BRITISH STANDARD

BS EN
60601-1-6:2007

June 2008 and
March 2010

Medical electrical equipment —

Part 1-6: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance — Collateral Standard: Usability

ICS 11.040.01

BSI
British Standards

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 60601-1-6:2007, incorporating corrigendum March 2010. It is identical with IEC 60601-1-6:2006. It supersedes BS EN 60601-1-6:2004, which will be declared obsolescent and will be withdrawn on publication of the revised BS EN 60601-2 series.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee CH/62, Electromedical equipment in medical practice, to Subcommittee CH/62/1, Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice.

A list of organizations represented on this subcommittee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 November 2007

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Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Comments
30 June 2008	Correcting supersession details
31 July 2010	Implementation of CENELEC corrigendum March 2010. Date of withdrawal added to Foreword

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

July 2007

ICS 11.040

Supersedes EN 60601-1-6:2004
Incorporating corrigendum March 2010

English version

Medical electrical equipment - Part 1-6: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance - Collateral Standard: Usability

(IEC 60601-1-6:2006)

Appareils électromédicaux - Partie 1-6: Exigences générales pour la sécurité de base et les performances essentielles - Norme collatérale: Aptitude à l'utilisation (CEI 60601-1-6:2006)

Medizinische elektrische Geräte - Teil 1-6: Allgemeine Festlegungen für die Sicherheit einschließlich der wesentlichen Leistungsmerkmale - Ergänzungsnorm: Gebrauchstauglichkeit (IEC 60601-1-6:2006)

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on 2007-05-01. CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CENELEC member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

CENELEC members are the national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

CENELEC

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 35, B - 1050 Brussels

Ref. No. EN 60601-1-6:2007 E

Foreword

The text of document 62A/550/FDIS, future edition 2 of IEC 60601-1-6, prepared by SC 62A, Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice, of IEC TC 62, Electrical equipment in medical practice, was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and was approved by CENELEC as EN 60601-1-6 on 2007-05-01.

The following date was fixed:

– latest date by which the EN has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement	(dop)	2008-02-01
– latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the EN have to be withdrawn	(dow)	2012-06-01

This European Standard supersedes EN 60601-1-6:2004.

This European Standard has been prepared under a mandate given to CENELEC by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association and covers essential requirements of EC Directive 93/42/EEC. See Annex ZZ.

This European Standard constitutes a collateral standard to EN 60601-1:2006, hereafter referred to as the general standard.

This EN 60601-1-6 was revised to structurally align it with EN 60601-1:2006 and to implement the decision of IEC SC 62A that the clause numbering structure of collateral standards written to EN 60601-1:2006 would adhere to the form specified in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2:2004. The principle technical changes are in Clause 4, which now recognizes that there is a general requirement for a risk management process in EN 60601-1:2006.

In the 60601 series of publications, collateral standards specify general requirements for safety applicable to

– a subgroup of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (e.g. radiological equipment); or

– a specific characteristic of all MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, not fully addressed in the general standard (e.g. alarm systems).

In this collateral standard the following print types are used:

- requirements and definitions: in roman type;
- *test specifications: in italic type*;
- informative material appearing outside of tables, such as notes, examples and references: in smaller type. Normative text of tables is also in a smaller type;
- TERMS DEFINED IN CLAUSE 3 OF THE GENERAL STANDARD, IN THIS COLLATERAL STANDARD OR AS NOTES: IN SMALL CAPITALS.

In referring to the structure of this standard, the term

– “clause” means one of the six numbered divisions within the table of contents, inclusive of all subdivisions (e.g. Clause 6 includes Subclauses 6.1, 6.2, etc.);

– “subclause” means a numbered subdivision of a clause (e.g. 6.1, 6.2 and 6.2.1 are all subclauses of Clause 6).

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

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

The verbal forms used in this standard conform to usage described in Annex H of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this standard, the auxiliary verb

− “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this standard;

− “should” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this standard;

− “may” is used to describe a permissible way to achieve compliance with a requirement or test.

Clauses, subclauses and definitions for which a rationale is provided in informative Annex A are marked with an asterisk (*).

Annexes ZA and ZZ have been added by CENELEC.

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Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 60601-1-6:2006 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Medical practice is increasingly using MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT for observation and treatment of PATIENTS. USE ERRORS caused by inadequate MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT USABILITY have become an increasing cause for concern. The USABILITY ENGINEERING PROCESS is intended to achieve reasonable USABILITY, which in turn is intended to minimise USE ERRORS and to minimise use associated RISKS. Some, but not all, forms of incorrect use are amenable to control by the MANUFACTURER. The USABILITY ENGINEERING PROCESS is an element of the RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS.

This collateral standard describes a USABILITY ENGINEERING PROCESS, and provides guidance on how to implement and execute the PROCESS to provide BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE as it relates to USABILITY of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT. It is intended to be useful not only for MANUFACTURERS of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, but also for technical committees responsible for the preparation of particular standards.

MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT –

Part 1-6: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: Usability

1 Scope, object and related standards

1.1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for a PROCESS to analyse, design, verify and validate the USABILITY, as it relates to BASIC SAFETY and ESSENTIAL PERFORMANCE of MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, hereafter referred to as ME EQUIPMENT. This collateral standard addresses NORMAL USE and USE ERRORS but excludes ABNORMAL USE.

1.2 Object

The object of this collateral standard is to specify general requirements that are in addition to those of the general standard and to serve as the basis for particular standards.

1.3 Related standards

1.3.1 IEC 60601-1

For ME EQUIPMENT, this collateral standard complements IEC 60601-1.

When referring to IEC 60601-1 or to this collateral standard, either individually or in combination, the following conventions are used:

- "the general standard" designates IEC 60601-1 alone;
- "this collateral standard" designates IEC 60601-1-6 alone;
- "this standard" designates the combination of the general standard and this collateral standard.

1.3.2 Particular standards

A requirement in a particular standard takes priority over the corresponding requirement in this collateral standard.

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 60601-1:2005, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*

IEC 60601-1-8:2006, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-8: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: General requirements, tests and guidance for alarm systems in medical electrical equipment and medical electrical systems*