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CONSOLIDATED VERSION

Medical electrical equipment -
Part 2-4: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of cardiac defibrillators

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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Medical electrical equipment - Part 2-4: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of cardiac defibrillators

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.
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This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendments has been prepared for user convenience.

IEC 60601-2-4 edition 3.2 contains the third edition (2010-12) [documents 62D/857/FDIS and 62D/878/RVD], its amendment 1 (2018-02) [documents 62D/1549/FDIS and 62D/1555/RVD] and its amendment 2 (2026-09) [documents 62D/2317/FDIS and 62D/2327/RVD].

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendments 1 and 2. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.

International standard IEC 60601-2-4 has been prepared by IEC subcommittee 62D: Electromedical equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This third edition constitutes a technical revision, revised to structurally align it with IEC 60601-1:2005 and to implement the decision of IEC SC 62A that the clause numbering structure of particular standards written to IEC 60601-1:2005 would adhere to the form specified in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2:2004. The aim of this third edition is to bring this particular standard up to date with reference to the third edition of the general standard through reformatting and technical changes.

The principle technical changes are as follows:

- 201.8.8.3, test 4: added additional test options;
- Figure 201.105: provided example of stainless steel plates. Added note for 10 Hz generator or shockable rhythm generator;
- Figure 201.101: Changed orientation of the lower diode at the oscilloscope connection;
- 202.6.1, .2, .4: "Additions" and "Replacements" corrected to be as originally intended;
- 201.101.1: Clarified preconditioning of a non-rechargeable battery;
- 201.3.207: Clarified definition of DUMMY COMPONENT;
- 201.15.4.101: In paragraph b), added reduced flex requirements for sterilizable internal paddles with specified limit on sterilization cycles;
- 201.15.4.3.103: Added an option for devices having non-changeable pre-programmed energy-setting sequences;
- 201.102.3.1, 2: Changed from specified defibrillation cycles to use of pre-programmed defibrillation sequence;
- 202.6.2.2.1: Changed ESD discharge sequence to match IEC 60601-1-2, third edition.

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

In this standard, the following print types are used:

– Requirements and definitions: roman type.
– *Test specifications: 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 THE GENERAL STANDARD, IN THIS PARTICULAR STANDARD OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this standard, the term

– “clause” means one of the seventeen numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 7 includes subclauses 7.1, 7.2, etc.);
– “subclause” means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 7.1, 7.2 and 7.2.1 are all subclauses of Clause 7).

References to clauses within this standard are preceded by the term “Clause” followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this particular standard are by number only.

In this standard, 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 standard conform to usage described in Annex H of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this standard, the auxiliary verb:

– “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this standard;
– “should” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this standard;
– “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 AA.

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 and its amendments 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.

INTRODUCTION to Amendment 2

Amendment 2 to the International standard IEC 60601-2-4 has been prepared by IEC subcommittee 62D: Particular medical equipment, software, and systems, of IEC technical committee 62: Medical equipment, software, and systems in medical practice. Amendment 2 changes is to align to IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020 and IEC 60601-1-2:2014 and IEC 60601-1-2:2014/AMD1:2020.

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

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

201.1.1 * Scope

Replacement:

This International Standard applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATORS, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT.

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 standard are not covered by specific requirements in this standard except in 7.2.13 and 8.4.1 of the general standard.

NOTE See also 4.2 of the general standard.

This particular standard does not apply to implantable DEFIBRILLATORS, remote control DEFIBRILLATORS~~, external transcutaneous pacemakers~~, or separate stand-alone cardiac monitors (which are standardized by IEC 60601-2-27:2011 [2][2]). Cardiac monitors which use separate ECG monitoring electrodes are not within the scope of this standard unless they are used as the sole basis for AED rhythm recognition detection or beat detection for synchronized cardioversion. DEFIBRILLATOR electrodes as described in 201.108 can also be used for ECG monitoring; however, due to the larger electrode area, the requirements of IEC 60601-2-27 are not applicable for DEFIBRILLATOR ELECTRODES.

Defibrillation waveform technology is evolving rapidly. Published studies indicate that the effectiveness of waveforms varies. The choice of a particular waveform including waveshape, delivered energy, efficacy, and safety has been specifically excluded from the scope of this standard.

However, due to the critical importance of the therapeutic waveform, comments have been added to the rationale which addresses considerations in waveform selection.

201.1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this particular standard is to establish particular BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for cardiac defibrillators as defined in 201.3.202.

201.1.3 Collateral standards

Addition:

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

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1 The general standard is IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*.

2 Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

IEC 60601-1-2 applies as modified in Clause 202. 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 and collateral standards as appropriate for the particular ME EQUIPMENT under consideration, and may add other BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over the general standard.

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

The numbering of clauses and subclauses of this particular standard corresponds to that of the general standard with the prefix “201” (e.g. 201.1 in this standard addresses the content of Clause 1 of the general standard) or applicable collateral standard with the prefix “20x” where x is the final digit(s) of the collateral standard document number (e.g. 202.4 in this particular standard addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-2 collateral standard, 203.4 in this particular standard addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-3 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 the general standard or applicable collateral standard is replaced completely by the text of this particular standard.

"Addition" means that the text of this particular standard is additional to the requirements of the general standard or applicable collateral standard.

"Amendment" means that the clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard is amended as indicated by the text of this particular standard.

Subclauses, figures or tables which 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 3.139, additional definitions in this standard are numbered beginning from 201.3.201. Additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc., and additional items aa), bb), etc.

Subclauses, figures or tables which 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, etc.

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

Where there is no corresponding clause or subclause in this particular standard, the clause or subclause of the general standard or applicable collateral standard, although possibly not relevant, applies without modification; where it is intended that any part of the general standard or applicable collateral standard, although possibly relevant, is not to be applied, a statement to that effect is given in this particular standard.

201.2 Normative references

NOTE Informative references are listed in the bibliography beginning on page 83.

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

Amendment:

IEC 60601-1-2:~~2007~~2014, *Medical electrical equipment - Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance - Collateral standard: Electromagnetic ~~compatibility~~ disturbances - Requirements and tests*
IEC 60601-1-2:2014/AMD1:2020

Addition:

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

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 60601-1-8:2006, *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 TR 61000-2-5, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 2-5: Environment - Description and classification of electromagnetic environments*

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

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

ISO 15223-1:~~2007~~2021, *Medical devices - Symbols to be used with ~~medical device labels, labelling and~~ information to be supplied by the manufacturer - Part 1: General requirements*

201.3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020, IEC 60601-1-2:2014, and IEC 60601-1-2:2014/AMD1:2020 apply, except as follows:

Addition:

NOTE An index of defined terms is found beginning on page 84.