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Respiratory tract humidifiers for medical use — Particular requirements for respiratory humidification systems

Humidificateurs respiratoires médicaux — Exigences spécifiques des systèmes d'humidification respiratoires



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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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 8185 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 121, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Lung ventilators and related equipment*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 8185:1997), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum, ISO 8185:1997/Cor. 1:2001.

In this corrected version the macro expansion error on page 30 has been replaced with the correct equation for the calculation of average specific enthalpy.

Introduction

This International Standard is a Particular Standard based on IEC 60601-1:1988, including Amendments 1 (1991) and 2 (1995), hereafter referred to as the General Standard. The General Standard is the basic standard for the safety of all **medical electrical equipment** used by, or under the supervision of, qualified personnel in the general medical and **patient** environment; it also contains certain requirements for reliable operation to ensure safety.

The General Standard has associated Collateral Standards and Particular Standards. The Collateral Standards include requirements for specific technologies and/or hazards and apply to all applicable **equipment**, such as medical systems, EMC, radiation protection in diagnostic X-ray **equipment**, software, etc. The Particular Standards apply to specific **equipment** types, such as medical electron accelerators, high frequency surgical **equipment**, hospital beds, etc.

NOTE Definitions of Collateral Standard and Particular Standard are found in IEC 60601-1:1988, 1.5 and A.2, respectively.

To facilitate the use of this International Standard, the following drafting conventions have been applied.

This International Standard uses the same main Clause titles and numbering as the General Standard, to facilitate cross-referencing of the requirements. The changes to the text of the General Standard are specified by the use of the following words.

- “Replacement” means that the indicated Clause or Subclause of the General Standard is replaced completely by the text of this International Standard.
- “Addition” means that the relevant text of this International Standard is supplementary to the requirements of the General Standard.
- “Amendment” means that existing text of the General Standard is modified as indicated by the text of this International Standard.

To avoid confusion with any amendments to the General Standard itself, a particular numbering has been employed for elements added by this International Standard: subclauses, tables and figures are numbered starting from 101; additional list items are lettered aa), bb), etc. and additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc.

In this International Standard, the following print types are used:

- requirements, compliance with which can be verified, and definitions: roman type;
- notes and examples: smaller roman type;
- description of type of document change and test methods: *italic type*;
- terms defined in the General Standard IEC 60601-1:1988, Clause 2 or in this International Standard: **bold type**.

Throughout this International Standard, text for which a rationale is provided in Annex AA is indicated by an asterisk (*).

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Humidifiers are used to raise the water content of gases delivered to **patients**. Gases available for medical use do not contain sufficient moisture and can damage or irritate the respiratory tract or desiccate secretions of **patients** whose upper airways have been bypassed. Reduction of the **relative humidity** at the **patient connection port** can cause desiccation of tracheo-bronchial secretions in the tracheal or tracheostomy tube, and consequently may cause narrowing or even obstruction of the airway ^[19]. Heat can be employed to increase the water output of the **humidifier**.

In addition, many **humidifiers** utilise heated **breathing tubes** in order to increase operating efficiency and reduce water and heat loss. Ventilator and anaesthesia **breathing tubes** in common use might not withstand the heat generated by **humidifiers** and heated **breathing tube** mechanisms.

Many **humidifier** manufacturers use off-the-shelf electrical connectors for their electrically-heated **breathing tubes**. However, since different manufacturers have used the same electrical connector for different power outputs, electrically-heated **breathing tubes** can be physically, but not electrically, interchangeable. Use of improper electrically-heated **breathing tubes** has caused overheating, circuit melting, **patient** and **operator** burns, and fires. It was not found practical to specify the interface requirements for electrical connectors to ensure compatibility between **humidifiers** and **breathing tubes** produced by different manufacturers.

Since the safe use of a **humidifier** depends on the interaction of the **humidifier** with its many **accessories**, this International Standard sets total-system performance requirements, applicable to **accessories** such as **breathing tubes** (both heated and non-heated), temperature sensors, and devices intended to control the environment within these **breathing tubes**.