

CONSOLIDATED VERSION

VERSION CONSOLIDÉE



Medical electrical equipment – Dosimeters with ionization chambers as used in radiotherapy

Appareils électromédicaux – Dosimètres à chambres d'ionisation utilisés en radiothérapie



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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	6
INTRODUCTION.....	8
1 Scope and object.....	9
1.1 Scope.....	9
1.2 Object.....	9
2 Normative references.....	9
3 Terms and definitions.....	10
4 General requirements.....	22
4.1 BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE.....	22
4.2 Performance requirements.....	22
4.3 REFERENCE VALUES and STANDARD TEST VALUES.....	22
4.4 General test conditions and methods.....	23
4.4.1 STANDARD TEST CONDITIONS.....	23
4.4.2 Test of components.....	23
4.4.3 RATED or EFFECTIVE RANGE of dose (or KERMA) rate.....	23
4.4.4 UNCERTAINTY OF MEASUREMENT.....	24
4.4.5 Adjustments during test.....	24
4.4.6 Test conditions particular to CHAMBER ASSEMBLIES.....	24
4.4.7 Test conditions particular to MEASURING ASSEMBLIES.....	24
4.4.8 Test conditions particular to STABILITY CHECK DEVICES.....	25
4.4.9 Use of STABILITY CHECK DEVICES.....	25
4.5 Summary tables.....	25
4.6 Classification of equipment according to LIMITS OF VARIATION.....	32
4.6.1 FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETER.....	32
4.6.2 REFERENCE-CLASS DOSIMETER.....	32
4.6.3 SCANNING-CLASS DOSIMETER.....	32
5 CHAMBER ASSEMBLY performance requirements.....	33
5.1 General.....	33
5.2 General performance requirements for (RADIOTHERAPY) IONIZATION CHAMBERS.....	33
5.2.1 CHAMBER ASSEMBLY LEAKAGE CURRENT without IRRADIATION.....	33
5.2.2 Stability.....	33
5.2.3 STABILIZATION TIME.....	34
5.2.4 Post-irradiation leakage.....	34
5.2.5 RATED or EFFECTIVE RANGE of dose rate (continuous radiation).....	35
5.2.6 Maximum RATED dose per pulse (pulsed radiation).....	36
5.2.7 RATED RANGE of field sizes.....	37
5.2.8 STRAY RADIATION.....	38
5.2.9 Guard/collector insulation.....	38
5.2.10 Cable microphony.....	39
5.2.11 Polarity of polarizing voltage effect.....	39
5.2.12 ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY.....	40
5.3 Performance requirements particular to SHELL CHAMBERS.....	40
5.3.1 Dependence on RADIATION QUALITY.....	40
5.3.2 RATED RANGE of field sizes.....	43
5.3.3 Chamber orientation.....	44
5.4 Performance requirements particular to PARALLEL-PLATE CHAMBERS.....	45

5.4.1	Dependence on RADIATION QUALITY	46
5.4.2	Chamber orientation.....	47
5.5	Performance requirements particular to VENTED CHAMBERS.....	47
5.5.1	Atmospheric pressure change	48
5.5.2	Temperature	48
5.5.3	Humidity	48
5.6	Performance requirements particular to SEALED CHAMBERS	49
5.6.1	Atmospheric pressure change	49
5.6.2	Temperature	49
6	MEASURING ASSEMBLY performance requirements.....	50
6.1	General.....	50
6.2	General performance requirements for RADIOTHERAPY DOSIMETERS.....	50
6.2.1	EFFECTIVE RANGES.....	50
6.2.2	RESOLUTION of the display or data output terminal.....	51
6.2.3	Repeatability.....	51
6.2.4	Long-term stability	51
6.2.5	STABILIZATION TIME	52
6.2.6	ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY	52
6.3	Performance requirements particular to dosimeters.....	53
6.3.1	ZERO DRIFT.....	53
6.3.2	ZERO SHIFT.....	54
6.3.3	NON-LINEARITY.....	55
6.3.4	Range changing.....	56
6.3.5	Dead time	57
6.3.6	Temperature	57
6.3.7	Humidity	58
6.3.8	STRAY RADIATION effect	58
6.3.9	Charge leakage	59
6.3.10	Dose rate dependence of dosimeters.....	59
6.4	Performance requirements particular to dose rate meters.....	60
6.4.1	ZERO DRIFT.....	60
6.4.2	ZERO SHIFT.....	61
6.4.3	NON-LINEARITY.....	62
6.4.4	Range changing.....	63
6.4.5	RESPONSE TIME.....	65
6.4.6	Temperature	65
6.4.7	Humidity	66
6.4.8	STRAY RADIATION effect.....	66
6.5	Performance requirements particular to battery-operated MEASURING ASSEMBLIES.....	67
6.6	Performance requirements particular to supply mains-operated MEASURING ASSEMBLIES.....	67
6.6.1	MAINS VOLTAGE – static.....	67
6.6.2	MAINS VOLTAGE – VARIATION during a measurement	67
7	STABILITY CHECK DEVICE performance requirements.....	68
7.1	General.....	68
7.2	General performance requirements for STABILITY CHECK DEVICES	68
7.2.1	Long-term stability	68
7.2.2	Repeatability.....	68

8	Constructional requirements as related to PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS	69
8.1	Constructional requirements on CHAMBER ASSEMBLIES	69
8.2	Constructional requirements on MEASURING ASSEMBLIES	69
8.2.1	Adjustment of RESPONSE	69
8.2.2	Display device	69
8.2.3	Battery indication and compensation	70
8.2.4	Input current threshold	70
8.2.5	Automatic termination of measurement in the dose mode	70
8.3	Constructional requirements on STABILITY CHECK DEVICES	71
8.3.1	Output of the STABILITY CHECK DEVICES	71
8.3.2	Constructional requirements particular to a radioactive type STABILITY CHECK DEVICE	71
8.3.3	Constructional requirements particular to an overall STABILITY CHECK DEVICE	71
8.4	Constructional requirements on PHANTOMS and build-up caps	71
9	Marking	72
9.1	Marking required on CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	72
9.1.1	Information required in IEC 60601-1	72
9.1.2	Other information	73
9.1.3	Compliance check	73
9.2	Marking required on MEASURING ASSEMBLY	73
9.2.1	CHAMBER ASSEMBLY in contact with the PATIENT	73
9.2.2	CHAMBER ASSEMBLY not in contact with the PATIENT	73
9.2.3	Each MEASURING ASSEMBLY	73
9.2.4	MEASURING ASSEMBLY with a display scaled in dose	73
9.2.5	Multi-range MEASURING ASSEMBLY	74
9.2.6	MEASURING ASSEMBLY with more than one chamber	74
9.2.7	Graphical symbols	74
9.2.8	Compliance check	74
9.3	Marking required on STABILITY CHECK DEVICE	74
9.3.1	General	74
9.3.2	STABILITY CHECK DEVICE containing a RADIOACTIVE SOURCE	74
9.3.3	Device which contributes to protection against IONIZING RADIATION	74
9.3.4	Compliance check	74
9.4	Marking required on PHANTOM or build-up cap	74
10	ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS	75
10.1	ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS for CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	75
10.1.1	INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE of CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	75
10.1.2	Test sheet for CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	77
10.1.3	Calibration certificate for CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	77
10.2	ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS for MEASURING ASSEMBLY	78
10.2.1	INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE of MEASURING ASSEMBLY	78
10.2.2	Test sheet for MEASURING ASSEMBLY	79
10.2.3	Calibration certificate for MEASURING ASSEMBLY	80
10.3	ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS for STABILITY CHECK DEVICE	80
10.3.1	INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE of STABILITY CHECK DEVICE	80
10.3.2	Test sheet for STABILITY CHECK DEVICE	81
10.3.3	Measurement certificate for STABILITY CHECK DEVICE	81
10.4	ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS for PHANTOMS and build-up caps	82

Annex A (informative) Values, error and UNCERTAINTY	84
Annex B (normative) Test equipment for cable microphony	85
Annex C (normative) UNCERTAINTY OF MEASUREMENT	86
Bibliography	95
Index of defined terms used in this standard.....	96
Figure 1 – Tolerance of depth in PHANTOM	72
Figure 2 – Tolerance of lateral position in PHANTOM	72
Figure A.1 – Graphical illustration of values, error and UNCERTAINTY	84
Figure B.1 – Test equipment for cable microphony	85
Figure C.1 – PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS for the PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS to be within the LIMITS OF VARIATION $\pm L$ and the expression of their VARIANCES in terms of L	88
Table 1 – REFERENCE CONDITIONS and STANDARD TEST CONDITIONS – CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	26
Table 2 – REFERENCE CONDITIONS and STANDARD TEST CONDITIONS – MEASURING ASSEMBLY.....	27
Table 3 – Limits of PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS at STANDARD TEST CONDITIONS – CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	27
Table 4 – Limits of PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS at STANDARD TEST CONDITIONS – MEASURING ASSEMBLY	28
Table 5 – LIMITS OF VARIATION of PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS for effects of INFLUENCE QUANTITIES and INSTRUMENT PARAMETERS – CHAMBER ASSEMBLY	29
Table 6 – LIMITS OF VARIATION of PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS for effects of INFLUENCE QUANTITIES and INSTRUMENT PARAMETERS – MEASURING ASSEMBLY	31
Table 7 – LIMITS OF VARIATION of PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS for effects of INFLUENCE QUANTITIES and INSTRUMENT PARAMETERS – chamber and MEASURING ASSEMBLIES combined	32
Table C.1 – Estimate of COMBINED STANDARD UNCERTAINTY for performance of a hypothetical dosimeter	90
Table C.2 – A hypothetical example of the assessment of the UNCERTAINTIES on the output measurement of an K_{air} set using a FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETER	94

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –
DOSIMETERS WITH IONIZATION CHAMBERS
AS USED IN RADIOTHERAPY**

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This Consolidated version of IEC 60731 bears the edition number 3.1. It consists of the third edition (2011-02) [documents 62C/506/FDIS and 62C/511/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2016-04) [documents 62C/596A/CDV and 62C/630/RVC]. The technical content is identical to the base edition and its amendment.

In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. 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 60731 has been prepared by subcommittee 62C: Equipment for radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and radiation dosimetry of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

The technical modifications versus the second edition of this standard concerns performance requirements of RADIO THERAPY DOSIMETERS intended for the measurement of ABSORBED DOSE TO WATER or AIR KERMA in heavy ion RADIATION FIELDS and SCANNING-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for relative dose distribution measurements with a SCANNING SYSTEM such as an automatic water PHANTOM.

In this standard, the following print types are used:

- requirements, compliance with which can be tested, and definitions: in roman type;
- explanations, advice, general statements, exceptions and notes: in small roman type;
- *test specifications: in italic type;*
- terms used throughout this particular standard that have been listed in the Index of defined terms and defined in Clause 3, or in other standards: SMALL CAPITALS.

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INTRODUCTION

This International Standard is applicable to the performance of RADIOTHERAPY DOSIMETERS with IONIZATION CHAMBERS as used in RADIOTHERAPY.

The effectiveness of treatment of PATIENTS receiving RADIOTHERAPY depends on the accuracy of the dose of radiation received, as well as on the accuracy of their spatial distribution. An excessive dose can lead to excessive tissue damage, while an insufficient dose will not provide the therapeutic benefit sought. The equipment covered by this standard plays an essential part in achieving the required accuracy.

This standard is not concerned with the safety aspects of dosimeters. The relevant IEC standards covering safety depend upon the way in which the dosimeter is used:

- if it is used in the PATIENT environment, the requirements for safety applying to dosimeters with IONIZATION CHAMBERS as used in RADIOTHERAPY are contained in IEC 60601-1;
- if it is not used in the PATIENT environment, then the safety requirements for dosimeters with IONIZATION CHAMBERS as used in RADIOTHERAPY are contained in IEC 61010-1.

Dosimeters which comply with this standard should nevertheless be used in accordance with the relevant national or international dosimetry protocol (code of practice). In particular, measurements should be made to determine the ion collection efficiency and polarity effect of the chamber under the exact conditions of use.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT – DOSIMETERS WITH IONIZATION CHAMBERS AS USED IN RADIOTHERAPY

1 Scope and object

1.1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the performance requirements of RADIOTHERAPY DOSIMETERS, intended for the measurement of ABSORBED DOSE TO WATER or AIR KERMA (and their rates and spatial distributions) in PHOTON, ELECTRON, proton or heavy ion RADIATION FIELDS as used in RADIOTHERAPY.

The DOSE MONITORING SYSTEMS incorporated in RADIOTHERAPY treatment machines are not covered by this standard, neither are the re-entrant IONIZATION CHAMBERS used for BRACHYTHERAPY source calibration and constancy check devices.

This standard is applicable to the following types of dosimeter:

- a) FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for
 - 1) the measurement of KERMA or dose in a RADIATION BEAM, either in air or in a PHANTOM;
 - 2) in vivo skin surface or intracavitary measurements of dose on PATIENTS.
- b) REFERENCE-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for the calibration of FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS;

NOTE REFERENCE-CLASS DOSIMETERS may be used as FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS.
- c) SCANNING-CLASS DOSIMETERS normally used for relative dose distribution measurements with a SCANNING SYSTEM such as an automatic water PHANTOM.

1.2 Object

The object of this standard is:

- to establish requirements for a satisfactory level of performance for RADIOTHERAPY DOSIMETERS;
- to standardize methods for the determination of compliance with this level of performance.

Three levels of performance are specified:

- a lower level of performance applying to FIELD-CLASS DOSIMETERS;
- a higher level of performance applying to REFERENCE-CLASS DOSIMETERS;
- a specific level of performance applying to SCANNING-CLASS DOSIMETERS.

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 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*

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