



American National Standard/
American Dental Association
Standard No. 120

Powered Toothbrushes

Identical adoption of ISO 20127:2005 *Dentistry — Powered toothbrushes-General requirements and test methods*

ADA American
Dental
Association®
Council on
Scientific Affairs

2009

This is a preview of "ANSI/ADA 120-2009 (R...)". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Reaffirmed by ANSI: September 2014

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION SPECIFICATION NO. 120
FOR POWERED TOOTHBRUSHES**

The Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Dental Association has approved American Dental Association Specification No. 120 for Powered Toothbrushes. This and other specifications for dental materials, instruments and equipment are being formulated by working groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products (formerly Accredited Standards Committee MD156 for Dental Materials, Instruments and Equipment). The Committee has representation from all interests in the United States in the standardization of materials, instruments and equipment in dentistry. The Council has adopted the specifications, showing professional recognition of their usefulness in dentistry, and has forwarded them to the American National Standards Institute with a recommendation that the specifications be approved as American National Standards. The American National Standards Institute granted approval of ADA Specification No. 120 as an American National Standard on February 2, 2009.

The Council thanks the working group members and the organizations with which they were affiliated at the time the specification was developed:

James Kemp (chairman), Colgate-Palmolive Co., Piscataway, NJ;

P. L. Fan, American Dental Association, Chicago, IL;

Aaron Pfarrer, 3M ESPE Preventive Care, St. Paul, MN;

Bruce Schemehorn, Therametric Technologies, Inc., Indiana University, Indianapolis; and

Wayne Wozniak, American Dental Association, Chicago, IL.

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FOREWORD

(This Foreword does not form a part of ANSI/ADA Specification No. 120 for Powered Toothbrushes).

This specification is an identical adoption of ISO 20127:2005, Dentistry – Powered toothbrushes – General requirements and test methods. ADA SCDP Working Group No. 7.44 on Powered Oral Hygiene Devices examined the international standard and found it acceptable for adoption as ANSI/ADA Specification No. 120.

Powered toothbrushes are used for the removal of dental plaque and oral debris in order to facilitate oral hygiene.

Addendum to the Foreword for this Reaffirmation:

In 2012, the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products approved a change in the terminology used for standards. ADA standards will no longer utilize the term Specification; standards will now be named as ADA Standards.

With this notice, this ADA Specification is now termed an ADA Standard. Where the term "specification" is used, it should be considered as "standard." It will be re-named as an ADA Standard in its next revision.

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION SPECIFICATION NO. 120 FOR POWERED TOOTHBRUSHES

1 SCOPE

This specification defines requirements and test methods for the physical properties of powered toothbrushes in order to promote the safety of these products for their intended use.

Specifically excluded are other types of powered oral hygiene devices (such as powered interdental brushes) and manual toothbrushes.

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.

ISO 1942, *Dentistry — Vocabulary*

ISO 3696:1987, *Water for analytical laboratory use — specification and test methods*

IEC 60335-1:2004, *Household and similar electrical appliances — Safety — Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 60335-2-52, *Household and similar electrical appliances — Safety — Part 2-52: Particular requirements for oral hygiene appliances*

(ISO standards for dentistry are available from the American Dental Association, Department of Standards, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 or www.adacatalog.org. Other ISO standards and IEC standards are available from the American National Standards Institute, 25 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036 or www.ansi.org).

3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 1942 and the following apply.

- 3.1 **Powered toothbrush** – hand-held electrically-powered appliance, the brush head of which carries filaments, used primarily for cleaning surfaces within the oral cavity.
- 3.2 **Brush head** – fixed or removable working end of an electrically-powered toothbrush to which the filaments are attached.
- 3.3 **Filament** – single strand within the brush head.
- 3.4 **Tuft** – group of filaments gathered together and attached to the brush head.
- 3.5 **Tuft removal force** – force required to remove one tuft from the brush head.

4 REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Pass-fail criteria

Eight electrically-powered toothbrushes shall be tested. If none of the eight sampled powered toothbrushes fail, the powered toothbrush passes. If one toothbrush does not meet the minimum requirement, another eight powered toothbrushes shall be tested. If no more toothbrushes fail, the powered toothbrush passes. If a total of two or more powered toothbrushes of the sixteen fail, the powered toothbrush fails.

4.2 Physical inspection

The powered toothbrush, its components and all accessories shall be intact and free of visible contamination and