
Medical electrical equipment —
Part 2-12:
Particular requirements for basic
safety and essential performance of
critical care ventilators

Appareils électromédicaux —

*Partie 2-12: Exigences particulières relatives à la sécurité de base
et aux performances essentielles des ventilateurs pulmonaires pour
utilisation en soins intensifs*

ISO 80601-2-12:2023

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Reference number
ISO 80601-2-12:2023(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <https://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

This document was prepared jointly by Technical Committee ISO/TC 121, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Respiratory devices and related equipment used for patient care*, and Technical Committee IEC/TC 62, *Medical equipment, software, and systems*, Subcommittee SC 62D, *Particular medical equipment, software, and systems*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 215, *Respiratory and anaesthetic equipment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 80601-2-12:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- alignment with IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, IEC 60601-1-2:2014+AMD1:2020 IEC 60601-1-6:2010+AMD1:2013+AMD2:2020 and IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020.
- added requirements for the display legibility for *operators* wearing personal protective equipment;
- added requirements for display during calibration of gas monitors;
- clarified *maximum limited pressure* requirements;
- clarified high *airway pressure alarm condition* requirements;
- added requirements for *ventilator system recovery*;

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- added requirements and definitions for *cybersecurity*; and
- harmonization with ISO 20417, where appropriate.

A list of all parts in the ISO and IEC 80601 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

In referring to the structure of this document, the term

- “clause” means one of the four numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 201 includes subclauses 201.7, 201.8, etc.);
- “subclause” means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 201.7, 201.8 and 201.12 are all subclauses of Clause 201).

References to clauses within this document are preceded by the term “Clause” followed by the clause number. References to subclauses within this document are by number only.

In this document, the conjunctive “or” is used as an “inclusive or” so a statement is true if any combination of the conditions is true.

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” is used to describe a possibility or capability.

Annex C contains a guide to the *marking* and labelling requirements in this document.

Annex D contains a summary of the *symbols* referenced in this document.

Requirements in this document have been decomposed so that each requirement is uniquely delineated. This is done to support automated requirements tracking.

Medical electrical equipment —

Part 2-12:

Particular requirements for basic safety and essential performance of critical care ventilators

201.1 Scope, object and related standards

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, Clause 1 applies, except as follows:

201.1.1 Scope

Replacement:

NOTE 1 There is guidance or rationale for this subclause contained in Clause AA.2.

This document applies to the *basic safety* and *essential performance* of a critical care *ventilator* in combination with its *accessories*, hereafter referred to as *ME equipment*:

- intended for use in an environment that provides specialized care for *patients* whose conditions can be life-threatening and who can require comprehensive care and constant monitoring in a *professional healthcare facility*;

NOTE 2 For the purposes of this document, such an environment is referred to as a critical care environment. *Ventilators* for this environment are considered life-sustaining.

NOTE 3 For the purposes of this document, such a critical care *ventilator* can provide ventilation during transport within a *professional healthcare facility* (i.e. be a *transit-operable ventilator*).

NOTE 4 A critical care *ventilator* intended for use in transport within a *professional healthcare facility* is not considered as an *emergency medical services environment ventilator*.

- intended to be operated by a *healthcare professional operator*; and
- intended for those *patients* who need differing levels of support from *artificial ventilation* including for *ventilator-dependent patients*.

A critical care *ventilator* is not considered to use a *physiologic closed-loop-control system* unless it uses a physiological *patient* variable to adjust the *artificial ventilation* therapy settings.

This document is also applicable to those *accessories* intended by their *manufacturer* to be connected to a *ventilator breathing system*, or to a *ventilator*, where the characteristics of those *accessories* can affect the *basic safety* or *essential performance* of the *ventilator*.

NOTE 5 If a clause or subclause is specifically intended to be applicable to *ME equipment* only, or to *ME systems* only, the title and content of that clause or subclause will say so. If that is not the case, the clause or subclause applies both to *ME equipment* and to *ME systems*, as relevant.

Hazards inherent in the intended physiological function of *ME equipment* or *ME systems* within the scope of this document are not covered by specific requirements in this document except in IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 7.2.13 and 8.4.1.

NOTE 6 Additional information can be found in IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 4.2.

This document is not applicable to *ME equipment* or an *ME system* operating in a *ventilator-operational mode* solely intended for *patients* who are not dependent on *artificial ventilation*.

NOTE 7 A critical care *ventilator*, when operating in such a *ventilator-operational mode*, is not considered life-sustaining.

This document is not applicable to *ME equipment* that is intended solely to augment the ventilation of spontaneously breathing *patients* within a *professional healthcare facility*.

This document does not specify the requirements for:

NOTE 8 See ISO/TR 21954 for guidance on the selection of the appropriate *ventilator* for a given *patient*.

- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for anaesthetic applications, which are given in ISO 80601-2-13;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for the *emergency medical services environment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-84;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for *ventilator-dependent patients* in the *home healthcare environment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-72;
- *ventilators* or *accessories* intended for home-care ventilatory support devices, which are given in ISO 80601-2-79 and ISO 80601-2-80;
- obstructive sleep apnoea therapy *ME equipment*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-70;
- *continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) ME equipment*.
- high-frequency *ventilators*, which are given in ISO 80601-2-87;

NOTE 9 A critical care *ventilator* can incorporate high-frequency jet or high-frequency oscillatory *ventilator-operational modes*.

- respiratory high-flow therapy equipment, which are given in ISO 80601-2-90;

NOTE 10 A critical care *ventilator* can incorporate high-flow therapy operational mode, but such a mode is only for spontaneously breathing *patients*.

- oxygen therapy constant flow *ME equipment*; and
- cuirass or “iron-lung” ventilation equipment.

201.1.2 Object

Replacement:

The object of this document is to establish *basic safety* and *essential performance* requirements for a *ventilator*, as defined in 201.3.306, and its *accessories*.

Accessories are included because the combination of the *ventilator* and the *accessories* needs to be adequately safe. *Accessories* can have a significant impact on the *basic safety* or *essential performance* of a *ventilator*.

NOTE 1 This document has been prepared to address the relevant *essential principles*^[42] and labelling^[43] guidances of the International Medical Devices Regulators Forum (IMDRF) as indicated in Annex CC.

NOTE 2 This document has been prepared to address the relevant *essential principles of safety and performance* of ISO 16142-1:2016 as indicated in Annex DD.

NOTE 3 This document has been prepared to address the relevant general safety and performance requirements of European regulation (EU) 2017/745.

201.1.3 Collateral standards

Amendment (add after existing text):

This document refers to those applicable collateral standards that are listed in Clause 2 of the general standard and in 201.2 of this document.

NOTE The general standard is IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020.

IEC 60601-1-2:2014+AMD1:2020, IEC 60601-1-6:2010+AMD1:2013+AMD2:2020 and IEC 60601-1-8:2016+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 apply as modified in Clauses 202, 206 and 208 respectively.

IEC 60601-1-3, IEC 60601-1-9, IEC 60601-1-11 and IEC 60601-1-12 do 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, including the collateral standards, as appropriate for the particular *ME equipment* under consideration, and may add other *basic safety* or *essential performance* requirements.

A requirement of a particular standard takes priority over IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 or the collateral standards.

For brevity, IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 is referred to in this document as the general standard. Collateral standards are referred to by their document number.

The numbering of clauses and subclauses of this document corresponds to those of the general standard with the prefix “201” (e.g. 201.1 in this document addresses the content of Clause 1 of the general standard) or applicable collateral standard with the prefix “2xx” where xx are the final digits of the collateral standard document number (e.g. 202.4 in this document addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-2 collateral standard, 208.4 in this document addresses the content of Clause 4 of the IEC 60601-1-8 collateral standard, etc.). The changes to the text of the general standard are specified by the use of the following words:

“Replacement” means that the clause or subclause of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 or the applicable collateral standard is replaced completely by the text of this document.

“Addition” means that the text of this document is additional to the requirements of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 or the applicable collateral standard.

“Amendment” means that the clause or subclause of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 or the applicable collateral standard is amended as indicated by the text of this document.

Subclauses, figures or tables that are additional to those of the general standard are numbered starting from 201.101. However, due to the fact that definitions in the general standard are numbered 3.1 through 3.154, additional definitions in this document are numbered beginning from 201.3.201. Additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc., and additional items aa), bb), etc.

Subclauses or figures that are additional to those of a collateral standard are numbered starting from 20x, where “x” is the number of the collateral standard, e.g. 202 for IEC 60601-1-2, 208 for IEC 60601-1-8, etc.

The term “this document” is used to make reference to the general standard, any applicable collateral standards and this particular document taken together.

Where there is no corresponding clause or subclause in this document, the clause or subclause of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 or the applicable collateral standard, although possibly not relevant, applies without modification; where it is intended that any part of IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 or the applicable collateral standard, although possibly relevant, is not to be applied, a statement to that effect is given in this particular document.

201.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

ISO 32:1977, *Gas cylinders for medical use — Marking for identification of content*

ISO 3744:2010, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure — Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane*

ISO 4871:1996, *Acoustics — Declaration and verification of noise emission values of machinery and equipment*

ISO 5356-1:2015, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Conical connectors — Part 1: Cones and sockets*

ISO 5359:2014+AMD1:2017, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Low-pressure hose assemblies for use with medical gases*

ISO 5367:2014, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Breathing sets and connectors*

ISO 7396-1:2016+AMD1:2017, *Medical gas pipeline systems — Part 1: Pipeline systems for compressed medical gases and vacuum*

ISO 9360-1:2000, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Heat and moisture exchangers (HMEs) for humidifying respired gases in humans — Part 1: HMEs for use with minimum tidal volumes of 250 ml*

ISO 9360-2:2001, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment — Heat and moisture exchangers (HMEs) for humidifying respired gases in humans — Part 2: HMEs for use with tracheostomized patients having minimum tidal volumes of 250 ml*

ISO 14937:2009, *Sterilization of health care products — General requirements for characterization of a sterilizing agent and the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices*

ISO 17664-1:2021, *Processing of health care products — Information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer for the processing of medical devices — Part 1: Critical and semi-critical medical devices*

ISO 17664-2:2021, *Processing of health care products — Information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer for the processing of medical devices — Part 2: Non-critical medical devices*

ISO 18562-1:2023, *Biocompatibility evaluation of breathing gas pathways in healthcare applications — Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process*

ISO 20417:2021, *Medical devices — Information to be supplied by the manufacturer*

ISO 23328-1:2003, *Breathing system filters for anaesthetic and respiratory use — Part 1: Salt test method to assess filtration performance*

ISO 23328-2:2002, *Breathing system filters for anaesthetic and respiratory use — Part 2: Non-filtration aspects*

ISO 80601-2-55:2018, *Medical electrical equipment — Part 2-55: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of respiratory gas monitors*

ISO 80601-2-74:2021, *Medical electrical equipment — Part 2-74: Particular requirements for basic safety and essential performance of respiratory humidifying equipment*

IEC 60068-2-27:2008, *Environmental testing — Part 2-27: Tests — Test Ea and guidance: Shock*

IEC 60068-2-31:2008, *Environmental testing — Part 2-31: Tests — Test Ec: Rough handling shocks, primarily for equipment-type specimens*

IEC 60068-2-64:2008+AMD1:2019, *Environmental testing — Part 2-64: Tests — Test Fh: Vibration, broadband random and guidance*

IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, *Medical electrical equipment — Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*

IEC 61672-1:2013, *Electroacoustics — Sound level meters — Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 62570:2014, *Standard practice for marking medical devices and other items for safety in the magnetic resonance environment*

IEC Guide 115:2021, *Application of uncertainty of measurement to conformance assessment activities in the electrotechnical sector*

201.3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60601-1:2005+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020 and the following apply.

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

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

201.3.201

accompanying information

information accompanying or *marked* on a medical device or *accessory* for the user or those accountable for the installation, use, *processing*, maintenance, decommissioning and disposal of the medical device or *accessory*, particularly regarding safe use

Note 1 to entry: The *accompanying information* shall be regarded as part of the medical device or *accessory*.

Note 2 to entry: The *accompanying information* can consist of the label, *marking*, *instructions for use*, *technical description*, installation manual, quick reference guide, etc.

Note 3 to entry: *Accompanying information* is not necessarily a written or printed document but could involve auditory, visual, or tactile materials and multiple media types (e.g., CD/DVD-ROM, USB stick, website).

[SOURCE: ISO 20417:2021, 3.2, modified — deleted note 4.]

201.3.202

acknowledged

state of an *alarm system* initiated by *operator* action, where the auditory *alarm signal* associated with a currently active *alarm condition* is inactivated until the *alarm condition* no longer exists or until a predetermined time interval has elapsed

Note 1 to entry: *Acknowledged* only affects *alarm signals* that are active at the time of the *operator* action.

[SOURCE: IEC 60601-1-8:2006+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2020, 3.37]

201.3.203

airway device

device intended to provide a *gas pathway* to and from the *patient's* airway

[SOURCE: ISO 4135:2022, 3.8.1.2]