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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Magnetic resonance equipment for medical imaging – Part 1: Determination of essential image quality parameters

Appareils à résonance magnétique pour imagerie médicale – Partie 1: Détermination des principaux paramètres de qualité d'image

IEC 62464-1:2018-12(en-fr)

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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MAGNETIC RESONANCE EQUIPMENT FOR MEDICAL IMAGING –

Part 1: Determination of essential image quality parameters

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.
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International Standard IEC 62464-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 62B: Diagnostic imaging equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2007. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) the tests have been revised to comply with the technical progress;
b) the range of B_0 was increased from 4 T to 8 T.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
62B/1068/CDV	62B/1078/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

In this document, the following print types are used:

- requirements, compliance with which can be tested, and definitions: roman type;
- explanations, advice, notes, general statements and exceptions: smaller roman type;
- *test specifications: italic type;*
- TERMS DEFINED IN CLAUSE 3 OR IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS: SMALL CAPITALS.

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 B.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 62464 series, published under the general title *Magnetic resonance equipment for medical imaging*, 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 "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 62464 is written at a moment in which the magnetic resonance (MR) equipment is already present in the market place for more than 30 years. It is estimated that more than 30 000 scanners are operational and more than 0,5 billion PATIENTS have been scanned. A number of standards on quality assurance and quality control have been developed by National Committees to address the need for quantitative assessment of system performance and system maintenance. It is therefore felt to be necessary to introduce this document in addition to the existing standards on MR safety, because the IEC standards have a true international character and this document combines current best practices together and provides guidance on how to address the various questions on quality control and quality assurance testing of MAGNETIC RESONANCE EQUIPMENT together. Having a standardised set of test methods minimises the amount of work for the MR MANUFACTURERS to demonstrate the performance characteristics of the MR scanners for many different countries and, in addition, these countries do not have to formulate their own requirements for the performance testing.

Since MR scanners have been used for some time, this document is an attempt to consolidate the current way of working for the quality control of the performance characteristics concerning essential image quality parameters, and does not introduce major new development efforts for the established MR EQUIPMENT to fulfil the requirements of this document. This objective is achieved by introducing preferred methods in the main text, while allowing acceptable alternative test methods, described in Annex A. A number of the ACCEPTANCE TEST methods described in this document are already described earlier, mainly as NEMA technical MR standards, and new methods have been developed since then. For this document, it is attempted to select the best method as preferred method, whereas for a number of specific tests, good alternatives are available and are therefore also acceptable.

Also, for the quality assurance tests, the CONSTANCY TESTS, each MANUFACTURER has developed its own TEST DEVICE and related test procedures and data analysis in the past years. For the CONSTANCY TESTS, it was therefore decided not to describe detailed test methods but only prescribe the parameters to be measured and essential conditions for these measurements in the main text. This provides the necessary latitude to account for the many unique MR designs (extremity scanners, whole body scanners, cylindrical versus open scanners, various field strengths, TEST DEVICE design, and data analysis) and examples for possible CONSTANCY TESTS for the required parameters in Annex A.

This document draws on the practical experiences gained in the implementation of IEC 62464-1:2007 and benefits from the continued improvements found in the associated updated NEMA MS series of standards. The utility in implementing the various tests found herein was improved by clarifying the relationship between the tests, the parameters used, the analysis of results, the expected calibration state of the scanner and the reporting of results. Two tests, with no known sensitivity to, for example, field strength considerations (SPATIAL RESOLUTION, SLICE THICKNESS in 2-D scanning), now have acceptance criteria. The Annex A GEOMETRIC DISTORTION test suite now includes 3-D test methods.

An original goal of IEC 62464-1:2007 was linkage of the SNR, SLICE THICKNESS and resolution tests in order to characterize the system in a consistent configuration. However, increasing the range of B_0 covered in this document from 4 T to 8 T (consistent with the recent changes in IEC 60601-2-33) required additional flexibility in the TEST DEVICE filler composition in order to eliminate confounding wavelength ARTEFACTS. Therefore, the various test clauses are decoupled in this document. This permits the flexibility to perform each test in an optimal configuration and does not require a retest of other parameters. For example, it is not necessary to repeat a resolution test for a RF COIL, which is not a function of the RF COIL, when the objective is to measure only SNR.

It was not possible to establish a full set of TEST DEVICE and scan parameter requirements appropriate for all MRI systems at the full range of B_0 permitted in this document. Instead, this document was modified to state that testing shall be performed in an MRI system that has been properly calibrated for routine clinical scanning. Calibration is specific to the make and model of MRI scanner and no requirements are listed in this document.The flexibility in the

definition of specification areas and volumes was improved to support the increasing specialization of receive coils. The standard encourages reuse of phantoms for multiple applications where possible, as long as the phantom provides signal in the specification area and/or volume as required, unless instructed otherwise.

This document has also been modified regarding the use of reconstruction and image filters. The intent of IEC 62464-1:2007 was to disable all user controlled filters, and record the condition of all other filters, in order to characterize the system in the most basic possible configuration. However, systems continue to evolve and the presence and configuration of some filters are not known to the end user (e.g. image reconstruction), whereas other filters might be known to the end user, beyond their control, and always applied (e.g. GEOMETRIC DISTORTION correction). This document formally introduces two mechanisms for addressing this situation: 1) the concept of "clinically relevant" to provide guidance on filter settings and 2) an emphasis on the accurate recording of all parameters used in the acquisition and reconstruction of the images sufficient to enable a faithful reproduction of results on another unit of the same make, model and software revision. The intent of "clinically relevant" is to enable a known and properly identified protocol from a given software revision to be used as the basis for the tests. Factory set defaults are assumed to be applied, and filters considered not essential can be turned on or off as clinically appropriate. All adjustments made from default setting should be recorded in the reporting of results. By carefully recording the base system configuration and any additional acquisition parameter adjustments, all known and unknown filter settings are reproducible and all results should be repeatable. Note that "clinically relevant" also enables the user of this document to appropriately select parameters (e.g. acquisition bandwidth) that may vary with B_0 or other system attributes.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE EQUIPMENT FOR MEDICAL IMAGING –

Part 1: Determination of essential image quality parameters

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62464 specifies measurement procedures for the determination of many essential image quality parameters for MR EQUIPMENT. Measurement procedures as addressed in this document are suitable for

– quality assessment in the ACCEPTANCE TEST, and

– quality assurance in the CONSTANCY TEST.

Required levels of performance for ACCEPTANCE TESTS are not provided for all tests.

This document does not address

– image quality assessment of MR EQUIPMENT with a static magnetic field intensity greater than 8 Tesla, if not otherwise stated,

– image quality affected by MR-compatibility issues,

– special diagnostic procedures such as flow imaging, perfusion, diffusion, radiotherapy and image-guided therapy applications, and

– TYPE TESTS.

The scope of this document is also limited to measuring image quality characteristics in images acquired on TEST DEVICES, not in PATIENT images.

The measurement procedures specified in this document are directed to

– MANUFACTURERS, who can demonstrate compliance by performing ACCEPTANCE and CONSTANCY TESTS as described by this document,

– test houses, who can confirm performance of MR EQUIPMENT using methods described in this document,

– regulatory authorities, who can reference this document, and

– RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATIONS who want to perform ACCEPTANCE and CONSTANCY TESTS using methods described in this document.

The essential image quality parameters and measurement methodologies defined in this document are

– SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO,

– UNIFORMITY,

– SLICE THICKNESS in 2-D scanning,

– 2-D GEOMETRIC DISTORTION,

– SPATIAL RESOLUTION, and

– GHOSTING ARTEFACTS.

Each of these procedures can be performed standalone or in combination with any of the other procedures.

This document describes the preferred measurement procedures. It also describes alternative normative methods in Annex A. The preferred test methods may be substituted with these