

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION  
PUBLICATION GROUPEE DE SÉCURITÉ

**Safety of laser products –  
Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements**

**Sécurité des appareils à laser –  
Partie 1: Classification des matériels et exigences**



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	6
1 Scope and object.....	8
2 Normative references .....	10
3 Terms and definitions .....	10
4 Classification principles .....	24
4.1 General.....	24
4.2 Classification responsibilities .....	24
4.3 Classification rules.....	24
4.4 Laser products designed to function as conventional lamps .....	29
5 Determination of the accessible emission level and product classification.....	29
5.1 Tests .....	29
5.2 Measurement of laser radiation.....	30
5.3 Determination of the class of the laser product.....	31
5.4 Measurement geometry.....	40
5.4.1 General .....	40
5.4.2 Default (simplified) evaluation.....	41
5.4.3 Evaluation condition for extended sources.....	42
6 Engineering specifications .....	44
6.1 General remarks and modifications .....	44
6.2 Protective housing .....	44
6.2.1 General .....	44
6.2.2 Service .....	45
6.2.3 Removable laser system.....	45
6.3 Access panels and safety interlocks.....	45
6.4 Remote interlock connector.....	46
6.5 Manual reset.....	46
6.6 Key control .....	46
6.7 Laser radiation emission warning .....	47
6.8 Beam stop or attenuator.....	47
6.9 Controls .....	47
6.10 Viewing optics.....	47
6.11 Scanning safeguard .....	47
6.12 Safeguard for Class 1C products .....	48
6.13 "Walk-in" access .....	48
6.14 Environmental conditions .....	48
6.15 Protection against other hazards.....	48
6.15.1 Non-optical hazards.....	48
6.15.2 Collateral radiation .....	49
6.16 Power limiting circuit .....	49
7 Labelling.....	49
7.1 General.....	49
7.2 Class 1 and Class 1M .....	51
7.3 Class 1C .....	52
7.4 Class 2 and Class 2M .....	53
7.5 Class 3R.....	53
7.6 Class 3B .....	54

7.7	Class 4 .....	54
7.8	Aperture label .....	55
7.9	Radiation output and standards information .....	55
7.10	Labels for access panels.....	56
	7.10.1 Labels for panels .....	56
	7.10.2 Labels for safety interlocked panels .....	57
7.11	Warning for invisible laser radiation .....	57
7.12	Warning for visible laser radiation .....	57
7.13	Warning for potential hazard to the skin or anterior parts of the eye .....	57
8	Other informational requirements.....	58
	8.1 Information for the user .....	58
	8.2 Purchasing and servicing information .....	59
9	Additional requirements for specific laser products .....	60
	9.1 Other parts of the standard series IEC 60825.....	60
	9.2 Medical laser products .....	60
	9.3 Laser processing machines.....	60
	9.4 Electric toys .....	60
	9.5 Consumer electronic products.....	60
Annex A (informative) Maximum permissible exposure values.....		61
	A.1 General remarks .....	61
	A.2 Limiting apertures .....	66
	A.3 Repetitively pulsed or modulated lasers .....	67
	A.4 Measurement conditions .....	68
	A.4.1 General .....	68
	A.4.2 Limiting aperture.....	68
	A.4.3 Angle of acceptance .....	68
	A.5 Extended source lasers.....	69
Annex B (informative) Examples of calculations .....		70
	B.1 Symbols used in the examples of this annex .....	70
	B.2 Classification of a laser product – Introduction .....	71
	B.3 Examples .....	75
Annex C (informative) Description of the classes and potentially associated hazards.....		80
	C.1 General.....	80
	C.2 Description of classes .....	80
	C.2.1 Class 1 .....	80
	C.2.2 Class 1M .....	80
	C.2.3 Class 1C.....	80
	C.2.4 Class 2 .....	81
	C.2.5 Class 2M .....	81
	C.2.6 Class 3R.....	81
	C.2.7 Class 3B.....	82
	C.2.8 Class 4 .....	82
	C.2.9 Note on nomenclature.....	82
	C.3 Limitations of the classification scheme .....	84
	C.4 References .....	85
Annex D (informative) Biophysical considerations .....		86
	D.1 Anatomy of the eye .....	86
	D.2 The effects of laser radiation on biological tissue .....	87

D.2.1	General .....	87
D.2.2	Hazards to the eye .....	89
D.2.3	Skin hazards.....	92
D.3	MPEs and irradiance averaging .....	93
D.4	Reference documents .....	93
Annex E (informative)	MPEs and AELs expressed as radiance .....	95
E.1	Background.....	95
E.2	Radiance values .....	95
E.3	Rationale .....	96
Annex F (informative)	Summary tables.....	99
Annex G (informative)	Overview of associated parts of IEC 60825.....	102
Bibliography.....		104
Figure 1 – Measurement set-up to limit angle of acceptance by imaging the apparent source onto the plane of the field stop .....		43
Figure 2 – Measurement set-up to limit angle of acceptance by placing a circular aperture or a mask (serving as field stop) close to the apparent source .....		43
Figure 3 – Warning label – Hazard symbol.....		50
Figure 4 – Explanatory label .....		51
Figure 5 – Alternative label for Class 1 .....		52
Figure 6 – Alternative label for Class 1M.....		52
Figure 7 – Alternative label for Class 1C.....		52
Figure 8 – Alternative label for Class 2 .....		53
Figure 9 – Alternative label for Class 2M.....		53
Figure 10 – Alternative label for Class 3R .....		54
Figure 11 – Alternative label for Class 3B .....		54
Figure 12 – Alternative label for Class 4 .....		55
Figure 13 – Alternative label for laser aperture .....		55
Figure B.1 – Flowchart guide for the classification of laser products from supplied output parameters.....		72
Figure B.2 – Flowchart guide for the classification of Class 1M and Class 2M laser products.....		73
Figure B.3 – AEL for Class 1 ultra-violet laser products for selected emission durations from $10^{-9}$ s to $10^3$ s .....		74
Figure B.4 – AEL for Class 1 ultra-violet laser products for emission durations from $10^{-9}$ s to $10^3$ s at selected wavelengths .....		74
Figure B.5 – AEL for Class 1 visible and selected infra-red laser products (case $C_6 = 1$ ) .....		75
Figure D.1 – Anatomy of the eye.....		86
Figure D.2 – Diagram of laser-induced damage in biological systems .....		88
Figure E.1 – Radiance as a function of wavelength .....		95
Table 1 – Additivity of effects on eye and skin of radiation of different spectral regions.....		25
Table 2 – Times below which pulse groups are summed .....		28
Table 3 – Accessible emission limits for Class 1 and Class 1M laser products and $C_6 = 1$ .....		34

Table 4 – Accessible emission limits for Class 1 and Class 1M laser products in the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm (retinal hazard region): extended sources .....	35
Table 5 – Accessible emission limits for Class 2 and Class 2M laser products .....	36
Table 6 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3R laser products and $C_6 = 1$ .....	37
Table 7 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3R laser products in the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm (retinal hazard region): extended sources .....	38
Table 8 – Accessible emission limits for Class 3B laser products .....	39
Table 9 – Correction factors and breakpoints for use in AEL and MPE evaluations .....	39
Table 10 – Measurement aperture diameters and measurement distances for the default (simplified) evaluation .....	41
Table 11 – Reference points for Condition 3 .....	42
Table 12 – Limiting angle of acceptance $\gamma_{ph}$ .....	43
Table 13 – Requirements for safety interlocking .....	45
Table A.1 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) for $C_6 = 1$ at the cornea expressed as irradiance or radiant exposure .....	62
Table A.2 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) at the cornea for extended sources in the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm (retinal hazard region) expressed as irradiance or radiant exposure <sup>d</sup> .....	63
Table A.3 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) of Table A.1 ( $C_6 = 1$ ) for the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm expressed as power or energy <sup>a, b</sup> .....	64
Table A.4 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) of Table A.2 (extended sources) for the wavelength range from 400 nm to 1 400 nm expressed as power or energy <sup>a, b, c, d, e, f, g</sup> .....	65
Table A.5 – Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) of the skin to laser radiation .....	66
Table A.6 – Aperture diameters for measuring laser irradiance and radiant exposure .....	67
Table D.1 – Summary of pathological effects associated with excessive exposure to light ...	90
Table D.2 – Explanation of measurement apertures applied to the eye MPEs .....	93
Table E.1 – Maximum radiance of a diffused source for Class 1 .....	96
Table F.1 – Summary of the physical quantities used in this Part 1 .....	99
Table F.2 – Summary of manufacturer's requirements (1 of 2) .....	100
Table G.1 – Overview of additional data in associated parts of IEC 60825 .....	103

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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## SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

### Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements

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International Standard IEC 60825-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

This third edition of IEC 60825-1 cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2007. It constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a new class, Class 1C, was introduced;
- the measurement condition 2 ("eye loupe" condition) was removed;
- classification of the emission of laser products below a certain radiance level that are intended to be used as replacement for conventional light sources can, as an option, be based on the IEC 62471 series;
- the accessible emission limits (AELs) for Class 1, 1M, 2, 2M and 3R of pulsed sources, particularly of pulsed extended sources, were updated to reflect the latest revision of the



ICNIRP guidelines on exposure limits (accepted for publication in Health Physics 105 (3): 271 – 295; 2013, see also [www.icnirp.org](http://www.icnirp.org)).

This part of IEC 60825 has the status of a Group Safety Publication, in accordance with IEC Guide 104<sup>1)</sup>, for aspects of laser radiation pertaining to human safety.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
76/502/FDIS	76/506/RVD

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

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

The list of all parts of the IEC 60825 series, published under the title *Safety of laser products*, can be found on the IEC website.

This part of IEC 60825 is also referred to as "Part 1" in this publication.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication 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

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1) IEC Guide 104:2010, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*  
It gives guidance to IEC technical committees and to writers of specifications concerning the manner in which safety publications should be drafted.  
This guide does not constitute a normative reference and reference to it is given for information only.

## SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

### Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements

#### 1 Scope and object

IEC 60825-1 is applicable to safety of laser products emitting laser radiation in the wavelength range 180 nm to 1 mm.

Although lasers exist which emit at wavelengths less than 180 nm (within the vacuum ultraviolet), these are not included in the scope of the standard since the laser beam normally has to be enclosed in an evacuated enclosure, and, therefore, the potential optical radiation hazards are inherently minimal.

A laser product may consist of a single laser with or without a separate power supply or may incorporate one or more lasers in a complex optical, electrical, or mechanical system. Typically, laser products are used for demonstration of physical and optical phenomena, materials processing, data reading and storage, transmission and display of information, etc. Such systems have found use in industry, business, entertainment, research, education, medicine and consumer products.

Laser products that are sold to other manufacturers for use as components of any system for subsequent sale are not subject to IEC 60825-1, since the final product will itself be subject to this standard. Laser products that are sold by or for manufacturers of end products for use as repair parts for the end products are also not subject to IEC 60825-1. However, if the laser system within the laser product is operable when removed from the end product, the requirements of this Part 1 apply to the removable laser system.

NOTE 1 Operable equipment does not require a tool to prepare for operation.

Any laser product is exempt from all further requirements of this Part 1 if classification by the manufacturer of that product according to Clauses 4 and 5 shows that the emission level does not exceed the AEL (accessible emission limit) of Class 1 under all conditions of operation, maintenance, service and failure. Such a laser product may be referred to as an exempt laser product.

NOTE 2 The above exemption is to ensure that inherently safe laser products are exempt from Clauses 6,7,8 and 9.

In addition to the adverse effects potentially resulting from exposure to laser radiation, some laser equipment may also have other associated hazards, such as electricity, chemicals and high or low temperatures. Laser radiation may cause temporary visual impairment, such as dazzle and glare. Such effects depend on the task and ambient lighting level and are beyond the scope of this Part 1. The classification and other requirements of this standard are intended to address only the laser radiation hazards to the eyes and skin. Other hazards are not included within its scope.

This Part 1 describes the minimum requirements. Compliance with this Part 1 may not be sufficient to achieve the required level of product safety. Laser products may also be required to conform to the applicable performance and testing requirements of other applicable product safety standards.

NOTE 3 Other standards may contain additional requirements. For example, a Class 3B or Class 4 laser product may not be suitable for use as a consumer product.