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TECHNICAL REPORT

Guidelines for administrative, medical, and nursing staff concerned with the safe use of medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, MEDICAL, AND NURSING STAFF CONCERNED WITH THE SAFE USE OF MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

FOREWORD

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IEC 60930, which is a technical report, has been prepared by subcommittee 62A: Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1988. This edition constitutes a technical revision. This edition has been aligned with IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1-2:2007, IEC 60601-1-8:2006 and IEC 62353:2007. This edition includes medical electrical systems within its scope.

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
62A/614/DTR	62A/626/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.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result 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- withdrawn,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

The amount of electrical equipment and the number of medical procedures employing MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS continue to grow. In order to prevent accidents or near accidents such as burns, excessive radiation, electrical shock or even cardiac arrest, procedures should be available to handle the selection, installation, application and MAINTENANCE of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS by qualified personnel.

In order to establish a satisfactory level of BASIC SAFETY and performance for MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS and electrical installations in medical locations, requirements for design and construction are specified in standards prepared by the IEC. These standards are intended to cover the design and construction of new equipment and installations (see the Bibliography). The requirements of these standards should also be met if the equipment or installation is REPAIRED or modified. IEC 60513 explains the basic aspects of safety philosophy.

The following guidelines are suggested:

– The MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM has to be safe, that is, built to the relevant IEC standards.

– The electrical installation in medical locations has to be safe, that is, in accordance with the relevant IEC standards or corresponding national regulations.

– The instructions for use have to be available at the site of use. The instructions for use, warning statements and markings on MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or a MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM have to be written in a language acceptable to the OPERATOR.

– Besides their knowledge of the medical procedure, the OPERATORS need to know the BASIC SAFETY characteristics and performance of the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM. This can be achieved by instruction and training under the supervision of the RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION) e.g. by the MANUFACTURER or the CLINICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT of the health care facility.

  NOTE 1 In IEC 60601-1:2005, the RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION is defined as the entity accountable for the use and maintenance of the ME EQUIPMENT or the ME SYSTEM. The accountable entity can be, for example, a hospital, an individual clinician or a lay person. In home use applications, the PATIENT, OPERATOR and RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION can be one and the same person. In earlier editions of IEC 60601-1, the RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION was referred to as the “user.”

– The RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION and CLINICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT have to ensure that BASIC SAFETY and performance, including the ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE, of the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM are maintained by an effective MAINTENANCE scheme. This can be achieved by an adequate MAINTENANCE programme and regular SERVICING performed by an appropriately staffed and organized CLINICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

NOTE 2 This report contains a simplified explanation which is partly related to IEC 60513:1994, *Fundamental aspects of safety standards for medical electrical equipment*, and partly to IEC 60601-1:2005: *Medical electrical equipment, Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*, IEC 60601-1-2:2007, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements and tests* and 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*. Due to the nature of this report it is recommended that it be translated into the language spoken in each country. At the same time, National Committees are asked to go through the report thoroughly in order to amend the text to contain the special national requirements (e.g. depending on the electrical installations).

This technical report applies to MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS and electrical installations in medical locations. The term “equipment” should be understood to mean MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT or other electrical or non-electrical equipment in the context of a MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM. That equipment will usually be electrically powered (i.e. connected to a SUPPLY MAINS or INTERNALLY POWERED). It can be assumed, however, that the approach to the subject in this report will generally be equally valid for medical equipment powered by other energy sources, such as compressed gases.

GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, MEDICAL, AND NURSING STAFF CONCERNED WITH THE SAFE USE OF MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1 Scope

This technical report is intended to lessen the RISK to PATIENTS, OPERATORS, and their surroundings by providing a code of safe application. This reduction of RISK is in addition to that brought about by the RISK CONTROL measures incorporated in the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, the MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, and the electrical installation in medical locations, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT, ME SYSTEM and installation respectively.

Not all existing ME EQUIPMENT, ME SYSTEMS or installations meet the requirements of the relevant IEC standards. From time to time, OPERATORS and RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS will encounter ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS complying with older safety standards. However, the guidelines for safe application given in this technical report should nevertheless be followed in so far as this is possible.

The guidelines in this technical report can be used with ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS for the home healthcare environment provided the MANUFACTURER has included home use in the INTENDED USE or the CLINICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT has checked that the electrical installation and the physical environment will not result in any unacceptable RISKS. These guidelines can also be applied to equipment used for compensation or alleviation of disease, injury or disability.

If the ME EQUIPMENT, an ME SYSTEM or the installation does not comply with the relevant IEC standards, the RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION should consult with the CLINICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT or the MANUFACTURER for instructions on how to achieve an adequate level of safety.

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

IEC 60601-1-2:2007, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral standard: Electromagnetic compatibility – Requirements and tests*

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 62353:2007*, Medical electrical equipment – Recurrent test and test after repair of medical electrical equipment*