
Annex G (informative) Information to be provided by manufacturers of LEDs .....	113
Annex H (informative) Overview of associated parts of IEC 60825 .....	116
Figure 1 – Correction factor $C_1$ for emission durations from $10^{-9}$ s to $10^3$ s .....	55
Figure 2 – Breakpoint $T_1$ for $\lambda = 302,5$ nm to 315 nm .....	55
Figure 3 – Correction factor $C_2$ for $\lambda = 302,5$ nm to 315 nm .....	55
Figure 4 – Breakpoint $T_2$ for source size $\alpha$ ranging from 0 mrad to more than 100 mrad .....	56
Figure 5 – Correction factor $C_3$ for $\lambda = 400$ nm to 600 nm .....	57
Figure 6 – Correction factor $C_4$ for $\lambda = 700$ nm to 1 400 nm .....	58
Figure 7 – Correction factor $C_5$ shown for N (number of pulses) between 1 and 100 000 .....	59
Figure 8 – Correction factor $C_7$ for $\lambda = 1 050$ nm to 1 400 nm .....	60
Figure 9a – MPE for direct ocular exposure to ultra-violet radiation at selected emission durations from $10^{-9}$ s to $10^3$ s .....	61
Figure 9b – MPE for direct ocular exposure to ultra-violet radiation for exposure durations from $10^{-9}$ s to $10^3$ s at selected wavelengths .....	61
Figure 10a – MPE for direct ocular exposure to protect against thermal injury ( $\lambda = 400$ nm to 700 nm) for exposure durations greater than 0,1 s for selected source sizes between 1,5 mrad and 100 mrad .....	62
Figure 10b – MPE for direct ocular exposure ( $C_6 = 1$ ) for exposure durations greater than 1 s for selected wavelengths between 700 nm and 1 050 nm .....	62
Figure 11a – MPE for ocular exposure ( $\lambda = 400$ nm to 700 nm) to a single exposure at selected angular subtenses for the source .....	63
Figure 11b – MPE for ocular exposure at selected wavelengths from 400 nm to 1 400 nm and $C_6 = 1$ .....	63
Figure 12a – AEL for Class 1 ultra-violet laser products for selected emission durations from $10^{-9}$ s to $10^3$ s .....	64
Figure 12b – AEL for Class 1 ultra-violet laser products for emission durations from $10^{-9}$ s to $10^3$ s at selected wavelengths .....	64
Figure 13 – AEL for Class 1 visible and selected infra-red laser products (case $C_6 = 1$ ) .....	65
Figure 14 – Warning label – Hazard symbol .....	66
Figure 15 – Explanatory label .....	67
Figure 16 – Measurement set-up to obtain a well-defined angle of acceptance – 16a: by imaging the apparent source onto the plane of the field stop – 16b: by placing a circular aperture or a mask (serving as field stop) close to the source .....	36
Figure A.1 – Laser diode array with two groupings .....	74
Figure B.1 – Anatomy of the eye .....	103
Figure B.2 – Diagram of laser-induced damage in biological systems .....	104

Table 1 – Accessible emission limits for Class 1 and Class 1M laser products .....	37
Table 2 – Accessible emission limits for Class 2 and Class 2M laser products .....	38
Table 3 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3R laser products .....	39
Table 4 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3B laser products .....	40
Table 5 – Additivity of effects on eye (o) and skin (s) of radiation of different spectral regions....	49
Table 6 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) at the cornea for direct exposure to laser radiation.....	53
Table 7 – Aperture diameter applicable to measuring laser irradiance and radiant exposure.....	54
Table 8 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) of skin to laser radiation .....	54
Table 9 – Times $T_i$ below which pulse groups are summed up .....	32
Table 10 – Diameters of the measurement apertures and measurement distances.....	35
Table B.1 – Summary of pathological effects associated with excessive exposure to light.....	98
Table B.2 – Explanation of measurement apertures applied to the MPEs .....	102
Table D.1 – Summary of the physical quantities used in this part 1 .....	106
Table D.2 – Summary of manufacturer's requirements .....	107
Table D.3 – Summary of user precautions.....	108
Table H.1 – Overview of additional data in associated parts of IEC 60825 .....	115

Withdrawn

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

### Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user's guide

#### 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.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested National Committees.
- 3) The documents produced have the form of recommendations for international use and are published in the form of standards, technical specifications, technical reports or guides and they are accepted by the National Committees in that sense.
- 4) In order to promote international unification, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC International Standards transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional standards. Any divergence between the IEC Standard and the corresponding national or regional standard shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) The IEC provides no marking procedure to indicate its approval and cannot be rendered responsible for any equipment declared to be in conformity with one of its standards.
- 6) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. The IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 60825-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Laser equipment.

This consolidated version of IEC 60825-1 is based on the first edition (1993), its amendment 1 (1997) [documents 76/157/FDIS and 76/165/RVD] and amendment 2 (2001) [documents 76/220/FDIS and 76/223/RVD].

It bears the edition number 1.2.

A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendments 1 and 2.

This part of IEC 60825 has the status of a Group Safety Publication, in accordance with IEC Guide 104\*, for aspects of laser radiation pertaining to human safety.

It is also referred to as "part 1" in this publication.

Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are given for information only.

\* IEC Guide 104:1984, *Guide to the drafting of safety standards, and the role of Committees with safety pilot functions and safety group functions.*

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 but reference to it is given for information only.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2003. At this date, the publication will be

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

The contents of the corrigendum of June 2002 have been included in this copy.

Withdrawn

## SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

### Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user's guide

#### Section One – General

##### 1 Scope and object

###### 1.1 Scope

IEC 60825-1 is applicable to safety of laser products. For convenience it is divided into three separate sections: Section One (General) and the annexes; Section Two (Manufacturing requirements); and Section Three (User's guide\* ).

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 and medicine. However, laser products which 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.

Throughout this part 1 light emitting diodes (LED) are included whenever the word "laser" is used. See also annex G which describes information which should be provided by manufacturers of LEDs.

Any laser product or LED product is exempt from all further requirements of this part 1 if

- classification by the manufacturer according to clauses 3, 8 and 9 shows that the emission level does not exceed the AEL of Class 1 under all conditions of operation, maintenance, service and failure, and
- it does not contain an embedded laser or embedded LED.

In addition to the hazards resulting from laser radiation, laser equipment may also give rise to other hazards such as fire and electric shock.

This part 1 describes the minimum requirements.

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), audio and video equipment (IEC 60065), equipment for use in hazardous atmospheres), this part 1 will apply in accordance with the provisions of IEC Guide 104\*\*, for hazards resulting from laser radiation.

However, if the laser system is operable when removed from the equipment, all the requirements of this part 1 will apply to the removed unit.

If no product safety standard is applicable, then IEC 61010-1 shall apply.

\* Some countries have requirements which differ from Section Three of this part 1. Therefore, contact the appropriate national agency for these requirements.

\*\* IEC Guide 104:1984, *Guide to the drafting of safety standards, and the role of Committees with safety pilot functions and safety group functions.*

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 but reference to it is given for information only.

The MPE (maximum permissible exposure) values of this part 1 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 risk.

The MPE values shall not be applicable to patient exposure to laser radiation for the purpose of medical treatment.

NOTE Annexes A to D have been included for purposes of general guidance and to illustrate many typical cases. However, the annexes must not be regarded as definitive or exhaustive and reference should always be made to the appropriate clause(s) in Sections One to Three.

## 1.2 Object

**1.2.1** To protect persons from laser radiation in the wavelength range 180 nm to 1 mm\* by indicating safe working levels of laser radiation and by introducing a system of classification of lasers and laser products according to their degree of hazard.

**1.2.2** To lay down requirements for both user and manufacturer to establish procedures and supply information so that proper precautions can be adopted.

**1.2.3** To ensure adequate warning to individuals of hazards associated with accessible radiation from laser products through signs, labels and instructions.

**1.2.4** To reduce the possibility of injury by minimizing unnecessary accessible radiation and to give improved control of the laser radiation hazards through protective features and provide safe usage of laser products by specifying user control measures.

**1.2.5** To protect persons against other hazards resulting from the operation and use of laser products.

## 2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of IEC 60825. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of IEC 60825 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

IEC 60027-1:1992, *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology – Part 1: General*  
Amendment 1, 1997

IEC 60050(845):1987, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 845: Lighting*

IEC 60601-2-22:1995, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2: Particular requirements for the safety of diagnostic and therapeutic laser equipment*

IEC 60825-2:2000, *Safety of laser products – Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems*

IEC 61010-1:2001, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61040:1990, *Power and energy measuring detectors, instruments and equipment for laser radiation*

ISO 1000:1992, *SI units and recommendations for the use of their multiples and of certain other units*

\* In this part 1, the wavelength range  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_2$  means  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2$  (e.g. 180 nm to 1 mm means  $180 \text{ nm} \leq \lambda < 1 \text{ mm}$ ).