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# Cardiovascular implants — Endovascular devices —

## Part 2: Vascular stents

*Implants cardiovasculaires — Dispositifs endovasculaires —  
Partie 2: Endoprothèses vasculaires*



Reference number  
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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.

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 ISO documents 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. 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](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 150, *Implants for surgery*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Cardiovascular implants and extracorporeal systems*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 285, *Non-active surgical implants*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 25539-2:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are updates to the testing and clinical use of vascular stents as well as improved consistency in nomenclature and reporting requirements.

A list of all parts in the ISO 25539 series can be found on the ISO website.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document was prepared to provide minimum requirements for vascular stents. The rationale for the requirements for bench tests and analyses to assess device performance, guidance on the identification of appropriate testing to evaluate a specific device design, and guidance for developing test methods are provided in informative annexes. Further clarification of terminology is provided in additional informative annexes.

This document has been updated to reflect current knowledge regarding the testing and clinical use of vascular stents, reflected in modifications to the requirements in the main body and in the guidance for developing test methods in [Annex D](#). In addition, revisions have been made to improve consistency in nomenclature and reporting and to enhance the utility of this document.

Requirements particular to the evaluation of specific characteristics of stents (e.g. coatings, drug-elution, absorption) are incorporated by reference to appropriate standards. However, not all tests listed in the referenced standards are applicable to vascular stents. Only tests that address the design attributes specified in [Clause 6](#) are required for compliance to this document.

This revised document introduces methodology to identify appropriate testing and analyses for a specific vascular stent, designated as the device evaluation strategy. The requirement regarding the device evaluation strategy is in the main body. [Annex A](#) provides guidance for developing a focused device evaluation strategy table that is specific to the unique characteristics of a device, device design modifications, or changes in intended use. [Annex A](#) also provides guidance for the development of a comprehensive device evaluation strategy table that may be used when it is not sufficient to focus only on the unique characteristics or changes.

NOTE ISO 25539-1:2017 includes tables that can be used to justify the testing needed for device design modifications and changes in intended use in [Annex A](#). In this document, this concept is called a focused device evaluation strategy table and can be applied to a new device as well as device design modifications or changes in the intended use.

The other significant modifications in the requirements include the addition of non-radial durability testing, with guidance on the selection of appropriate testing, and specific requirements for testing to evaluate patency-related characteristics. Guidance for the development of appropriate tests to meet these requirements is included in [Annex D](#).

The guidance on the development of methods to address the requirement for evaluating fatigue and durability through computational analyses has been modified significantly to include recommendations regarding verification of the solution and validation of the computational model, as well as reporting. The guidance on the model development for simulated use has also been significantly revised to improve the clinical relevance of this testing.

The specific requirements to evaluate pushability, flexibility, torquability, trackability, and deployment accuracy of a stent system have been removed and incorporated within the simulated use evaluation requirement to better reflect how these attributes are evaluated. Similarly, the requirement to evaluate tubing tensile strength has been removed and incorporated within the evaluation of tensile bond strength.

In addition to modifications to specific design evaluation requirements, guidance has been provided regarding the assessment of the acceptability of test results. When the requirement is to quantitatively appraise or analyse a parameter, test results generally may be compared to a quantitative value (i.e. acceptance criteria). For characterization tests it is appropriate to provide an explanation of the relevance of the results. Additionally, some testing may include comparison to test data or existing data from a previously evaluated device.

For design evaluation, requirements regarding sampling, conditioning of test samples, and reporting have been incorporated in the main body. Guidance on these elements of testing and documentation were previously only included in [Annex D](#).

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The revisions to the annexes to this document are as follows:

Annex of ISO 25539-2:2012	Revision
Annex A — Attributes of endovascular devices — Vascular stents — Technical and clinical considerations	<a href="#">Annex A</a> now includes the relationship between testing requirements, device attributes, and potential failure modes and guidance for the creation of a device evaluation strategy.
Annex B — Bench and analytical tests	The list of tests is included in Table D.1. <a href="#">Annex B</a> now includes a description of potential clinical effects of failure. Effects of failure for stents used with endovascular prostheses are included.
Annex C — Definitions of reportable clinical events	The term “reportable” clinical events is no longer used in this document. <a href="#">Annex C</a> now includes a description of potential device effects of failure. Effects of failure for stents used with endovascular prostheses are included.
Annex D — Test methods	This edition incorporates the sample equations as a supplement to the radial fatigue durability test from ISO 25539-2:2012, Annex E in <a href="#">Annex D</a> .
Annex E — Supplement to the radial fatigue and durability test analytical approach	There is no longer an Annex E as the sample equations as a supplement to the fatigue durability test have been incorporated in <a href="#">Annex D</a> .

It is recognized by this ISO committee that many stent systems have been shown to be safe and effective in clinical use. This update is not intended to require additional evaluation of these devices to remain in compliance with this document as the testing would not provide useful information regarding the expected clinical performance of the device. Manufacturers may rely on historical data gathered under the guidance of the previous edition of ISO 25539-2. Similarly, for device modifications or changes in intended clinical use, this update is not intended to require additional evaluation of any aspects of the device that are not expected to change clinical performance.

**NOTE** The relationship between testing requirements, device attributes, and potential failure modes is provided in [Clause A.1](#). [Clause A.1](#) also provides general information regarding device evaluation strategies. [Tables A.2](#) and [A.3](#) provide the rationale for the requirements specified in this document for bench tests and analyses to assess device performance. An explanation of the table headings for [A.2](#) and [A.3](#) are described in [Table A.1](#).

Guidance for the creation of a device-specific evaluation strategy is provided in [Clause A.2](#). Two approaches to create a device-specific evaluation strategy are provided: 1) focused device evaluation strategy in [A.2.1](#); and 2) comprehensive device evaluation strategy in [A.2.2](#).

[Annex B](#) provides a description of the potential clinical effects of failure identified in [Annex A](#).

[Annex C](#) provides a description of the potential device effects of failure identified in [Annex A](#).

Additional descriptions of clinical and device effects of failure are included in [Annexes B](#) and [C](#), respectively.

[Annex D](#) provides information to consider in developing appropriate bench test and analytical methods.