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**Medical electrical equipment —**  
**Part 2-12:**  
**Particular requirements for basic**  
**safety and essential performance of**  
**critical care ventilators**

*Appareils électromédicaux —*

*Partie 2-12: Exigences particulières relatives à la sécurité de base  
et aux performances essentielles des ventilateurs pulmonaires pour  
utilisation en soins intensifs*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 121, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Respiratory devices and related equipment used for patient care* and Technical Committee IEC/TC 62, *Electrical equipment in medical practice*, Subcommittee SC 62D, *Electric equipment*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 215, *Respiratory and anaesthetic equipment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 80601-2-12:2011), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 80601-2-12:2011/Cor 1:2011. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- alignment with IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012, IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012, IEC 60601-1-2:2014 and IEC 60601-1-6:2010+AMD1:2013.
- determination of probability of component failure during the *expected service life*;
- delivered gas maximum enthalpy requirement;
- new test protocol for *internal electrical power source* operation time;
- performance test and disclosure requirements for other *inflation-types*;
- additional protections against hazardous outputs;
- clarification of performance requirements during abnormal testing;
- consideration of input gas of Oxygen 93 %; and
- harmonization of terminology with ISO 19223, where appropriate.

A list of all parts in the ISO 80601 series and the IEC 80601 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

In this document, the following print types are used:

- Requirements and definitions: roman type;
- *Instructions, test specifications and terms defined in Clause 3 of the general standard, in this document or as noted: 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.

In referring to the structure of this document, the term

- “clause” means one of the four numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 201 includes subclauses 201.7, 201.8, etc.);
- “subclause” means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 201.7, 201.8 and 201.12 are all subclauses of Clause 201).

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.

For the purposes of this document, the auxiliary verb

- “shall” means that conformance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for conformance with this document,
- “should” means that conformance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for conformance with this document;
- “may” is used to describe permission (e.g. a permissible way to achieve conformance with a requirement or test),
- “can” is used to describe a possibility or capability, and
- “must” is used to express an external constraint.

Annex C contains a guide to the marking and labelling requirements in this document.

Annex D contains a summary of the symbols referenced in this document.

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.

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# Medical electrical equipment — Part 2-12: Particular requirements for basic safety and essential performance of critical care ventilators

## 201.1 Scope, object and related standards

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

NOTE The general standard is IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012.

### 201.1.1 \* Scope

*Replacement:*

This document applies to the *basic safety* and *essential performance* of a *ventilator* in combination with its *accessories*, hereafter referred to as *ME equipment*:

- intended for use in an environment that provides specialized care for *patients* whose conditions can be life-threatening and who can require comprehensive care and constant monitoring in a *professional healthcare facility*;

NOTE 1 For the purposes of this document, such an environment is referred to as a critical care environment. *Ventilators* for this environment are considered life-sustaining.

NOTE 2 For the purposes of this document, such a *ventilator* can provide transport within a *professional healthcare facility* (i.e. be a *transit-operable ventilator*).

NOTE 3 A critical care *ventilator* intended for use in transport within a *professional healthcare facility* is not considered as an *emergency medical services environment ventilator*.

- intended to be operated by a *healthcare professional operator*; and
- intended for those *patients* who need differing levels of support from artificial ventilation including for *ventilator-dependent patients*.

A critical care *ventilator* is not considered to utilize a *physiologic closed-loop-control system* unless it uses a physiological *patient* variable to adjust the ventilation therapy settings.

This document is also applicable to those *accessories* intended by their *manufacturer* to be connected to a *ventilator breathing system*, or to a *ventilator*, where the characteristics of those *accessories* can affect the *basic safety* or *essential performance* of the *ventilator*.

NOTE 4 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 document are not covered by specific requirements in this document except in IEC 60601-1:2005, 7.2.13 and 8.4.1.

NOTE 5 Additional information can be found in IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012, 4.2.

This document is not applicable to *ME equipment* or an *ME system* operating in a *ventilator-operational mode* solely intended for *patients* who are not dependent on artificial ventilation.

NOTE 6 A critical care *ventilator*, when operating in such a *ventilator-operational mode*, is not considered life-sustaining.

This document is not applicable to *ME equipment* that is intended solely to augment the ventilation of spontaneously breathing *patients* within a *professional healthcare facility*.

This document does not specify the requirements for:

- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for anaesthetic applications, which are given in ISO 80601-2-13<sup>[2]</sup>;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for the *emergency medical services environment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-84<sup>[3]</sup>, the future replacement for ISO 10651-3<sup>[4]</sup>;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for *ventilator-dependent patients* in the *home healthcare environment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-72:2015<sup>[5]</sup>;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for home-care ventilatory support devices, which are given in ISO 80601-2-79:2018<sup>[6]</sup> and ISO 80601-2-80:2018<sup>[7]</sup><sup>1</sup>;
- obstructive sleep apnoea therapy *ME equipment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-70<sup>[9]</sup>;
- *continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) ME equipment*;
- high-frequency jet ventilators (HFJVs) and high-frequency oscillatory ventilators (HFOVs), which are given in ISO 80601-2-87<sup>[63]</sup>;

NOTE 7 A critical care *ventilator* can incorporate high-frequency jet or high-frequency oscillatory *ventilator-operational modes*.

- oxygen therapy constant flow *ME equipment*; and
- cuirass or “iron-lung” ventilation equipment.

### 201.1.2 Object

*Replacement:*

The object of this document is to establish *basic safety* and *essential performance* requirements for a *ventilator* and its *accessories*.

<sup>1</sup> ISO 80601-2-79 and ISO 80601-2-80 replace ISO 10651-6, which has been withdrawn.

*Accessories* are included because the combination of the *ventilator* and the *accessories* needs to be adequately safe. *Accessories* can have a significant impact on the *basic safety* or *essential performance* of a *ventilator*.

NOTE 1 This document has been prepared to address the relevant *essential principles of safety and performance* of ISO 16142-1:2016 as indicated in Annex CC.

NOTE 2 This document has been prepared to address the relevant general safety and performance requirements of European regulation (EU) 2017/745 as indicated in Annex DD.

### 201.1.3 Collateral standards

*Amendment (add after existing text):*

This document refers to those applicable collateral standards that are listed in Clause 2 of the general standard and in 201.2 of this document.

IEC 60601-1-2, IEC 60601-1-6 and IEC 60601-1-8 apply as modified in Clauses 202, 206 and 208 respectively. IEC 60601-1-3<sup>[12]</sup>, IEC 60601-1-9<sup>[13]</sup>, IEC 60601-1-11 and IEC 60601-1-12 do not apply. All other published collateral standards in the IEC 60601-1 series apply as published.

### 201.1.4 Particular standards

*Replacement:*

In the IEC 60601 series, particular standards may modify, replace or delete requirements contained in the general standard, including the collateral standards, as appropriate for the particular *ME equipment* under consideration, and may add other *basic safety* or *essential performance* requirements.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over IEC 60601-1:2005 or the collateral standards.

For brevity, IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012 is referred to in this particular document as the general standard. Collateral standards are referred to by their document number.

The numbering of clauses and subclauses of this document corresponds to those of the general standard with the prefix "201" (e.g. 201.1 in this document addresses the content of Clause 1 of the general standard) or applicable collateral standard with the prefix "2xx" where xx is the final digits of the collateral standard document number (e.g. 202.4 in this document addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-2 collateral standard, 208.4 in this document addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-8 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 IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012 or the applicable collateral standard is replaced completely by the text of this document.

"Addition" means that the text of this document is additional to the requirements of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012 or the applicable collateral standard.

"Amendment" means that the clause or subclause of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012 or the applicable collateral standard is amended as indicated by the text of this document.

Subclauses, figures or tables that are additional to those of the general standard are numbered starting from 201.101. However, due to the fact that definitions in the general standard are numbered 3.1 through 3.147, additional definitions in this document are numbered beginning from 201.3.201. Additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc., and additional items aa), bb), etc.

Subclauses or figures that 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<sup>[12]</sup>, etc.

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

Where there is no corresponding clause or subclause in this document, the clause or subclause of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012 or the applicable collateral standard, although possibly not relevant, applies without modification; where it is intended that any part of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012 or the applicable collateral standard, although possibly relevant, is not to be applied, a statement to that effect is given in this particular document.

## 201.2 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.

Clause 2 of the general standard applies, except as follows:

*Replacement:*

ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment — Registered symbols*

ISO 7010:2019, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Registered safety signs*

ISO 15223-1:2016, *Medical devices — Symbols to be used with medical device labels, labelling and information to be supplied — Part 1: General requirements*

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