



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



**Medical electrical equipment –
Part 4-2: Guidance and interpretation – Electromagnetic immunity: performance
of medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 4-2: Guidance and interpretation – Electromagnetic immunity: performance of medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems

FOREWORD

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IEC TS 60601-4-2 has been prepared by subcommittee 62A: Common aspects of medical equipment, software, and systems, of IEC technical committee 62: Medical equipment, software, and systems. It is a Technical Specification.

This first edition cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC TR 60601-4-2 published in 2016. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to IEC TR 60601-4-2:2016:

- a) aligned with IEC 60601-1-2:2014 and IEC 60601-1-2:2014/AMD1:2020,
- b) updated references,

- c) changed conducted disturbance cable length exclusion (Table 6) from 3 m to 1 m and added a citation of IEC 61000-4-6:2013, Annex B.

The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
62A/1532/DTS	62A/1560/RVDTS

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Specification is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

In this document, the following print types are used:

- recommendations and definitions: roman type.
- *test instructions: 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 THIS DOCUMENT OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this document, the term

- "clause" means one of the numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 1 includes 1.1, 1.2, etc.);
- "subclause" means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.1 are all subclauses of Clause 1).

References to clauses within this document are preceded by the term "Clause" followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this document are by number only.

In this document, 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 document conform to usage described in Clause 7 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this document, the auxiliary verb:

- "shall" means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this document; however, we chose to use it in this document only as described in 0.3;
- "should" means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this document;
- "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 A.

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 this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

0.1 * General

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS are used in the practice of medicine because they provide functions that are associated with the INTENDED USE. If MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or a MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM does not provide these functions because of a lack of IMMUNITY to EM DISTURBANCES, that are expected to occur in the environment(s) of INTENDED USE, this can interfere with the practice of medicine. This document provides guidance for IMMUNITY of functions of INTENDED USE that are not related to BASIC SAFETY or ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE.

Examples of functions that might not be BASIC SAFETY or ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE but that might be INTENDED USE include the following:

- the ability to print an ultrasound image remotely;
- the ability of a scale to accurately measure PATIENT weight;
- accuracy of X-RAY TUBE VOLTAGE in X-ray equipment for radiography and radioscopy, e.g. the error is less than 5 %.

See Annex A for more information.

In general, the IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS in IEC 60601-1-2 are based on reasonably foreseeable maximum levels of EM DISTURBANCES. In this document, IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS for performance are based on typical levels of EM DISTURBANCES. Rationale concerning test methodology can be found in Annex A of this document and in Annex A of IEC 60601-1-2:2014 and IEC 60601-1-2:2014/AMD1:2020.

NOTE In general, typical IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS are equal to or lower than reasonably foreseeable maximum levels.

0.2 Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide a consistent method for evaluating the ability of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or a MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM to perform without degradation of performance in the presence of typical EM DISTURBANCES.

0.3 How to use this document

This document can be used in conjunction with IEC 60601-1-2 and testing for conformity to both documents can be done at the same time. This allows IMMUNITY testing of BASIC SAFETY, ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE and performance of the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM during one test, concurrently or sequentially. The main difference is the use of performance criteria instead of pass/fail criteria, and differences can also include modes and configurations. For BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE, the pass/fail criteria are determined as specified by IEC 60601-1-2. For performance, the criteria are determined by the specifications, instructions and information provided by the MANUFACTURER.

This document uses "recommend" and "should" in place of "shall" in most cases. "Shall" is used where an action is required by other standards or something needs to be done in a prescribed way in order to be effective. Also, this document has "normative" references. They are "normative" because if you choose to follow the recommendations of this document, they are indispensable for that use. An example of this would be testing for radiated RF IMMUNITY. The test methods of IEC 61000-4-3 would be indispensable for this testing.

0.4 IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS

The IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS specified in this document are typical for the locations of INTENDED USE of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS. However, Annex C provides a method for modifying the specified typical IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS for performance if necessary or for particular environments (e.g. SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTS) for which this document does not specify IMMUNITY TEST LEVELS.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 4-2: Guidance and interpretation – Electromagnetic immunity: performance of medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems

1 Scope

This document applies to the performance of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or a MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM in the presence of EM DISTURBANCES. Hereafter, MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or a MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM are referred to as ME EQUIPMENT or an ME SYSTEM, respectively.

The object of this document is to provide guidance on the assessment of the performance of ME EQUIPMENT or an ME SYSTEM in the presence of EM DISTURBANCES.

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.

NOTE The way in which these referenced documents are cited in normative requirements determines the extent (in whole or in part) to which they apply.

IEC 60417:2002, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*, available from: <http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>

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

IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012

IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020

IEC 60601-1-2:2014, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: EM disturbances – Requirements and tests*

IEC 60601-1-2:2014/AMD1:2020

IEC 60601-1-8:2006, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-8: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: General requirements tests and guidance for alarm systems in medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems*

IEC 60601-1-8:2006/AMD1:2012

IEC 60601-1-8:2006/AMD2:2020

IEC 60601-1-11:2015, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-11: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: Requirements for medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems used in the home healthcare environment*

IEC 60601-1-11:2015/AMD1:2020

IEC 60601-1-12:2014, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-12: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: Requirements for medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems intended for use in the emergency medical services environment*

IEC 60601-1-12:2014/AMD1:2020

IEC 61000-4-2:2008, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-2: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrostatic discharge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-3:2006¹, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-3: Testing and measurement techniques – Radiated, radio-frequency, electromagnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-3:2006/AMD1:2007

IEC 61000-4-3:2006/AMD2:2010

IEC 61000-4-4:2012, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-4: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrical fast transient/burst immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-5:2014, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-5: Testing and measurement techniques – Surge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-5:2014/AMD1:2017

IEC 61000-4-6:2013², *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-6: Testing and measurement techniques – Immunity to conducted disturbances, induced by radio-frequency fields*

IEC 61000-4-8:2009, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-8: Testing and measurement techniques – Power frequency magnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-11:2004³, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-11: Testing and measurement techniques – Voltage dips, short interruptions and voltage variations immunity tests*

IEC 61000-4-11:2004/AMD1:2017

CISPR 16-1-2:2014, *Specification for radio disturbance and immunity measuring apparatus and methods – Part 1-2: Radio disturbance and immunity measuring apparatus – Coupling devices for conducted disturbance measurements*

CISPR 16-1-2:2014/AMD1:2017

ISO 7637-2:2011, *Road vehicles – Electrical disturbances from conduction and coupling – Part 2: Electrical transient conduction along supply lines only*

¹ This publication was withdrawn.

² This publication was withdrawn and replaced with IEC 61000-4-6:2023.

³ This publication was withdrawn.