IEC TS 60601-4-6

Edition 1.0 2024-04

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

colour inside

Medical electrical equipment – Part 4-6: Guidance and interpretation – Voluntary guidance to help achieve basic safety and essential performance with regard to the possible effects of electromagnetic disturbances

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ICS 11.040.01; 33.100.20

ISBN 978-2-8322-8809-2

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

_____

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 4-6: Guidance and interpretation – Voluntary guidance to help achieve basic safety and essential performance with regard to the possible effects of electromagnetic disturbances

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 itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
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) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s), which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at https://patents.iec.ch. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

IEC TS 60601-4-6 has been prepared by subcommittee 62A: Common aspects of medical equipment, software, and systems, of IEC technical committee 62: Medical equipment, software, and systems. It is a Technical Specification.

The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
62A/1538/DTS	62A/1589/RVDTS

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Specification is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

In this document, the following print types are used:

– recommendations and definitions: roman type.

– *test instructions: 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 THIS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this document, the term

– "clause" means one of the numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 1 includes 1.1, 1.2, etc.);

– "subclause" means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.1 are all subclauses of Clause 1).

References to clauses within this document are preceded by the term "Clause" followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this document are by number only.

In this document, 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 document conform to usage described in Clause 7 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this document, the auxiliary verb:

– "shall" means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this document;

– "should" means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this document.

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 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.

IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

In 2017 it was decided to remove Annex F of IEC 60601-1-2:2014 [1][1] into a separate document and provide guidance to help achieve basic safety and essential performance with regard to the possible effects of ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE by a technical specification under the IEC 60601 series of standards.

This IEC document provides voluntary guidance on the assessment and application of techniques and measures that can help reduce the risks associated with the interfering effects of ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCES on medical equipment and medical systems.

1 Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 4-6: Guidance and interpretation – Voluntary guidance to help achieve basic safety and essential performance with regard to the possible effects of electromagnetic disturbances

1 Scope

This document provides practical methods to help achieve BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE with regard to the possible effects of EM DISTURBANCES throughout the EXPECTED SERVICE LIFE of ME EQUIPMENT or an ME SYSTEM.

These practical methods attempt to address all of the different types of errors, malfunctions or failures that can be caused by EM DISTURBANCES in ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS.

The purpose of this document is to provide recommendations for the techniques and measures used in the design, VERIFICATION, and validation of systems, hardware, software, and firmware used in ME EQUIPMENT or ME SYSTEMS to help achieve BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE with regard to the EM DISTURBANCES that could occur throughout the EXPECTED SERVICE LIFE.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*