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First edition
2005-07-01

Rail systems for supporting medical equipment

Systèmes de rails de support pour équipement médical



Reference number
ISO 19054:2005(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 19054 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 121, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Medical gas systems*.

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Introduction

This International Standard specifies basic requirements and dimensions for rail systems used for supporting medical equipment. A rail system consists of a number of components that can be assembled into different configurations.

Rail systems allow medical equipment such as flowmeters, suction devices and luminaires to be placed near the patient. They can be mounted in many different locations in health care facilities and in ambulances and other means of transportation and on many different pieces of equipment such as medical supply units, ceiling pendants, trolleys, beds, ventilators and anaesthetic workstations.

Medical equipment can be attached to a rail by rail clamps directly or using other components of dimensions which are specified in this International Standard. Rail clamps are required to be compatible with rails which have dimensions specified in this International Standard.

Rail systems have to be fitted to different kinds of load-bearing structures which can vary from solid concrete walls or thin plasterboard partitions to the covers of medical equipment. This can create hazards to the equipment and to the patient. Patients with accompanying medical equipment are frequently moved either to or within health care facilities. Lack of standardization of rail systems in different locations can create hazardous situations in the transfer of the patient from one location to another.

Annex B contains rationale statements for some of the requirements of this International Standard. It is included to provide additional insight into the reasoning that led to the requirements and recommendations that have been incorporated in this International Standard. The clauses and subclauses marked with an asterisk (*) after their number have corresponding rationale contained in Annex B. It is considered that knowledge of the reasons for the requirements will not only facilitate the proper application of this International Standard, but will expedite any subsequent revisions.