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Ultrasonics – Real-time pulse-echo systems – Test procedures to determine performance specifications

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Ultrasonics – Real-time pulse-echo systems – Test procedures to determine performance specifications

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD 5
INTRODUCTION 7
1 Scope 8
2 Normative references 8
3 Terms and definitions 8
4 Environmental conditions 18
5 Recommended equipment 19
6 Test methods 19
6.1 Instruments 19
6.1.1 General 19
6.1.2 Hydrophones 19
6.1.3 Oscilloscope or other transient recorder 19
6.1.4 Spectrum analyzer 20
6.1.5 Pulse generator 20
6.1.6 Tissue-mimicking test objects 20
6.1.7 Tank and degassed water 20
6.1.8 High or low reflective target 20
6.1.9 Target holder and/or positioning system 20
6.1.10 Computing system to run computer-assisted evaluation software 21
6.1.11 Software to evaluate quality parameters 21
6.2 Test settings 21
6.2.1 General 21
6.2.2 Display settings (focus, brilliance, contrast) 21
6.2.3 Sensitivity settings (frequency, suppression, output power, overall gain, TGC, automatic TGC) 21
6.2.4 Final optimisation 22
6.2.5 Recording system 22
6.3 Tested quantities / parameters and procedures 22
6.3.1 General 22
6.3.2 Acoustic working-frequency bandwidth 23
6.3.3 Resolution 23
6.3.4 Contrast-detail resolution 25
6.3.5 Non- or minimally-scattering region detectability 25
6.3.6 Dead zone and proximal and distal working limits 28
6.3.7 Slice thickness 28
6.3.8 Depth of penetration 28
6.3.9 Displayed dynamic range 29
6.3.10 Display error or position recording error 29
6.3.11 Measurement system accuracy 29
6.3.12 M-mode calibration 30
6.3.13 Beam shape 30
6.3.14 Uniformity-degradation (element or channel) test 31
Annex A (informative) Test objects and tissue-mimicking material 32
A.1 Test object structures 32
A.2 Tissue-mimicking materials 32
A.3 Description of test objects 32

A.3.1 Soft tissue-mimicking test object 32
A.3.2 Axial resolution test object 33
A.3.3 Multi-purpose resolution test object 34
A.3.4 Contrast test objects 36
A.3.5 Low-scattering sphere void test object 37
A.3.6 Randomly positioned, embedded low-echo spheres phantom 38
A.3.7 Cylindrical-void phantom 39
A.3.8 Edinburgh pipe phantom 40
A.3.9 Crossed-threads phantom 42
Annex B (informative) Test procedures 47
B.1 Analysis of random-void phantoms 47
B.1.1 Automated segmentation and sorting of voids 47
B.1.2 Procedure for detecting voids and assigning contrast-scaled spherical objects to them for display of the best imaging zones 48
B.2 Analysis of beam profiles using cross-threads phantoms 50
B.2.1 Test procedure for crossed-threads phantom 50
B.2.2 Analysis of display sonic contrast when using a foam phantom 50
Bibliography 53

Figure 1 – Beam geometry 11
Figure 2 – Reticulated foam with random voids 26
Figure A.1 – Soft tissue-mimicking test object 33
Figure A.2 – Axial resolution test object 34
Figure A.3 – Multi-purpose resolution test object 35
Figure A.4 – Slice-thickness measurement and calculation 36
Figure A.5 – Contrast test object 37
Figure A.6 – Non-scattering spheres test object 38
Figure A.7 – End view of the phantom applicable for 2 MHz to 7 MHz showing the spatially random distribution of 4-mm diameter spheres 39
Figure A.8 – Essential components of Satrapa's cylindical-void phantom 40
Figure A.9 – Structures of foams 40
Figure A.10 – Schematic of Edinburgh pipe phantom showing anechoic pipes within the tissue mimicking material 41
Figure A.11 – Image from a preclinical ultrasound scanner operating at 55 MHz showing the length over which a 92-micron pipe can be visualised in the scan plane 42
Figure A.12 – 3D-thread phantom 43
Figure A.13 – Beam profiles calculated from the single-filament images 43
Figure A.14 – Thread groups with threads stretched at 45º angles to each other 44
Figure A.15 – (above) Azimuthal and elevational beam profiles obtained from a filament phantom; (below) Constant depth (C-images) from a random-void phantom 45
Figure A.16 – Beam profiles calculated for a matrix probe 45
Figure B.1 – Segmentation of voids performed following void contrast (void signal amplitude) ranking and transfer in small spheres like a “container” to the corresponding contrast fraction 48
Figure B.2 – WCR-plot for 10 fractions with the reference level set to 70 49
Figure B.3 – Screen shots of rotating volume images of a random-void phantom using gray-scale (left) and $VDR_{¡}$-levels (right) in transparent mode 49

Figure B.4 – Screen shot of a rotating-volume image of random-void phantom after automatic segmentation 50
Figure B.5 – Determination of display sonic contrast (symbolic) 51
Figure B.6 – Result of 3D-display sonic contrast determination (example) 51
Figure B.7 – A Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) chart, giving only "signal“ without "noise“, expressed in dB 52

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ULTRASONICS – REAL-TIME PULSE-ECHO SYSTEMS –

Test procedures to determine performance specifications

FOREWORD

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IEC TR 61390 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 87: Ultrasonics. It is a Technical Report.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1996. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) Several additional phantom designs are included in the main body of the document;
b) Several additional transducer types are included in the Scope;
c) Methods of analysis are presented in new Annex B.

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

Draft	Report on voting
87/771/DTR	87/796A/RVDTR

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 Report 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/standardsdev/publications.

NOTE Words in **bold** in the text are defined in Clause 3.

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- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
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INTRODUCTION

An ultrasonic pulse-echo scanner produces images of tissue in a **scan plane** by sweeping a narrow, pulsed beam of **ultrasound** through the section of interest and detecting the echoes generated at tissue boundaries. Furthermore, the number of ultrasonic pulse-echo scanners using plane-wave imaging technology is increasing.

Alternatively, a scanner can transmit a wide-field wave-front or several transmit-beams and record from the whole transducer array the echoes backscattered from tissue boundaries [1] [2][1]. The latter is followed by software beamforming, picking several parts of the wide beam or in this way selecting one of the simultaneously transmitted beams to obtain adequate resolution. Plane-wave techniques cannot compete with physical, transmit beam-forming for maximum depth of imaging at a given **bandwidth**, maximum resolution and minimum acoustic exposure.

Ultrasonic scanners are widely used in medical practice to produce images of many soft-tissue organs throughout the human body. A variety of transducer types is employed to operate in a transmit/receive mode for generating/receiving the ultrasonic signals.

This document describes test procedures that should be widely acceptable and valid for a wide range of types of equipment. Manufacturers should use this document to prepare their own specifications, while users should use this document to check manufacturers' specifications. The measurements can be carried out without interfering with the normal working conditions of the machine. The structures of the **test objects, test equipment** and measuring systems have not been specified in detail; rather, suitable types of overall and internal structures are described, together with typical **test objects**, in Annex A. The specific structure of a **test object** and **test equipment** should be reported, together with the results obtained using them. Similar commercial versions of these **test objects** are available.

The performance parameters selected and the corresponding methods of measurement have been chosen to provide a basis for comparison with the manufacturers' specifications and between similar types of apparatus of different makes, intended for the same kind of diagnostic application. The manufacturers' specifications should allow comparison with the results obtained from the tests described in this document. Specific values of parameters and the tolerances on them have not been recommended, since these are constantly changing. Furthermore, it is intended that the sets of results and values obtained from the use of the recommended methods will provide useful criteria for predicting the performance of equipment in appropriate diagnostic applications.

The procedures recommended in this document are in accordance with IEC 60601-1:2005. Where a diagnostic system accommodates more than one option in respect of a particular system component, for example the transducer, it is intended that each option be regarded as a separate system. However, it is considered that the performance of a machine is adequately specified, if measurements are undertaken for the most significant combinations of machine-control settings and accessories. Further evaluation of equipment is obviously possible but this should be considered as a special case rather than a routine requirement.

Data relating to measuring methods, principles and equipment that are common to two or more sections of this report are given in Annex A. Specific test procedures are given in Annex B.

The measurement of acoustic output power levels and the assessment of electrical safety are dealt with in other IEC standards; they are therefore specifically excluded from this document.

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[1] Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

ULTRASONICS – REAL-TIME PULSE-ECHO SYSTEMS –

Test procedures to determine performance specifications

1 Scope

This document describes representative methods of measuring the performance of complete real-time medical ultrasonic imaging equipment in the frequency range 0,5 MHz to 23 MHz.

NOTE The frequency range given represents, in general, the widely used range in hospitals at the date of publication; special medical applications use higher frequencies for imaging but mainly in research or pre-clinical imaging.

This document is relevant for real-time ultrasonic scanners based on the pulse-echo principle, for the types listed below:

- mechanical sector scanner;
- electronic phased array sector scanner;
- electronic linear array scanner;
- electronic curved array sector scanner;
- water-bath scanner based on any of the above four scanning mechanisms;
- plane-wave/fast imaging scanners;
- combination of several of the above methods (e.g. a linear array phased at the edge to produce a sector there to enlarge the field of view.

The methods described are based on evaluation of:

- sonograms obtained by scanning of tissue mimicking objects (phantoms);
- sonograms obtained by scanning of artificial, low- or highly reflective **target**s in suitable environments;
- parameters of the **ultrasound** field transmitted by the measured scanner.

This document does not relate to methods for measuring electrical parameters of the scanner's electronic systems.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp