

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Medical electrical equipment –  
Part 2-3: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance  
of short-wave therapy equipment**

**Appareils électromédicaux –  
Partie 2-3: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances  
essentielles des appareils de thérapie à ondes courtes**



## THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2022 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

Droits de reproduction réservés. Sauf indication contraire, aucune partie de cette publication ne peut être reproduite ni utilisée sous quelque forme que ce soit et par aucun procédé, électronique ou mécanique, y compris la photocopie et les microfilms, sans l'accord écrit de l'IEC ou du Comité national de l'IEC du pays du demandeur. Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de l'IEC ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de l'IEC de votre pays de résidence.

IEC Secretariat  
3, rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

### About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

### About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

#### IEC publications search - [webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee, ...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

#### IEC Just Published - [webstore.iec.ch/justpublished](http://webstore.iec.ch/justpublished)

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

#### IEC Customer Service Centre - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

#### IEC Products & Services Portal - [products.iec.ch](http://products.iec.ch)

Discover our powerful search engine and read freely all the publications previews. With a subscription you will always have access to up to date content tailored to your needs.

#### Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 300 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 19 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

---

### A propos de l'IEC

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

### A propos des publications IEC

Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

#### Recherche de publications IEC - [webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)

La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études, ...). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

#### IEC Just Published - [webstore.iec.ch/justpublished](http://webstore.iec.ch/justpublished)

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et une fois par mois par email.

#### Service Clients - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

#### IEC Products & Services Portal - [products.iec.ch](http://products.iec.ch)

Découvrez notre puissant moteur de recherche et consultez gratuitement tous les aperçus des publications. Avec un abonnement, vous aurez toujours accès à un contenu à jour adapté à vos besoins.

#### Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)

Le premier dictionnaire d'électrotechnologie en ligne au monde, avec plus de 22 300 articles terminologiques en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 19 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.



IEC 60601-2-3

Edition 3.2 2022-09  
CONSOLIDATED VERSION

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



---

**Medical electrical equipment –  
Part 2-3: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance  
of short-wave therapy equipment**

**Appareils électromédicaux –  
Partie 2-3: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances  
essentielle des appareils de thérapie à ondes courtes**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
ELECTROTECHNIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

---

ICS 11.040.60

ISBN 978-2-8322-5707-4

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.  
Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.**



# REDLINE VERSION

# VERSION REDLINE



**Medical electrical equipment –  
Part 2-3: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance  
of short-wave therapy equipment**

**Appareils électromédicaux –  
Partie 2-3: Exigences particulières pour la sécurité de base et les performances  
essentielles des appareils de thérapie à ondes courtes**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	6
INTRODUCTION to Amendment 2 .....	6
201.1 Scope, object and related standards .....	7
201.2 Normative references .....	8
201.3 Terms and definitions .....	8
201.4 General requirements.....	9
201.5 General requirements for testing of ME EQUIPMENT.....	9
201.6 Classification of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS .....	9
201.7 ME EQUIPMENT identification, marking and documents.....	9
201.8 Protection against electrical HAZARDS from ME EQUIPMENT.....	11
201.9 Protection against MECHANICAL HAZARDS of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS .....	15
201.10 Protection against unwanted and excessive radiation HAZARDS.....	15
201.11 Protection against excessive temperatures and other HAZARDS.....	15
201.12 Accuracy of controls and instruments and protection against hazardous outputs .....	15
201.13 HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS and fault conditions for ME EQUIPMENT .....	16
201.14 PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRICAL MEDICAL SYSTEMS (PEMS) .....	17
201.15 Construction of ME EQUIPMENT .....	17
201.16 ME SYSTEMS.....	17
201.17 Electromagnetic compatibility of ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS .....	17
Annexes .....	17
ANNEX C (informative) Guide to marking and labelling requirements for ME EQUIPMENT and ME SYSTEMS.....	18
Annex AA-(informative) Particular guidance and rationale.....	19
Index of defined terms used in this particular standard.....	21
Figure 201.101 – Dielectric strength test for capacitive APPLICATORS.....	13
Figure 201.102 – Test probe .....	14
Figure 201.103 – Dielectric strength test for inductive APPLICATORS .....	15
Table 201.C.101 – Marking on the outside of SHORT-WAVE THERAPY EQUIPMENT or its parts .....	18

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

---

### MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

#### **Part 2-3: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of short-wave therapy equipment**

#### 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) 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 the official IEC Standard and its amendments has been prepared for user convenience.**

**IEC 60601-2-3 edition 3.2 contains the third edition (2012-04) [documents 62D/977/FDIS and 62D/993/RVD], its amendment 1 (2016-04) [documents 62D/1330/FDIS and 62D/1350/RVD] and its amendment 2 (2022-09) [documents 62D/1846/CDV and 62D/1959/RVC].**

**In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendments 1 and 2. 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 60601-2-3 has been prepared by subcommittee 62D: Electromedical equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition of IEC 60601-2-3 published in 1991 and its amendment 1 published in 1998. This edition constitutes a technical revision and has been aligned with IEC 60601-1:~~2005~~.

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: roman type.
- *Test specifications: 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 THE GENERAL STANDARD, IN THIS PARTICULAR STANDARD OR AS NOTED: 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 particular 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 H of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this standard, the auxiliary verb:

- “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this standard;
- “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 AA.

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 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.

**IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication 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

The minimum safety requirements specified in this particular standard are considered to provide for a practical degree of safety in the operation of short-wave therapy equipment.

This particular standard amends and supplements IEC 60601-1 ~~(third edition, 2005)~~: *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for safety and essential performance*, hereinafter referred to as the general standard (see 201.1.4).

The requirements are followed by specifications for the relevant tests.

A "particular guidance and rationale" section giving some explanatory notes, where appropriate, about the more important requirements is included in Annex AA.

Clauses or subclauses for which there are explanatory notes in annex AA are marked with an asterisk (\*).

It is considered that a knowledge of the reasons for these requirements will not only facilitate the proper application of the standard but will, in due course, expedite any revision necessitated by changes in clinical practice or as a result of developments in technology. However, this annex does not form part of the requirements of this standard.

## INTRODUCTION to Amendment 2

At the October 2019 meeting of IEC SC 62D in Shanghai, China, the subcommittee discussed the need for administrative/technical changes to most 62D standards after completion of the amendment projects within the IEC 60601-1 series. Those projects were all completed and the amendments published in 2020.

The full list of IEC SC 62D documents that will be amended or revised may be found within the IEC document 62D/1792/DC. The results and comments on the DC may be found within 62D1808/INF. The review report for this amendment is 62D/1829/RR.

## MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

### Part 2-3: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of short-wave therapy equipment

#### 201.1 Scope, object and related standards

Clause 1 of the general standard<sup>1</sup> applies, except as follows:

##### 201.1.1 Scope

*Replacement:*

This particular standard specifies the requirements for the safety of SHORT-WAVE THERAPY EQUIPMENT, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT, as defined in subclause 201.3.206.

LOW POWER EQUIPMENT as defined in subclause 201.3.202 is exempted from certain requirements of this standard.

##### 201.1.2 Object

*Replacement:*

The object of this particular standard is to establish particular BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements for SHORT-WAVE THERAPY EQUIPMENT as defined in 201.3.206.

##### 201.1.3 Collateral standards

*Addition:*

This particular standard refers to those applicable collateral standards that are listed in Clause 2 of the general standard.

IEC 60601-1-3 and IEC 60601-1-12 ~~do es~~ not apply. All other published collateral standards in the IEC 60601-1 series apply as published.

##### 201.1.4 Particular standards

*Replacement:*

In the IEC 60601 series, particular standards may modify, replace or delete requirements contained in the general standard and collateral standards as appropriate for the particular ME EQUIPMENT under consideration, and may add other BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE requirements.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over the general standard.

For brevity, IEC 60601-1 is referred to in this particular standard as the general standard. Collateral standards are referred to by their document number.

---

<sup>1</sup> The general standard is IEC 60601-1:2005, IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012 and IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD2:2020, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*