



**ANSI/AAMI ES60601-1:2005/(R)2012**  
*and A1:2012, C1:2009/(R)2012 and A2:2010/(R)2012*  
*(Consolidated Text)*

**Medical electrical equipment—  
Part 1: General requirements for  
basic safety and essential performance**  
*(IEC 60601-1:2005, MOD).*

# Objectives and uses of AAMI standards and recommended practices

It is most important that the objectives and potential uses of an AAMI product standard or recommended practice are clearly understood. The objectives of AAMI's technical development program derive from AAMI's overall mission: the advancement of medical instrumentation. Essential to such advancement are (1) a continued increase in the safe and effective application of current technologies to patient care, and (2) the encouragement of new technologies. It is AAMI's view that standards and recommended practices can contribute significantly to the advancement of medical instrumentation, provided that they are drafted with attention to these objectives and provided that arbitrary and restrictive uses are avoided.

A voluntary *standard* for a *medical device* recommends to the manufacturer the information that should be provided with or on the product, basic safety and performance criteria that should be considered in qualifying the device for clinical use, and the measurement techniques that can be used to determine whether the device conforms with the safety and performance criteria and/or to compare the performance characteristics of different products. Some standards emphasize the information that should be provided with the device, including performance characteristics, instructions for use, warnings and precautions, and other data considered important in ensuring the safe and effective use of the device in the clinical environment. Recommending the disclosure of performance characteristics often necessitates the development of specialized test methods to facilitate uniformity in reporting; reaching consensus on these tests can represent a considerable part of committee work. When a drafting committee determines that clinical concerns warrant the establishment of *minimum* safety and performance criteria, referee tests must be provided and the reasons for establishing the criteria must be documented in the rationale.

A *recommended practice* provides guidelines for the use, care, and/or processing of a medical device or system. A recommended practice does not address device performance *per se*, but rather procedures and practices that will help ensure that a device is used safely and effectively and that its performance will be maintained.

Although a device standard is primarily directed to the manufacturer, it may also be of value to the potential purchaser or user of the device as a frame of reference for device evaluation. Similarly, even though a recommended practice is usually oriented towards healthcare professionals, it may be useful to the manufacturer in better understanding the environment in which a medical device will be used. Also, some recommended practices, while not addressing device performance criteria, provide guidelines to industrial personnel on such subjects as sterilization processing, method of collecting data to establish safety and efficacy, human engineering, and other processing or evaluation techniques; such guidelines may be useful to health care professionals, including industrial practices.

In determining whether an AAMI standard or recommended practice is relevant to the specific needs of a potential user of the document, several important concepts must be recognized:

All AAMI standards and recommended practices are *voluntary* (i.e., of course, they are adopted by government regulatory or procurement authorities). The application of a standard or recommended practice is solely within the discretion and professional judgment of the user of the document.

Each AAMI standard or recommended practice reflects the collective expertise of a committee of health care professionals and industrial representatives, whose work has been reviewed nationally (and sometimes internationally). As such, the consensus recommendations embodied in a standard or recommended practice are intended to respond to clinical needs and, ultimately, to help ensure patient safety. A standard or recommended practice is limited, however, in the sense that it responds generally to perceived risks and conditions that may not always be relevant to specific situations. A standard or recommended practice is an important *reference* in responsible decision-making, but it should never *replace* responsible decision-making.

Despite periodic review and revision (at least once every five years), a standard or recommended practice is necessarily a static document applied to a dynamic technology. Therefore, a standards user must carefully review the reasons why the document was initially developed and the specific rationale for each of its provisions. This review will reveal whether the document remains relevant to the specific needs of the user.

Particular care should be taken in applying a product standard to existing devices and equipment, and in applying a recommended practice to current procedures and practices. While observed or potential risks with existing equipment typically form the basis for the safety and performance criteria defined in a standard, professional judgment must be used in applying these criteria to existing equipment. No single source of information will serve to identify a particular product as "unsafe". A voluntary standard can be used as one resource, but the ultimate decision as to product safety and efficacy must take into account the specifics of its utilization and, of course, cost-benefit considerations. Similarly, a recommended practice should be analyzed in the context of the specific needs and resources of the individual institution or firm. Again, the rationale accompanying each AAMI standard and recommended practice is an excellent guide to the reasoning and data underlying its provision.

In summary, a standard or recommended practice is truly useful only when it is used in conjunction with other sources of information and policy guidance and in the context of professional experience and judgment.

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American National Standard

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(Consolidated text)

(IEC 60601-1:2005, MOD)

## **Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance**

Developed by  
**Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation**

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**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

**Abstract:** Baseline of requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of all medical electrical equipment used by or under the supervision of qualified personnel in the general medical and patient environment. Also contains certain requirements for reliable operation to ensure safety. This standard can also be applied to equipment used for compensation or alleviation of disease, injury, or disability. This consolidates the original text of ANSI/AAMI ES60601-1:2005 and its amendments.

**Keywords:** electromedical equipment, electrical safety, essential performance

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# CONTENTS

Glossary of equivalent standards .....	xii
Committee representation .....	xiii
Background of AAMI adoption of IEC 60601-1:2005 and Amendment 1.....	xiv
AAMI deviations from IEC 60601-1:2005.....	xv
FOREWORD .....	xviii
INTRODUCTION .....	xxi
INTRODUCTION TO THE AMENDMENT .....	xxiii
1 Scope, object and related standards .....	1
1.1 * Scope.....	1
1.2 Object.....	1
1.3 * Collateral standards.....	2
1.4 * Particular standards.....	2
2 * Normative references .....	2
3 * Terminology and definitions .....	6
4 General requirements.....	27
4.1 * Conditions for application to ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS.....	27
4.2 * RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS for ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS .....	27
4.3 * ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE.....	30
4.4 * EXPECTED SERVICE LIFE.....	31
4.5 * <del>Equivalent safety</del> <a href="#">Alternative RISK CONTROL measures or test methods</a> for ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS .....	31
4.6 * ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEM parts that contact the PATIENT .....	31
4.7 * SINGLE FAULT CONDITION for ME EQUIPMENT .....	31
4.8 * <u>Components of ME EQUIPMENT</u> .....	32
4.9 * Use of COMPONENTS WITH HIGH INTEGRITY CHARACTERISTICS in ME EQUIPMENT .....	33
4.10 * Power supply.....	34
4.11 Power input.....	35
5 * General requirements for testing ME EQUIPMENT .....	36
5.1 * TYPE TESTS .....	36
5.2 * Number of samples.....	36
5.3 Ambient temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure .....	36
5.4 Other conditions.....	36
5.5 Supply voltages, type of current, nature of supply, frequency.....	37
5.6 Repairs and modifications .....	37
5.7 Humidity preconditioning treatment.....	38
5.8 Sequence of tests .....	38
5.9 * Determination of APPLIED PARTS and ACCESSIBLE PARTS .....	38
6 * Classification of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.....	42
6.1 General.....	42
6.2 * Protection against electric shock .....	42
6.3 * Protection against harmful ingress of water or particulate matter .....	42

6.4	Method(s) of sterilization.....	42
6.5	Suitability for use in an OXYGEN RICH ENVIRONMENT .....	42
6.6	* Mode of operation.....	43
7	ME EQUIPMENT identification, marking and documents .....	43
7.1	General.....	43
7.2	Marking on the outside of ME EQUIPMENT or ME EQUIPMENT parts .....	44
7.3	Marking on the inside of ME EQUIPMENT or ME EQUIPMENT parts .....	49
7.4	Marking of controls and instruments.....	50
7.5	Safety signs .....	52
7.6	Symbols.....	53
7.7	Colors of the insulation of conductors .....	53
7.8	* Indicator lights and controls.....	54
7.9	ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS .....	54
8	* Protection against electrical HAZARDS from ME EQUIPMENT.....	61
8.1	Fundamental rule of protection against electric shock .....	61
8.2	Requirements related to power sources .....	62
8.3	Classification of APPLIED PARTS.....	62
8.4	Limitation of voltage, current or energy .....	63
8.5	Separation of parts .....	66
8.6	* Protective earthing, functional earthing and potential equalization of ME EQUIPMENT.....	74
8.7	LEAKAGE CURRENTS and PATIENT AUXILIARY CURRENTS.....	77
8.8	Insulation.....	94
8.9	* CREEPAGE DISTANCES and AIR CLEARANCES.....	100
8.10	Components and wiring.....	116
8.11	MAINS PARTS, components and layout.....	118
9	* Protection against MECHANICAL HAZARDS of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS .....	124
9.1	MECHANICAL HAZARDS of ME EQUIPMENT .....	124
9.2	* <u>MECHANICAL</u> HAZARDS associated with moving parts .....	125
9.3	* <u>MECHANICAL</u> HAZARD associated with surfaces, corners and edges .....	131
9.4	* Instability HAZARD.....	131
9.5	* Expelled parts HAZARD .....	136
9.6	Acoustic energy (including infra- and ultrasound) and vibration.....	136
9.7	* Pressure vessels and parts subject to pneumatic and hydraulic pressure .....	138
9.8	* <u>MECHANICAL</u> HAZARDS associated with support systems .....	140
10	* Protection against unwanted and excessive radiation HAZARDS .....	147
10.1	X-Radiation.....	147
10.2	Alpha, beta, gamma, neutron and other particle radiation.....	148
10.3	Microwave radiation .....	148
10.4	* Lasers <del>and light emitting diodes (LEDs)</del> .....	149
10.5	Other visible electromagnetic radiation .....	149
10.6	Infrared radiation .....	149
10.7	Ultraviolet radiation.....	149

11	* Protection against excessive temperatures and other HAZARDS .....	149
11.1	* Excessive temperatures in ME EQUIPMENT .....	149
11.2	* Fire prevention .....	154
11.3	* Constructional requirements for fire ENCLOSURES of ME EQUIPMENT.....	159
11.4	* ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS intended for use with flammable anesthetics .....	161
11.5	* ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS intended for use in conjunction with flammable agents.....	161
11.6	Overflow, spillage, leakage, ingress of water or particulate matter, cleaning, disinfection, sterilization and compatibility with substances used with the ME EQUIPMENT.....	161
11.7	Biocompatibility of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS .....	164
11.8	* Interruption of the power supply / SUPPLY MAINS to ME EQUIPMENT .....	164
12	* Accuracy of controls and instruments and protection against hazardous output .....	164
12.1	Accuracy of controls and instruments .....	164
12.2	USABILITY <a href="#">of ME EQUIPMENT</a> .....	164
12.3	ALARM SYSTEMS .....	164
12.4	Protection against hazardous output .....	164
13	* HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS and fault conditions <a href="#">for ME EQUIPMENT</a> .....	166
13.1	Specific HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS .....	166
13.2	SINGLE FAULT CONDITIONS.....	167
14	* PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRICAL MEDICAL SYSTEMS (PEMS).....	173
14.1	* General .....	173
14.2	* Documentation .....	173
14.3	* RISK MANAGEMENT plan.....	173
14.4	* PEMS DEVELOPMENT LIFE-CYCLE.....	173
14.5	* Problem resolution.....	174
14.6	RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS .....	174
14.7	* Requirement specification.....	175
14.8	* Architecture .....	175
14.9	* Design and implementation.....	175
14.10	* VERIFICATION.....	176
14.11	* PEMS VALIDATION .....	176
14.12	* Modification .....	176
14.13	* <del>Connection of PEMS by</del> * <a href="#">PEMS intended to be incorporated into an IT-NETWORK/DATA-COUPLING to other equipment</a> .....	177
15	Construction of ME EQUIPMENT .....	178
15.1	* Arrangements of controls and indicators of ME EQUIPMENT.....	178
15.2	* Serviceability.....	178
15.3	* Mechanical strength .....	178
15.4	ME EQUIPMENT components and general assembly.....	182
15.5	* MAINS SUPPLY TRANSFORMERS of ME EQUIPMENT and transformers providing separation in accordance with 8.5.....	188
16	* ME SYSTEMS .....	192
16.1	* General requirements for the ME SYSTEMS.....	192

16.2	* ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS of an ME SYSTEM	192
16.3	* Power supply	193
16.4	ENCLOSURES	194
16.5	* SEPARATION DEVICES	194
16.6	* LEAKAGE CURRENTS	194
16.7	* Protection against MECHANICAL HAZARDS	195
16.8	Interruption of the power supply to parts of an ME SYSTEM	195
16.9	ME SYSTEM connections and wiring	196
17	* Electromagnetic compatibility of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS	198

## Annexes

Annex A (informative)	General guidance and rationale	199
Annex B (informative)	Sequence of testing	315
Annex C (informative)	Guide to marking and labeling requirements for ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS	319
Annex D (informative)	Symbols on marking	322
Annex E (informative)	Examples of the connection of the measuring device (MD) for measurement of the PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT and PATIENT AUXILIARY CURRENT	331
Annex F (informative)	Suitable measuring supply circuits	334
Annex G (normative)	Protection against HAZARDS of ignition of flammable anesthetic mixtures	337
Annex H (informative)	PEMS structure, PEMS DEVELOPMENT LIFE-CYCLE and documentation	352
Annex I (informative)	ME SYSTEMS aspects	365
Annex J (informative)	Survey of insulation paths	371
Annex K (informative)	Simplified PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT diagrams	374
Annex L (normative)	Insulated winding wire for use without interleaved insulation	377
<a href="#">Annex M (normative)</a>	<a href="#">Reduction of pollution degrees</a>	<a href="#">380</a>
Bibliography		381
INDEX OF ABBREVIATIONS AND CRONYMS		385
INDEX		387

## Figures

Figure 1	– Detachable mains connection	8
Figure 2	– Example of the defined terminals and conductors	9
Figure 3	– Example of a CLASS I ME EQUIPMENT	10
Figure 4	– Example of a metal-enclosed CLASS II ME EQUIPMENT	10
Figure 5	– Schematic flow chart for component qualification	34
Figure 6	– Standard test finger	40
Figure 7	– Test hook	41
Figure 8	– Test pin	64
Figure 9	– Application of test voltage to bridged PATIENT CONNECTIONS for DEFIBRILLATION-PROOF APPLIED PARTS	71
Figure 10	– Application of test voltage to individual PATIENT CONNECTIONS for DEFIBRILLATION-PROOF APPLIED PARTS	72

Figure 11 – Application of test voltage to test the delivered defibrillation energy.....	74
Figure 12 – Example of a measuring device and its frequency characteristics .....	79
Figure 13 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> EARTH LEAKAGE CURRENT of CLASS I ME equipment, with or without APPLIED PART .....	82
Figure 14 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> TOUCH CURRENT .....	83
Figure 15 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT from the PATIENT CONNECTION to earth .....	84
Figure 16 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT via the PATIENT CONNECTION(S) of an F-TYPE APPLIED PART to earth caused by an external voltage on the PATIENT CONNECTION(S) .....	85
Figure 17 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT from PATIENT CONNECTION(S) to earth caused by an external voltage on a SIGNAL INPUT/OUTPUT PART .....	86
Figure 18 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT from PATIENT CONNECTION(S) to earth caused by an external voltage on a metal ACCESSIBLE PART that is not PROTECTIVELY EARTHED.....	87
Figure 19 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> PATIENT AUXILIARY CURRENT .....	88
Figure 20 – Measuring circuit for <del>the</del> total PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT with all PATIENT CONNECTIONS of all APPLIED PARTS of the same type (TYPE B APPLIED PARTS, TYPE BF APPLIED PARTS or TYPE CF APPLIED PARTS) connected together .....	89
Figure 21 – Ball-pressure test apparatus .....	100
Figure 22 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 1 .....	113
Figure 23 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 2 .....	113
Figure 24 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 3 .....	113
Figure 25 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 4 .....	113
Figure 26 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 5 .....	114
Figure 27 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 6 .....	114
Figure 28 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 7 .....	114
Figure 29 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 8 .....	115
Figure 30 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 9 .....	115
Figure 31 – CREEPAGE DISTANCE and AIR CLEARANCE – Example 10 .....	116
Figure 32 – Ratio between HYDRAULIC TEST PRESSURE and MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE WORKING PRESSURE .....	139
Figure 33 – <del>Human body test mass</del> <a href="#">Body upper-carriage module</a> .....	146
Figure 34 – Spark ignition test apparatus .....	155
Figure 35 – Maximum allowable current $I$ as a function of the maximum allowable voltage $U$ measured in a purely resistive circuit in an OXYGEN RICH ENVIRONMENT .....	156
Figure 36 – Maximum allowable voltage $U$ as a function of the capacitance $C$ measured in a capacitive circuit used in an OXYGEN RICH ENVIRONMENT .....	156
Figure 37 – Maximum allowable current $I$ as a function of the inductance $L$ measured in an inductive circuit in an OXYGEN RICH ENVIRONMENT .....	157
Figure 38 – Baffle .....	160
Figure 39 – Area of the bottom of an ENCLOSURE as specified in 11.3 b) 1).....	161

Figure A.1 – Identification of ME EQUIPMENT, APPLIED PARTS and PATIENT CONNECTIONS in an ECG monitor.....	205
Figure A.2 – Example of the insulation of an F-TYPE APPLIED PART with the insulation incorporated in the ME EQUIPMENT .....	206
Figure A.3 – Identification of ME EQUIPMENT, APPLIED PARTS and PATIENT CONNECTIONS in a PATIENT monitor with invasive pressure monitoring facility.....	206
Figure A.4 – Identification of ME EQUIPMENT, APPLIED PARTS and PATIENT CONNECTIONS in a multifunction PATIENT monitor with invasive pressure monitoring facilities .....	207
Figure A.5 – Identification of APPLIED PARTS and PATIENT CONNECTIONS in an X-ray ME SYSTEM .....	208
Figure A.6 – Identification of ME EQUIPMENT, APPLIED PARTS and PATIENT CONNECTIONS in a transcutaneous electronic nerve stimulator (TENS) intended to be worn on the PATIENT'S belt and connected to electrodes applied to the PATIENT'S upper arm.....	209
Figure A.7 – Identification of ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEM, APPLIED PARTS and PATIENT CONNECTIONS in a personal computer with an ECG module.....	210
Figure A.8 – Pictorial representation of the relationship of HAZARD, sequence of events, HAZARDOUS SITUATION and HARM.....	213
Figure A.9 – Example of PATIENT ENVIRONMENT .....	220
Figure A.10 – Floating circuit.....	239
Figure A.11 – Interruption of a power-carrying conductor between ME EQUIPMENT parts in separate ENCLOSURES .....	241
Figure A.12 – Identification of MEANS OF PATIENT PROTECTION and MEANS OF OPERATOR PROTECTION .....	245
Figure A.13 – Allowable protective earth impedance where the fault current is limited .....	252
Figure A.14 – Probability of ventricular fibrillation .....	258
Figure A.15 – Example of a measuring circuit for the PATIENT LEAKAGE CURRENT from a PATIENT CONNECTION to earth for ME EQUIPMENT with multiple PATIENT CONNECTIONS .....	263
Figure A.16 – Instability test condition .....	275
Figure A.17 – Example of determining TENSILE SAFETY FACTOR using Table 21 .....	282
Figure A.18 – Example of determining design and test loads .....	283
Figure A.19 – Example of human body mass distribution .....	283
<a href="#">Figure A.20 – Relationship of the terms used to describe equipment, ACCESSORIES or equipment parts .....</a>	<a href="#">216</a>
<a href="#">Figure A.21 – Example of ME EQUIPMENT having two different functions on one common APPLIED PART circuit .....</a>	<a href="#">250</a>
<a href="#">Figure A.22 – Maximum allowable temperature for surfaces and APPLIED PARTS at higher altitudes.....</a>	<a href="#">288</a>
<a href="#">Figure A.23 – Example of the needed MEANS OF OPERATOR PROTECTION between the terminals of an INTERNAL ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCE and a subsequent protective device .....</a>	<a href="#">306</a>
Figure E.1 – TYPE B APPLIED PART .....	331
Figure E.2 – TYPE BF APPLIED PART.....	331
Figure E.3 – TYPE CF APPLIED PART.....	332
Figure E.4 – PATIENT AUXILIARY CURRENT.....	332
Figure E.5 – Loading of the PATIENT CONNECTIONS if specified by the MANUFACTURER .....	333

Figure F.1 – Measuring supply circuit with one side of the SUPPLY MAINS at approximately earth potential .....	334
Figure F.2 – Measuring supply circuit with SUPPLY MAINS approximately symmetrical to earth potential .....	334
Figure F.3 – Measuring supply circuit for polyphase ME EQUIPMENT specified for connection to a polyphase SUPPLY MAINS .....	335
Figure F.4 – Measuring supply circuit for single-phase ME EQUIPMENT specified for connection to a polyphase SUPPLY MAINS .....	335
Figure F.5 – Measuring supply circuit for ME EQUIPMENT having a separate power supply unit or intended to receive its power from another equipment in an ME SYSTEM .....	336
Figure G.1– Maximum allowable current $I_{ZR}$ as a function of the maximum allowable voltage $U_{ZR}$ measured in a purely resistive circuit with the most flammable mixture of ether vapor with air.....	343
Figure G.2 – Maximum allowable voltage $U_{ZC}$ as a function of the capacitance $C_{max}$ measured in a capacitive circuit with the most flammable mixture of ether vapor with air .....	344
Figure G.3 – Maximum allowable current $I_{ZL}$ as a function of the inductance $L_{max}$ measured in an inductive circuit with the most flammable mixture of ether vapor with air .....	344
Figure G.4 – Maximum allowable current $I_{ZR}$ as a function of the maximum allowable voltage $U_{ZR}$ measured in a purely resistive circuit with the most flammable mixture of ether vapor with oxygen .....	348
Figure G.5 – Maximum allowable voltage $U_{ZC}$ as a function of the capacitance $C_{max}$ measured in a capacitive circuit with the most flammable mixture of ether vapor with oxygen .....	349
Figure G.6 – Maximum allowable current $I_{ZL}$ as a function of the inductance $L_{max}$ measured in an inductive circuit with the most flammable mixture of ether vapor with oxygen .....	349
Figure G.7 – Test apparatus .....	351
Figure H.1 – Examples of PEMS/ PESS structures .....	353
Figure H.2 – A PEMS DEVELOPMENT LIFE-CYCLE model .....	354
Figure H.3 – <del>PEMS documentation requirements from Clause 14 and ISO 14971:2000</del> <a href="#">Not used</a> .....	358
Figure H.4 <del>—</del> Example of potential parameters required to be specified for <a href="#">an IT-NETWORK/DATA COUPLING</a> .....	364
Figure I.1 <del>—</del> Example of the construction of a MULTIPLE SOCKET-OUTLET (MSO).....	369
Figure I.2 – Examples of application of MULTIPLE SOCKET-OUTLETS (MSO).....	370
Figure J.1 – Insulation example 1 .....	371
Figure J.2 – Insulation example 2 .....	371
Figure J.3 – Insulation example 3 .....	372
Figure J.4 – Insulation example 4 .....	372
Figure J.5 – Insulation example 5 .....	372
Figure J.6 – Insulation example 6 .....	373
Figure J.7 – Insulation example 7 .....	373
Figure K.1 – ME EQUIPMENT with an ENCLOSURE made of insulating material.....	374
Figure K.2 – ME EQUIPMENT with an F-TYPE APPLIED PART.....	374

Figure K.3 – ME EQUIPMENT with an APPLIED PART and a SIGNAL INPUT/OUTPUT PART .....	375
Figure K.4 – ME EQUIPMENT with a PATIENT CONNECTION of a TYPE B APPLIED PART that is not PROTECTIVELY EARTHED .....	375
Figure K.5 – ME EQUIPMENT with a PATIENT CONNECTION of a TYPE BF APPLIED PART that is not PROTECTIVELY EARTHED.....	376

## Tables

Table 1 – Units outside the SI units system that may be used on me equipment.....	52
Table 2 – Colors of indicator lights and their meaning for me equipment.....	54
Table 3 – * Allowable values of patient leakage currents and patient auxiliary currents under normal condition and single fault condition .....	80
Table 4 – * Allowable values of patient leakage currents under the special test conditions identified in 8.7.4.7 .....	81
Table 5 – Legends of symbols for Figure 9 to Figure 11, Figure 13 to Figure 20, Figure A.15, Annex E and Annex F .....	90
Table 6 – Test voltages for solid insulation forming a means of protection.....	97
Table 7 – Test voltages for means of operator protection .....	98
Table 8 – Multiplication factors for air clearances for altitudes up to 5,000 m.....	101
Table 9 – Material group classification.....	102
Table 10 – Mains transient voltage .....	103
Table 11 – <del>Minimum creepage distances and air clearances between parts of opposite polarity of the mains part</del> .....	104 <a href="#">Not used</a>
Table 12 – Minimum creepage distances and air clearances providing means of patient protection .....	105
Table 13 – Minimum air clearances providing means of operator protection from the mains part .....	106
Table 14 – Additional air clearances for insulation in mains parts with peak working voltages exceeding the peak value of the nominal mains voltage a.....	107
Table 15 – Minimum air clearances for means of operator protection in secondary circuits .....	108
Table 16 – Minimum Creepage distances providing means of operator protection .....	109
Table 17 – Nominal cross-sectional area of conductors of a power supply cord .....	120
Table 18 – Testing of cord anchorages.....	121
Table 19 – Mechanical hazards covered by this clause.....	125
Table 20 – Acceptable gaps .....	127
Table 21 – Determination of tensile safety factor .....	142
Table 22 – Allowable maximum temperatures of parts .....	150
Table 23 – Allowable maximum temperatures for me equipment parts that are likely to be touched.....	150
Table 24 – Allowable maximum temperatures for skin contact with me equipment applied parts.....	151
Table 25 – Acceptable perforation of the bottom of an enclosure .....	160
Table 26 – * Temperature limits of motor windings .....	170
Table 27 – Maximum motor winding steady-state temperature .....	172

Table 28 – Mechanical strength test applicability .....	179
Table 29 – Drop height .....	180
Table 30 – Test torques for rotating controls .....	186
Table 31 – Maximum allowable temperatures of transformer windings under overload and short-circuit conditions at 25 °C (± 5 °C) ambient temperature.....	188
Table 32 – Test current for transformers.....	189
<a href="#"><u>Table 33 – Test conditions for overtravel end stop test .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>130</u></a>
Table A.1 – Values of air clearance and creepage distance derived from Table 7 of IEC 61010-1:2001 and Table 12 .....	266
Table A.2 – Creepage distances to avoid failure due to tracking from IEC 60664-1.....	267
Table A.3 – Instability test conditions .....	275
Table A.4 – Allowable time exposure for level of acceleration.....	278
Table A.5 – Guidance on surface temperatures for me equipment that creates low temperatures (cools) for therapeutic purposes or as part of its operation .....	287
Table C.1– Marking on the outside of me equipment, me systems or their parts .....	319
Table C.2 – Marking on the inside of me equipment, me systems or their parts .....	320
Table C.3 – Marking of controls and instruments .....	320
Table C.4 – Accompanying documents, general .....	320
Table C.5 – Accompanying documents, instructions for use.....	321
Table C.6 – Accompanying documents, technical description .....	321
Table D.1 – General symbols .....	323
Table D.2 – Safety signs .....	328
Table D.3 – General codes .....	330
Table G.1 – Gas-tightness of cord inlets.....	346
Table H.1 – <del>Network/data coupling classification</del> <a href="#"><u>Not used</u></a> .....	362
Table I.1 – Some examples of me systems for illustration.....	367
Table L.1– Mandrel diameter .....	378
Table L.2 – Oven temperature .....	378
<a href="#"><u>Table M.1 – Reduction of the pollution degree of internal environment through the use of additional protection .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>380</u></a>

## **Glossary of equivalent standards**

International Standards adopted in the United States may include normative references to other International Standards. AAMI maintains a current list of each International Standard that has been adopted by AAMI (and ANSI). Available on the AAMI website at the address below, this list gives the corresponding U.S. designation and level of equivalency to the International Standard.

[www.aami.org/standards/glossary.pdf](http://www.aami.org/standards/glossary.pdf)

## Committee representation

### Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation

#### Electrical Safety Committee

This standard was developed by the AAMI Electrical Safety Committee. The adoption of Amendment 1 to IEC 60601-1 as an amendment to an existing national standard, ANSI/AAMI ES60601-1:2005 was initiated by the AAMI Electrical Safety Committee. U.S. representatives played an active role in developing the IEC standard. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval.

At the time this document was published, the **AAMI Electrical Safety Committee** had the following members:

<i>Cochairs</i>	Bernie Liebler, Advanced Medical Technology Association Michael W. Schmidt, Strategic Device Compliance Services
<i>Members</i>	Stuart Albert, MBA CBET-E CHSP Alan S. Berson, PhD, Bioresearch Funding Group Steve Cantwell, Spacelabs Medical Inc. Rebecca K. Crossley, CBET, Susquehanna Health System Conor Curtin, Fresenius Medical Care Renal Therapies Group Yadin David, EdD CCE PE HCSP, Biomedical Engineering Consultants LLC Rich Eaton, Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance a Division of NEMA Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA) a Division of NEMA Jeffrey L. Eggleston, MS PE, Covidien Richard Gardner, GE Healthcare Hamed Ghods, FDA/CDRH David L. Green, CBET Alex Grob, MECA - Medical Equipment Compliance Associates LLC Dale Hallerberg, TUV Rheinland North America Inc. Robert Alan Kemerling, PhD, Johnson & Johnson Brian Killoran, Welch Allyn Inc. Todd Konieczny, Intertek Testing Services Bernie Liebler, Advanced Medical Technology Association Alan Lipschultz, CCE PE CSP, HealthCare Technology Consulting LLC Joseph P. Murnane, Jr., AAS BSEE, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. David G. Osborn, Philips Electronics North America Stefan M. Robert, Cyberonics Inc. Steven Rus, Steris Corporation Ed Russo, Dranetz Michael W. Schmidt, Strategic Device Compliance Services Donald Sherratt, Terumo BCT James Shults, Hospira Worldwide Inc. Richard E. Stein, St Jude Medical Inc. James D. Stewardson, Anna Varlese, Conmed Corp
<i>Alternates</i>	Joseph Basta, Spacelabs Medical Inc. Kenneth E. Gettman, Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance a Division of NEMA National Electrical Manufacturers Association Mark Graber, GE Healthcare Richard Markle, Philips Electronics North America Jim Peterson, Fresenius Medical Care Renal Therapies Group Fresenius Medical Care Sheari Rice, Steris Corporation Harvey Rudolph, PhD, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Ted Yantsides, Conmed Corp Jianchao Zeng, FDA/CDRH

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NOTE—Participation by federal agency representatives in the development of this standard does not constitute endorsement by the federal government or any of its agencies.

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## Background of ANSI/AAMI adoption of IEC 60601-1:2005 and Amendment 1

As indicated in the foreword to the main body of this document (page viii), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising of all national electrotechnical committees. The United States is one of the IEC members that took an active role in the development of this standard, which was developed by the IEC Technical Subcommittee 62A, Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice.

U.S. participation in IEC/SC 62A is organized through the U.S. Technical Advisory Group for IEC/SC 62A, administered by Bernie Liebler of AdvaMed on behalf of the U.S. National Committee of the American National Standards Institute. The U.S. made a considerable contribution to this International Amendment and Standard.

The U.S. adoption of IEC 60601-1:2005 was approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a revision, with expanded scope, of AAMI ES1:1993, Safe current limits for electromedical apparatus, on 9 February 2006. The AAMI Electrical Safety Committee initiated the U.S. adoption of IEC 60601-1:2005. This edition of IEC 60601-1 has significant technical changes in the general requirements section (clause 4), electrical safety (clause 8), mechanical safety (clauses 9 and 15), and thermal/fire safety (clause 11).

The risk management philosophy introduced in clause 4.2 is the most significant change compared to ES1 and previous editions of IEC 60601-1. Manufacturers are now required to apply a risk management process in accordance with ISO 14971. For electrical safety under clause 8, this edition replaced the basic and double/reinforced insulations from the last edition with one or two "means of protection". The mechanical requirements contained in clauses 9 and 15 are far more extensive and detailed than in previous editions. Finally, clause 11 will also deal with flammability of materials used in the product in addition to requirements that address the temperature of components and surfaces that can be touched by users or patients.

AAMI encourages its committees to harmonize their work with International Standards to the extent possible. Upon review of the final draft Amendment 1 to International Standard IEC 60601-1, the AAMI ES, Electrical Safety Committee, decided to adopt it verbatim and received the necessary approval from the U.S. TAG administrator.

AAMI and ANSI procedures require that standards be reviewed every five years and, if necessary, revised to reflect technological advances that may have occurred since publication.

AAMI (and ANSI) have adopted other IEC and ISO standards. See the Glossary of Equivalent Standards for a list of IEC and ISO standards adopted by AAMI, which gives the corresponding U.S. designation and the level of equivalency with the IEC and ISO standard.

The concepts incorporated in this standard should not be considered inflexible or static. This standard, like any other, must be reviewed and updated periodically to assimilate progressive technological developments. To remain relevant, it must be modified as advances are made in technology and as new data come to light.

This standard reflects the conscientious efforts of concerned health care professionals and medical device manufacturers to develop a standard for those performance levels that can be reasonably achieved at this time.

Suggestions for improving this standard are invited. Comments and suggested revisions should be sent to Standards Department, AAMI, 4301 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, VA 22203-1633.

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NOTE-This background does not contain provisions of American National Standard, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*, (ANSI/AAMI/IEC 60601-1), but it does provide important information about the development and intended use of the document.

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## **AAMI deviations from IEC 60601-1:2005**

### **4 General requirements**

#### **4.8 Components of ME EQUIPMENT**

*Replacement:*

Because ANSI (American National Standards Institute) has published more component standards that are relevant to

ME EQUIPMENT than either IEC or ISO, replace 4.8 b) with the following paragraph:

- b) where there is no relevant IEC/ISO standard, the relevant ANSI standard shall be applied; if no relevant ANSI standard exists, the requirements of this standard shall be applied.

#### **4.10.2 SUPPLY MAINS for ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS**

*Replacement:*

To reflect agreement with the NEC, replace the reference to "500 V" with "600 V" in the second and third dashes.

*Addition:*

To reflect agreement with the NEC, in the text of the second-to-last dash of this sub-clause, add "and the NEC" after the reference to "IEC 60364-4-41".

### **6 \* Classification of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS**

#### **6.6 Mode of operation**

*Addition:*

To reflect agreement with NFPA 70, X-Ray systems shall be classified as long time operation (> 5 min) or momentary operation (< 5 sec).

### **7 ME EQUIPMENT identification, marking and documents**

#### **7.2.11 Mode of operation**

*Addition:*

To reflect agreement with NFPA 70, X-Ray systems shall be marked as long time operation or momentary operation.

*New Subclause:*

### **7.2.22 Colors of medical gas cylinders**

To reflect agreement with NFPA 99: Cylinders containing medical gases and their connection points shall be colored in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 99.

## **8 \* Protection against electrical hazards from me equipment**

### **8.2 Requirements related to power sources**

*Addition:*

To reflect agreement with the NEC, add the following requirement to this clause:

All FIXED ME EQUIPMENT and PERMANENTLY INSTALLED ME EQUIPMENT shall be CLASS I ME EQUIPMENT.

#### **8.6.1 Application of requirements**

*Addition:*

To reflect agreement with NFPA 99, the enclosure of X-ray ME EQUIPMENT operating over 600 Vac, 850 Vdc MAINS VOLTAGE, or containing voltages up to 50 V peak and enclosed in protectively earthed enclosure as well as connections to X-ray tubes and other high voltage components that include high voltage shielded cables shall be PROTECTIVELY EARTHED.

To reflect agreement with NFPA 99, non-current carrying conductive parts of X-Ray ME EQUIPMENT likely to become energized shall be PROTECTIVELY EARTHED.

#### **8.7.3 Allowable values**

*Deletion:*

To reflect agreement with NFPA 99 which does not allow for allowance greater than the stated values, delete the second sentence and note to sub-clause 8.7.3 d) so that it reads:

- d) The allowable values of the EARTH LEAKAGE CURRENT are 5 mA in NORMAL CONDITION and 10 mA in SINGLE FAULT CONDITION.

### **8.11 MAINS PARTS, components and layout**

*Addition:*

- a) To reflect agreement with the NEC, add the following requirements to this clause:

Permanently connected ME EQUIPMENT shall have provision for the connection of one of the wiring systems that is in accordance with the NEC.

Exception: Fixed and stationary X-ray ME EQUIPMENT supplied from a branch circuit rated at 30 A or less, and ME EQUIPMENT that is not strictly portable but obviously is intended to be stationary, may be acceptable if provided with a length of attached hard service flexible cord - such as Type S, or the equivalent, for supply connection.

The installation of connecting cords between EQUIPMENT parts shall meet the requirements of the NEC, as applicable. Cable used as external interconnection between units shall be as follows:

- 1) If exposed to abuse, the cable shall be Type SJT, SJTO, SJO, ST, SO, STO, or equivalent flexible cord or similar multiple-conductor appliance-wiring material such as computer cable.
- 2) If not exposed to abuse, the cable shall be as indicated in item 1) above or shall be:
  - i) Type SPT-2, SP-2, or SPE-2, or equivalent,
  - ii) Type SVr, SVRO, SVE, or equivalent flexible cord or similar multiple-conductor appliance wiring material, or
  - iii) An assembly of insulated wires each with a nominal insulation thickness of 0.8 mm (1/32 inch) or more, enclosed in acceptable insulating tubing having a nominal wall thickness of 0.8 mm (1/32 inch) or more.

Receptacles provided as part of ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS for use in the patient care areas of pediatric wards, rooms, or areas shall be listed tamper resistant or shall employ a listed tamper resistant cover in accordance with the NEC.

- b) For ME EQUIPMENT provided with NEMA configuration non-locking plug types 120 V/15 A, 125 V/20 A, 250 V/15 A, 250 V/20 A "Hospital Grade" mains plug shall be provided and the POWER SUPPLY CORD shall be marked.

### **8.11.3.2 Types**

*Addition:*

To reflect agreement with the NEC, add the following requirement to this clause:

The flexible cord shall be of a type that is acceptable for the particular application. It shall be acceptable for use at a voltage not less than the rated voltage of the appliance and shall have an ampacity, as given in the NEC, not less than the current rating of the appliance.

### **8.11.3.3 Cross-sectional area of POWER SUPPLY CORDS**

*Addition:*

To reflect agreement with NFPA 99, for X-Ray ME EQUIPMENT with an attachment plug, the current rating on a hospital grade plug should be 2X the maximum input current of the equipment.

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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## MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

### Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance

#### 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.

**This consolidated version of IEC 60601-1 consists of the third edition (2005) [documents 62A/505A/FDIS and 62A/512/RVD], its amendment 1 (2012) [documents 62A/805/FDIS and 62A/820/RVD] and its corrigenda of December 2006 and 2007. It bears the edition number 3.1.**

**The technical content is therefore identical to the base edition and its amendment and has been prepared for user convenience. Additions are displayed in blue and underlined. Deletions are displayed in red, with deletions being struck through.**

International Standard IEC 60601-1 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 third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 1988, its Amendment 1 (1991) and Amendment 2 (1995), [the second edition of IEC 60601-1-1 published in 2000 and the first edition of IEC 60601-1-4 published in 1996 and its Amendment 1 \(1999\)](#). This edition constitutes a technical revision. This edition has been significantly restructured. Requirements in the electrical section have been further aligned with those for information technology equipment covered by IEC 60950-1 and a requirement for including a RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS has been added. For an expanded description of this revision, see Annex A.3.

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: in roman type.
- *Test specifications: in 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 USED THROUGHOUT THIS STANDARD THAT HAVE BEEN DEFINED IN CLAUSE 3 AND ALSO GIVEN IN THE INDEX: IN 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 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 G of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this standard, the auxiliary verb:

- 1) “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this standard;
  - 2) “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 A.

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendments 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.

[NOTE The attention of National Committees is drawn to the fact that equipment manufacturers and testing organizations may need a transitional period following publication of a new, amended or revised IEC or ISO publication in which to make products in accordance with the new requirements and to equip themselves for conducting new or revised tests. It is the recommendation of the committee that the content of this publication be adopted for mandatory implementation nationally not earlier than 3 years from the date of publication.](#)

**IMPORTANT – The “color inside” logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colors which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this publication using a color printer.**

## INTRODUCTION

In 1976, IEC subcommittee 62A published the first edition of IEC/TR 60513, *Basic aspects of the safety philosophy for electrical equipment used in medical practice*. The first edition of IEC/TR 60513 provided the basis for developing:

- the first edition of IEC 60601-1 (the parent safety standard for MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT);
- the IEC 60601-1-xx series of collateral standards for MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT;
- the IEC 60601-2-xx series of particular standards for particular types of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT; and
- the IEC 60601-3-xx series of performance standards for particular types of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

Aware of the need and the urgency for a standard covering electrical equipment used in medical practice, the majority of National Committees voted in 1977 in favor of the first edition of IEC 60601-1, based on a draft that at the time represented a first approach to the problem. The extent of the scope, the complexity of the equipment concerned, and the specific nature of some of the protective measures and the corresponding tests for verifying them, required years of effort in order to prepare this first standard, which can now be said to have served as a universal reference since its publication.

However, the frequent application of the first edition revealed room for improvement. These improvements were all the more desirable in view of the considerable success that this standard has enjoyed since its publication.

The careful work of revision subsequently undertaken and continued over a number of years resulted in the publication of the second edition in 1988. This edition incorporated all the improvements that could be reasonably expected up to that time. Further developments remained under constant study. The second edition was amended in 1991 and then again in 1995.

The original IEC approach was to prepare separate BASIC SAFETY and performance standards for MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT. This was a natural extension of the historical approach taken at the national and international level with other electrical equipment standards (e.g. those for domestic equipment), where BASIC SAFETY is regulated through mandatory standards but other performance specifications are regulated by market pressure. In this context, it has been said that, “The ability of an electric kettle to boil water is not critical to its safe use!”

It is now recognized that this is not the situation with many items of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, and RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS have to depend on standards to ensure ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE as well as BASIC SAFETY. Such areas include the accuracy with which the equipment controls the delivery of energy or therapeutic substances to the PATIENT, or processes and displays physiological data that will affect PATIENT management.

This recognition means that separating BASIC SAFETY and performance is somewhat inappropriate in addressing the HAZARDS that result from inadequate design of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT. Many particular standards in the IEC 60601-2-xx series address a range of ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements that cannot be directly evaluated by the RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION without applying such standards. (However, the current IEC 60601 series includes fewer requirements for ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE than for BASIC SAFETY).

In anticipation of a third edition of IEC 60601-1, IEC subcommittee 62A prepared a second edition of IEC/TR 60513 [12]<sup>1)</sup> in 1994. It was intended that the second edition of IEC/TR 60513 would provide guidance for developing this edition of IEC 60601-1, and for the further development of the IEC 60601-1-xx and IEC 60601-2-xx series.

In order to achieve consistency in international standards, address present expectations in the health care community and align with developments in IEC 60601-2-xx, the second edition of IEC/TR 60513 includes two major new principles:

- the first change is that the concept of “SAFETY” has been broadened from the BASIC SAFETY considerations in the first and second editions of IEC 60601-1 to include ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE matters, (e.g. the accuracy of physiological monitoring equipment). Application of this principle leads to the change of the title of this publication from “Medical electrical equipment, Part 1: General requirements for safety” in the second edition, to “Medical electrical equipment, Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance”;
- the second change is that, in specifying minimum safety requirements, provision is made for assessing the adequacy of the design PROCESS when this is the only practical method of assessing the safety of certain technologies such as programmable electronic systems. Application of this principle is one of the factors leading to introduction of a general requirement to carry out a RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS. In parallel with the development of the third edition of IEC 60601-1, a joint project with ISO/TC 210 resulted in the publication of a general standard for RISK MANAGEMENT of medical devices. Compliance with this edition of IEC 60601-1 requires that the MANUFACTURER have in place a RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS complying with [parts of](#) ISO 14971 (see 4.2).

This standard contains requirements concerning BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE that are generally applicable to MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT. For certain types of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, these requirements are either supplemented or modified by the special requirements of a collateral or particular standard. Where particular standards exist, this standard should not be used alone.

Amendment 1 to this standard is intended to address:

- = [issues identified by National Committees and other interested parties since the publication of IEC 60601-1:2005;](#)
- = [the way in which RISK MANAGEMENT has been introduced into IEC 60601-1:2005; and](#)
- = [the way the concept of ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE is used in IEC 60601-1:2005.](#)

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1) Figures in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AMENDMENT

The third edition of IEC 60601-1 was published in 2005. At the time of publication, there were 94 National Committee comments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDV and the FDIS that were deferred to a future amendment/revision. Each of their deferred comments was captured in an Issue Sheet by the SC 62A secretariat. By the time of the Auckland meeting in April 2008, the Subcommittees had developed two Interpretation Sheets and the SC 62A secretariat has received an additional 15 issues from National Committees and other interested parties.

At the Auckland meeting, IEC/TC 62 approved a project to develop the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment to IEC 60601-1:2005 based on the issues outstanding at the time. The TC approved developing the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment with a view to addressing outstanding issues, including but not limited to:

- = those listed in 62A/593/DC and 62A/602/INF;
- = the way in which risk management has been introduced into IEC 60601-1:2005; and
- = the way the concept of essential performance is used in IEC 60601-1:2005.

Since the Auckland meeting, the secretariat has received 73 additional issues from National Committees or other interested parties for a total of 182 Issues Sheets. This amendment is intended to address those issues.



# MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance

## 1 Scope, object and related standards

### 1.1 \* Scope

This International Standard applies to the BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT and MEDICAL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.

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.

NOTE [1](#) See also 4.2.

~~This standard can also be applied to equipment used for compensation or alleviation of disease, injury or disability.~~

The IEC 60601 series does not apply to:

- = ~~in~~ vitro diagnostic equipment that does not fall within the definition of ME EQUIPMENT, which is covered by the IEC 61010 series <sup>2)</sup>. This standard does not apply to the implantable parts of active implantable medical devices covered by ISO 14708-1 <sup>3)</sup>. [61]
- = implantable parts of active implantable medical devices covered by the ISO 14708 series [69]; or
- = medical gas pipeline systems covered by ISO 7396-1 [68].

NOTE 2 ISO 7396-1 applies the requirement of IEC 60601-1-8 to certain monitoring and ALARM SIGNALS.

### 1.2 Object

The object of this standard is to specify general requirements and to serve as the basis for particular standards.

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<sup>2)</sup> ~~IEC 61010 (all parts), Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use~~

<sup>3)</sup> ~~ISO 14708-1, Implants for surgery – Active implantable medical devices – Part 1: General requirements for safety, marking and for information to be provided by the manufacturer~~