

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

IEC 60825-12

First edition
2004-02

Safety of laser products –

Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for transmission of information

© IEC 2004 — Copyright - all rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from the publisher.

International Electrotechnical Commission, 3, rue de Varembé, PO Box 131, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 919 02 11 Telefax: +41 22 919 03 00 E-mail: inmail@iec.ch Web: www.iec.ch



Commission Electrotechnique Internationale
International Electrotechnical Commission
Международная Электротехническая Комиссия

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
1 Scope.....	5
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Requirements	9
4.1 General remarks.....	9
4.2 Access level and classification requirements by location type.....	11
4.3 Classification.....	17
4.4 Determination of access level.....	19
4.5 Installation protection systems (IPS)	19
4.6 Specular reflections.....	19
4.7 Organisational requirements.....	19
Annex A (informative) Examples of applications and calculations.....	23
Annex B (informative) Methods of hazard/safety analysis.....	30
Annex C (informative) Guidance for installing, servicing and operating organisations.....	31
Bibliography.....	33
Figure 1 – Commercial structures	11
Figure 2 – Residential areas	11
Figure 3 – Examples of external location types	12
Figure 4 – Class 1M or 2M transmitter near edge of unrestricted rooftop.....	13
Figure 5 – Class 1M transmitter in unrestricted location	14
Figure 6 – Class 3R transmitter in restricted location	16
Table 1 – Restrictions for product classes and access levels	10
Table 2 – Requirements for warning signs	22

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for transmission of information

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of 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, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). 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. 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 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 IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC provides no marking procedure to indicate its approval and cannot be rendered responsible for any equipment declared to be in conformity with an IEC Publication.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 60825-12 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
76/281/FDIS	76/285/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.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

IEC consists of the following parts, under the general title: *Safety of laser products*:

- Part 1: Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user's guide
- Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems
- Part 3: Guidance for laser displays and shows
- Part 4: Laser guards
- Part 5: Manufacturer's checklist for IEC 60825-1
- Part 6: Safety of products with optical sources, exclusively used for visible information transmission to the human eye
- Part 7: Safety of products emitting infrared optical radiation, exclusively used for wireless 'free air' data transmission and surveillance
- Part 8: Guidelines for the safe use of medical laser equipment
- Part 9: Compilation of maximum permissible exposure to incoherent optical radiation
- Part 10: Application guidelines and explanatory notes to IEC 60825-1
- Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for transmission of information

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2008. At this date, the publication will be

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

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 12: Safety of free space optical communication systems used for transmission of information

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60825 provides requirements and specific guidance for the manufacture and safe use of laser products and systems used for point-to-point or point-to-multipoint free space optical data transmission. This standard only addresses the open beam portion of the system. If portions of the equipment or system incorporate optical fibre that extends from the confinements of the enclosure(s), the manufacturing and safety requirements under IEC 60825-1 apply to those portions only. This standard does not apply to systems designed for purposes of transmitting optical power for applications such as material processing or medical treatment. This standard also does not apply to the use of systems in explosive atmospheres.

Throughout this part of IEC 60825, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are included whenever the word “laser” is used.

The objective of this part of IEC 60825 is to:

- provide information to protect people from potentially hazardous optical radiation produced by free space optical communication systems (FSOCS) by specifying engineering controls and requirements, administrative controls and work practices according to the degree of the hazard;
- specify requirements for manufacturing, installation, service and operating organisations in order to establish procedures and provide written information so that proper precautions can be adopted.

Because of the nature of FSOCS, also known as optical wireless or free-air information transmission systems, care must be taken in their manufacture as well as their installation, operation, maintenance and service to assure the safe deployment and use of these systems. This standard places the responsibility for certain product safety requirements, as well as requirements for providing appropriate information on how to use these systems safely, on the manufacturer of the system and/or transmitters. It places the responsibility for the safe deployment and use of these systems on the installer and/or operating organisation. It places the responsibility for adherence to safety instructions during installation and service operations on the installation and service organisations as appropriate, and during operation and maintenance functions on the operating organisation. It is recognised that the user of this standard may fall into one or more of the categories of manufacturer, installer, service organisation and/or operating organisation as mentioned above.

Any laser product is exempt from all further requirements of this part of IEC 60825 if

- classification by the manufacturer according to IEC 60825-1 shows that the emission level does not exceed the accessible emission limit (AEL) of Class 1 under all conditions of operation, maintenance, service and failure, and
- it does not contain an embedded laser product.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

IEC 60825-1:1993, *Safety of laser products – Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user's guide*¹

Amendment 1 (1997)

Amendment 2 (2001)

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

¹) A consolidated edition (1.2) exists comprising IEC 60825-1 (1993) and its Amendments 1 (1997) and 2 (2001).