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Medical device software –
Part 3: Process reference model of medical device software life cycle processes (IEC 62304)

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The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC TR 80002-3, which is a technical report, has been prepared by a Joint Working Group of subcommittee 62A: Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice, of IEC technical committee 62*:* Electrical equipment in medical practice, and ISO technical committee 210: Quality management and corresponding general aspects for medical devices. It is published as a double logo standard.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
62A/918/DTR	62A/928/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table. In ISO, the technical report has been approved by 14 P members out of 16 having cast a vote.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 and in accordance with ISO/IEC 24774, *Systems and software engineering – Life cycle management – Guidelines for process description*.

A list of all parts of the IEC 80002 series, published under the general title *Medical device software,* can be found on the IEC website.

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

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- withdrawn,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

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

INTRODUCTION

0.1 Background

Software is often an integral part of medical device technology. Establishing the safety and effectiveness of a medical device containing software requires well designed software that fulfils its purpose without causing any unacceptable risks. Following an internationally approved set of software development practices provides one way of achieving this.

This technical report (TR) provides a framework of life cycle processes supporting the safe design and maintenance of medical device software called the process reference model (PRM). The process descriptions in this PRM are fully compliant with the requirements of ISO/IEC 24774:2010, *Systems and software engineering – Life cycle management – Guidelines for process description*.

This TR presents the PRM for medical device software development as a result of integrating requirements from IEC 62304:2006 and from the international standard of software life-cycle processes ISO/IEC 12207:2008.

This TR is aimed at medical device software developers who can use it for realizing the set of requirements they have to achieve to be compliant with IEC 62304:2006 in the scope of the safety class of the medical device software they are developing. Each process outcome with a corresponding safety class is a requirement in IEC 62304:2006. The process outcomes without a corresponding safety class are based only on ISO/IEC 12207:2008. These process outcomes provide additions that are beneficial when achieving the purpose of the process and could be regarded as a valuable contribution to safety-critical software development. The PRM may also be used to provide a common basis for different models and methods for process assessment, ensuring that the results of the assessments can be reported in a common context. Assessors who are concerned with examining medical device software processes can use the PRM as an agreed list of IEC 62304 process outcomes to inform audit check listing and reporting.

The process descriptions in the PRM incorporate a statement of the purpose of the process which describes at a high level the overall objectives of performing the process, together with the set of outcomes which demonstrate the successful achievement of the process purpose. These process outcomes are the software life cycle process requirements – the statements of the overall goal of performing the process. In any process description, the set of process outcomes are necessary and sufficient to achieve the purpose of the process.

A manufacturer of a medical device software system is required to assign a software safety class (A, B, or C) according to the possible effects on the patient, operator, or other people resulting from a hazard to which the software system contributes, described in greater detail in IEC 62304:2006. The software safety classes are assigned based on severity as follows:

– Class A: no injury or damage to health is possible;

– Class B: non-serious injury is possible;

– Class C: death or serious injury is possible.

0.2 Organization of this technical report

This TR is organized to follow the structure of IEC 62304. Annex A describes the development of the TR in greater detail. Annex B provides a mapping from IEC 62304 clauses together with their safety classes to the corresponding ISO/IEC 12207:2008 processes. The life cycle processes of the PRM for medical device software development are described in terms of process name, process purpose and the corresponding process outcomes. The outcomes marked with an “[ISO/IEC 12207]” at the end of the outcome statement are derived from ISO/IEC 12207:2008, with no directly corresponding requirement in IEC 62304. Users of this PRM who wish to examine only the IEC 62304 requirements can elect to disregard the outcomes that are based only on ISO/IEC 12207:2008.

MEDICAL DEVICE SOFTWARE –

Part 3: Process reference model of medical device software life cycle processes (IEC 62304)

1 Scope

This part of IEC 80002, which is a technical report (TR), provides the description of software life cycle processes for medical devices. The medical device software life cycle processes are derived from IEC 62304:2006, with corresponding safety classes. They have been aligned with the software development life cycle processes of ISO/IEC 12207:2008 and are presented herein in full compliance with ISO/IEC 24774:2010. The content of these three standards provides the foundation of this TR.

This TR does not address:

– areas already covered by existing related standards, e.g. the international standards that relate to the four standards used to build this TR (see Bibliography);

– FDA guidance documents; or

– software development tools.

This TR describes the PRM for medical device software development and is limited in scope to the life cycle processes described in IEC 62304:2006. The process names correspond to those of IEC 62304:2006. The mappings provided in Annex B are essential for the alignment between IEC 62304:2006 (which is based on ISO/IEC 12207:1995) and ISO/IEC 12207:2008, developed to address the detailed normative relationship between the two standards.

This technical report is not intended to be used as the basis of regulatory inspection or certification assessment activities.

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 62304:2006, *Medical device software – Software life cycle processes*

ISO/IEC 12207:2008, *Systems and software engineering – Software life cycle processes*