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Ultrasonics – Pulse-echo scanners – Part 1: Techniques for calibrating spatial measurement systems and measurement of system point-spread function response

Ultrasons – Scanners à impulsion et écho – Partie 1: Techniques pour l'étalonnage des systèmes de mesure spatiaux et des mesures de la réponse de la fonction de dispersion ponctuelle du système

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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ULTRASONICS – PULSE-ECHO SCANNERS –

Part 1: Techniques for calibrating spatial measurement systems and measurement of system point-spread function response

FOREWORD

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This Consolidated version of IEC 61391-1 bears the edition number 1.1. It consists of the first edition (2006-07) [documents 87/336/FDIS and 87/343/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2017-07) [documents 87/650/FDIS and 87/653/RVD]. The technical content is identical to the base edition and its amendment.

This Final version does not show where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. A separate Redline version with all changes highlighted is available in this publication.

International Standard IEC 61391-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 87: Ultrasonics.

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

Terms in **bold** in the text are defined in clause 3.

This standard is intended to be published in two or more parts:

– Part 1 deals with techniques for calibrating spatial measurement systems and measurement of system point-spread function response;

– Part 2 will deal with measurement of system sensitivity, dynamic range, and low-contrast resolution.

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment 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- withdrawn,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

An ultrasonic pulse-echo scanner produces images of tissue in an ultrasonic **scan plane** by sweeping a narrow pulsed beam of **ultrasound** through the section of interest and detecting the echoes generated at tissue boundaries. A variety of **ultrasonic transducer** types are employed to operate in a transmit/receive mode for the ultrasonic signals. Ultrasonic scanners are widely used in medical practice to produce images of many soft-tissue organs throughout the human body.

This standard describes test procedures that should be widely acceptable and valid for a wide range of types of equipment. Manufacturers should use the standard to prepare their specifications; the users should employ the standard to check specifications. The measurements can be carried out without interfering with the normal working conditions of the machine. Typical **test objects** are described in the annexes. The structures of the **test objects** have not been specified in detail, rather suitable types of overall and internal structures are described. The specific structure of a **test object** should be reported with the results obtained using it. Similar commercial versions of these **test objects** are available.

The performance parameters specified and the corresponding methods of measurement have been chosen to provide a basis for comparison with the manufacturer's specification and between similar types of apparatus of different makes, intended for the same kind of diagnostic application. The manufacturer's specification should allow comparison with the results obtained from the tests in this standard. 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. This standard concentrates on measurements of images by digital techniques. Methods suitable for inspection by eye are covered here as well. Discussion of other visual techniques can be found in IEC 61390 [1] [1)].

Where a diagnostic system accommodates more than one option in respect of a particular system component, for example the **ultrasonic 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.

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1) Figures in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

ULTRASONICS – PULSE-ECHO SCANNERS –

Part 1: Techniques for calibrating spatial measurement systems and measurement of system point-spread function response

1 Scope

This International Standard describes methods of calibrating the spatial measurement facilities and **point-spread function** of ultrasonic imaging equipment in the ultrasonic frequency range 0,5 MHz to 15 MHz. This standard is relevant for ultrasonic scanners based on the pulse-echo principle of the types listed below:

– mechanical sector scanners;
– electronic phased-array sector scanners;
– electronic linear-array scanners;
– electronic curved-array sector scanners;
– water-bath scanners based on any of the above four scanning mechanisms;
– 3D-volume reconstruction systems.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60050-801:1994, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Chapter 801: Acoustics and electroacoustics*

IEC 60050-802:2011, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 802: Ultrasonics*

IEC 61685:2001, *Ultrasonics – Flow measurement systems – Flow test object*

IEC 62127-1:2007, *Ultrasonics – Hydrophones – Part 1: Measurement and characterization of medical ultrasonic fields up to 40 MHz*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-801:1994, IEC 60050-802:2011, IEC 62127-1:2007 and the following apply. See also related International Standards, Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for definitions and explanations [1] [2] [3] [4] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39].

3.1
A-scan
class of data acquisition geometry in one dimension, in which echo strength information is acquired from points lying along a single **beam axis** and displayed as amplitude versus time of flight or distance