

# A Physicist's Guide to the International Electrotechnical Commission

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# 100 YEARS OF THE IEC

- [ABOUT THE IEC](#)
- [IEC IN ACTION](#)
- [CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT](#)
- [STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT](#)
- [FOR MEMBERS AND EXPERTS](#)
- [WEB STORE SEARCH](#)

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## WHAT'S RELATED

- Special IEC community rate for **The Economist**
- IEC technical committee creation: the first half-century
- Development and growth of IEC technical committees: 1950 to 2006
- 1906 Preliminary Meeting Report
- IEC History: 1906-1956
- IEC Bulletin - 75th anniversary edition
- IEC SI Zone
- 1901-2001, Celebrating the Centenary of SI - Giovanni Giorgi's Contribution and the Role of IEC

**1906-2006**  
**The electric century**

In the beginning...  
Techline  
IEC Centenary Challenge  
Events  
Presidents  
General secretaries  
Cool stuff

The IEC came into being on 26-27 June 1906 in London, UK, and ever since has been giving the very best global standards to the world's electrotechnical industries. The IEC thanks industry, government, academia, end-users, and everyone else who has been involved from around the world for 100 years of commitment and partnership.








# Role of the IEC and Impact of its Standards

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- IEC's international standards facilitate world trade by removing technical barriers to trade, leading to new markets and economic growth.
- They also represent the core of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), whose 100-plus central government members explicitly recognize that international standards play a critical role in improving industrial efficiency and developing world trade.
- Using IEC standards for certification at the national level ensures that a certified product has been manufactured and type-tested to well established international standards. The end user can be sure that the product meets minimum (usually high) quality standards, and need not be concerned with further testing or evaluation of the product.

# The International Electrotechnical Commission

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-  68 member nations (including associate members)
-  Produces standards addressing the design of electrotechnical equipment.
-  Safety and performance standards apply to manufacturer's design and construction
-  Compliance tests can be *type tests*, or *site tests*
-  Site tests sometimes incorporated into acceptance testing procedures

## Adoption of IEC Standards

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In Europe:

- ◆ IEC standards selected for “parallel voting” by CENELEC
- ◆ When approved, assigned “EN” number
- ◆ Standards adopted as written and carry the force of law
- ◆ However, up to EC members to enforce

# Adoption of IEC Standards

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In US:

- IEC standards (or sections) incorporated into ANSI standards, FDA regulations, NEMA guidelines, etc.
- IEC standards can be used as written; FDA requires vendor to report compliance



Elsewhere?

International Electrotechnical Commission  
Central Office, Geneva

TC 61

TC 62  
Electrical Equipment  
in Medicine

TC 63

SC 62 A  
Common Aspects

SC 62 B  
Diagnostic  
Equipment

SC 62 C  
Equip for RT, NM,  
Dosim.

SC 62 D  
Non-Radiological

WG-1  
Equip for RT

WG-2  
Equip for NM

WG-3  
Equip for Dosimetry

### 3.62

## MEDICAL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

(hereinafter ME EQUIPMENT)

electrical equipment:

- provided with not more than one connection to a particular SUPPLY MAINS;
- intended by its MANUFACTURER to be used:
  - a) in the diagnosis, treatment, or monitoring of a PATIENT; and has an APPLIED PART, or transfers energy to or from the PATIENT or detects such energy transfer to or from the PATIENT; or
  - b) for compensation or alleviation of disease, injury or disability

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# Role of Working Group

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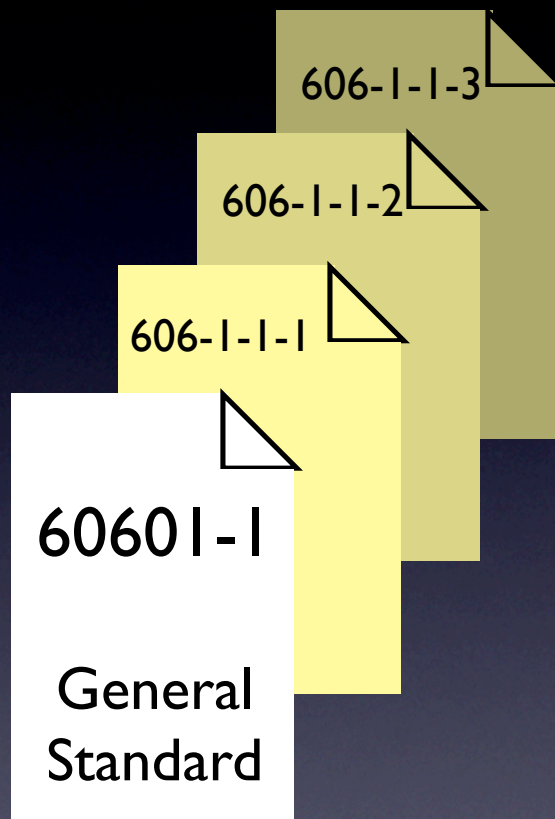


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- Develop Standards
  - Safety Standards  
safety and “essential performance”
  - Technical Reports
  - Performance Standards
  - Performance Guidelines



# IEC 60601-series



## Collateral standards

*More general requirements:*

- 60601-1-1 Medical electrical systems
- 60601-1-2 Electromagnetic compatibility
- 60601-1-3 X-ray - radiation protection
- 60601-1-4 Programmable medical electrical systems
- 60601-1-5 X-ray - image quality/dose
- 60601-1-6 Usability
- 60601-1-7 Not used
- 60601-1-8 Alarm systems

# Electromagnetic Compatibility

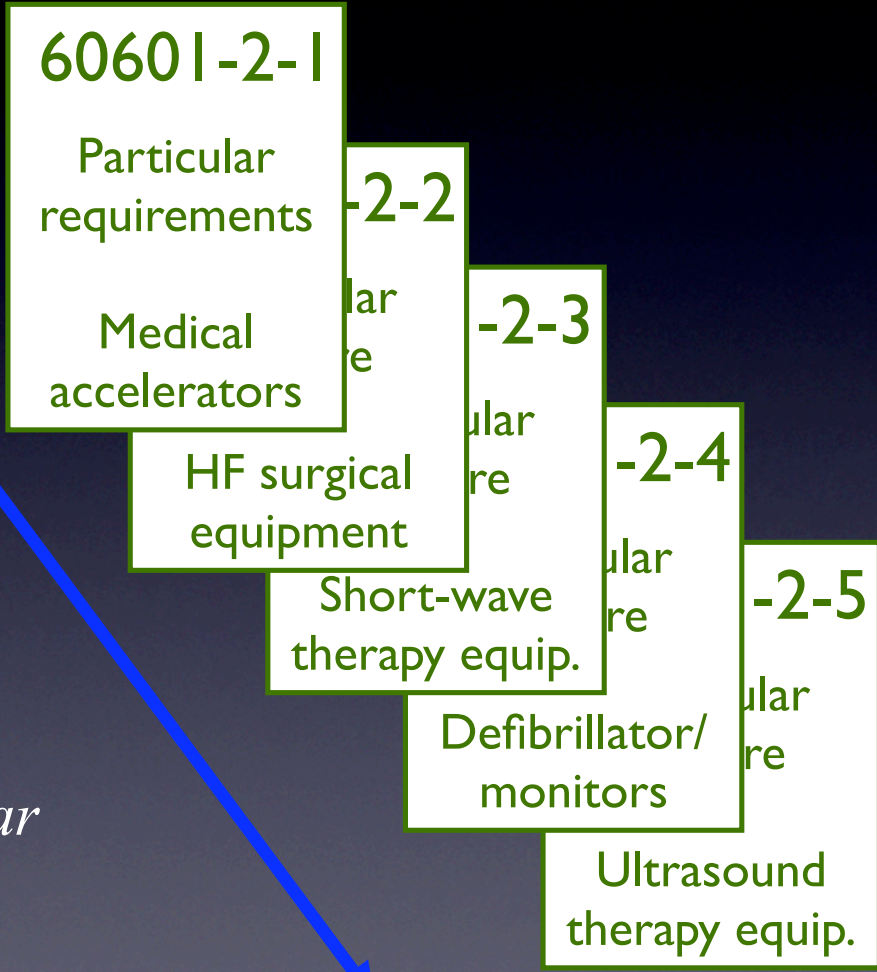
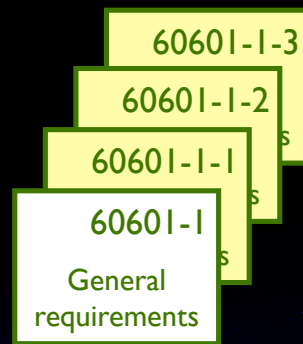
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- For medical equipment, see 60601-1-2 (9/2001)
- To be included in 60601-1 3rd edition



# General standards

*Apply to all medical electrical equipment*



## Particular standards

*50+ standards*

*Amend the general requirements for particular types of equipment*

# 62C Safety Standards

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# 62C Safety Standards

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60601-1  
General Standard



60601-1-X  
Collateral Standards

# 62C Safety Standards

60601-1  
General Standard



60601-1-X  
Collateral Standards



60601-2-X  
Particular Standards

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# 62C Safety Standards

60601-1  
General Standard



60601-1-X  
Collateral Standards



60601-2-X  
Particular Standards

6XXXX  
Safety Standards

6XXXX  
Technical Reports

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## Publications from WG-1

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### Equipment for Radiation Therapy

- Linear Accelerators
- Cobalt Units (including Gammaknife)
- Orthovoltage Treatment Units
- Simulators
- Brachytherapy Remote Afterloaders
- Treatment Planning Systems
- Record & Verify Systems

# Safety Standards from Working Group 1

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## 60601-2-1: Safety of Linear Accelerators

- Indicator lights, light field, scales & coordinates
- Range and speed of motions
- Function of dose monitoring systems
- Selection and display of modality, energy, modifiers, accessories
- Safety interlocks
- Leakage radiation
- Amendment for MLC

# Defined Terms

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## **201.3.215**

### **redundant dose monitoring combination**

utilization of two dose monitoring systems where both systems are arranged to terminate irradiation according to the pre-selected number of dose monitor units

## 201.7.7 Indicator lights and push-buttons

### a) Colours of indicator lights

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*Addition:*

Where indicator lights are used on the TREATMENT CONTROL PANEL (TCP) or other control panels, the colours of the lights shall accord with the following:

RADIATION BEAM "on"	yellow
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READY STATE	green
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Urgent action required in response to an unintended state of operation	red
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PREPARATORY STATE	other colour
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Light emitting diodes (LEDs) are not considered to be indicator lights when

- ➔ on any one TCP, all indications for which no particular colour is required are given by LEDs of the same colour, and
- ➔ the indications for which particular colours are required are clearly distinguishable.

## 201.9 Protection against mechanical hazards of me equipment and me systems

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### b) Rotational movements

- 1) The minimum speed available for each movement shall not exceed  $1^{\circ} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .
- 2) No speed shall exceed  $7^{\circ} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .
- 3) When rotating at the speed nearest to, but not exceeding,  $1^{\circ} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , the angle between the position of the moving part at the instant of operating any control to stop the movement and its final position shall not exceed  $0,5^{\circ}$  ; for speeds faster than  $1^{\circ} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , it shall not exceed  $3^{\circ}$ .

Exception – Requirement 2) above does not apply to the beam limiting system (bls).

## **201.7.1 Marking on the outside of equipment or equipment parts**

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*d) Minimum requirements for marking on EQUIPMENT and on interchangeable parts*

*Addition:*

The dimensions of the GEOMETRICAL RADIATION FIELD at NTD and the distance from the distal end to NTD shall be clearly legible on the outside of all interchangeable and non-adjustable BLDs and ELECTRON BEAM APPLICATORS.

Each manually interchangeable WEDGE FILTER shall be clearly marked to establish its identity.

### **22.4.3 Operation of movements of equipment parts from outside the treatment room**

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a) It shall be impossible to initiate or maintain movements associated with automatic set-up without continuous personal action by the operator simultaneously on the automatic set-up switch and a switch common to all movements. Each switch, when released, shall be capable of stopping movement; at least one of the switches shall be hard-wired.

## **201.10.1.101.1.1 Dose monitoring systems**

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The radiation detectors specified in 201.10.1.1.2 shall form part of two dose monitoring systems from whose outputs, displayed as dose monitor units, the absorbed dose at a reference point in the treatment volume can be calculated. The dose monitoring systems shall satisfy the following requirements:

- a) malfunctioning of one dose monitoring system shall not affect the correct functioning of the other;
- b) failure of any common element that could change the response of either dose monitoring system by more than 5 % shall terminate irradiation;
- c) when separate power supplies are used, failure of either supply shall terminate irradiation



## **201.10.1.101.5 Monitoring of distribution of absorbed dose**

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To protect against gross distortion of the distribution of ABSORBED DOSE, e.g. resulting from failure of fixed ADDED FILTERS, electronic control systems or computer based control systems

- a) the RADIATION DETECTORS described in 201.10.1.1.2, or other RADIATION DETECTORS, shall monitor different parts of the radiation beam to detect symmetrical and nonsymmetrical changes of the dose distribution;
- b) means shall be provided to TERMINATE IRRADIATION before an additional ABSORBED DOSE of 0,25 Gy is delivered when, at the depth specified for flatness measurements, either the ABSORBED DOSE distribution is distorted by more than 10 %, or the signals from the RADIATION DETECTORS indicate a change greater than 10 %, in the ABSORBED DOSE distribution.

## **201.10.1.103 Absorbed dose rate**

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c) If, under any fault conditions, the EQUIPMENT can deliver an ABSORBED DOSE RATE at NTD of more than ten times the maximum SPECIFIED in the technical description, a RADIATION BEAM monitoring device, which shall use a circuit independent of the DOSE RATE MONITORING SYSTEM, shall be incorporated on the PATIENT side of the radiation beam distribution system. This shall limit the excess ABSORBED DOSE at any point in the radiation field to less than 4 Gy. The value of the excess ABSORBED DOSE shall be given in the technical description.

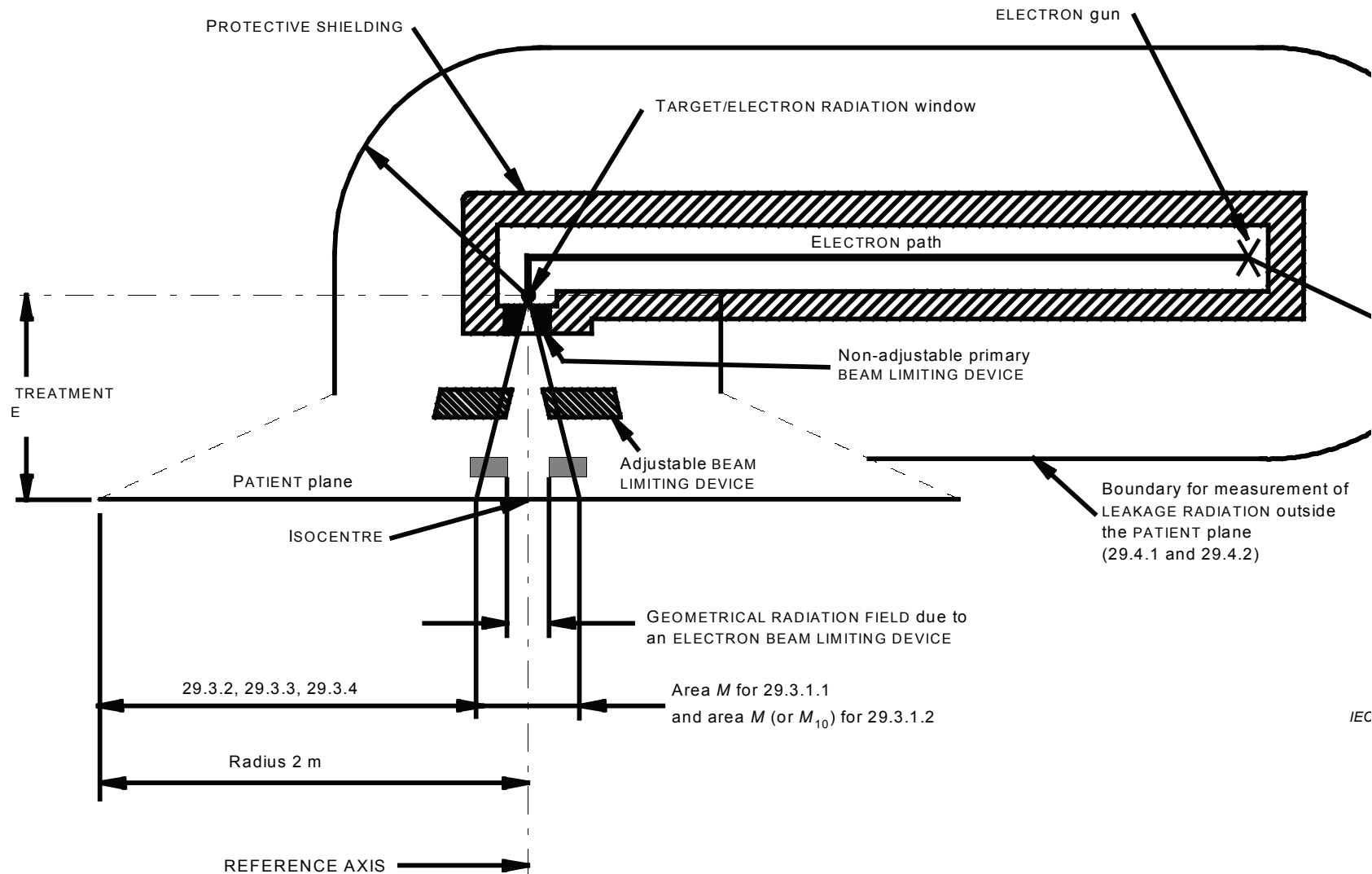
## 201.10.1.103 Absorbed dose rate

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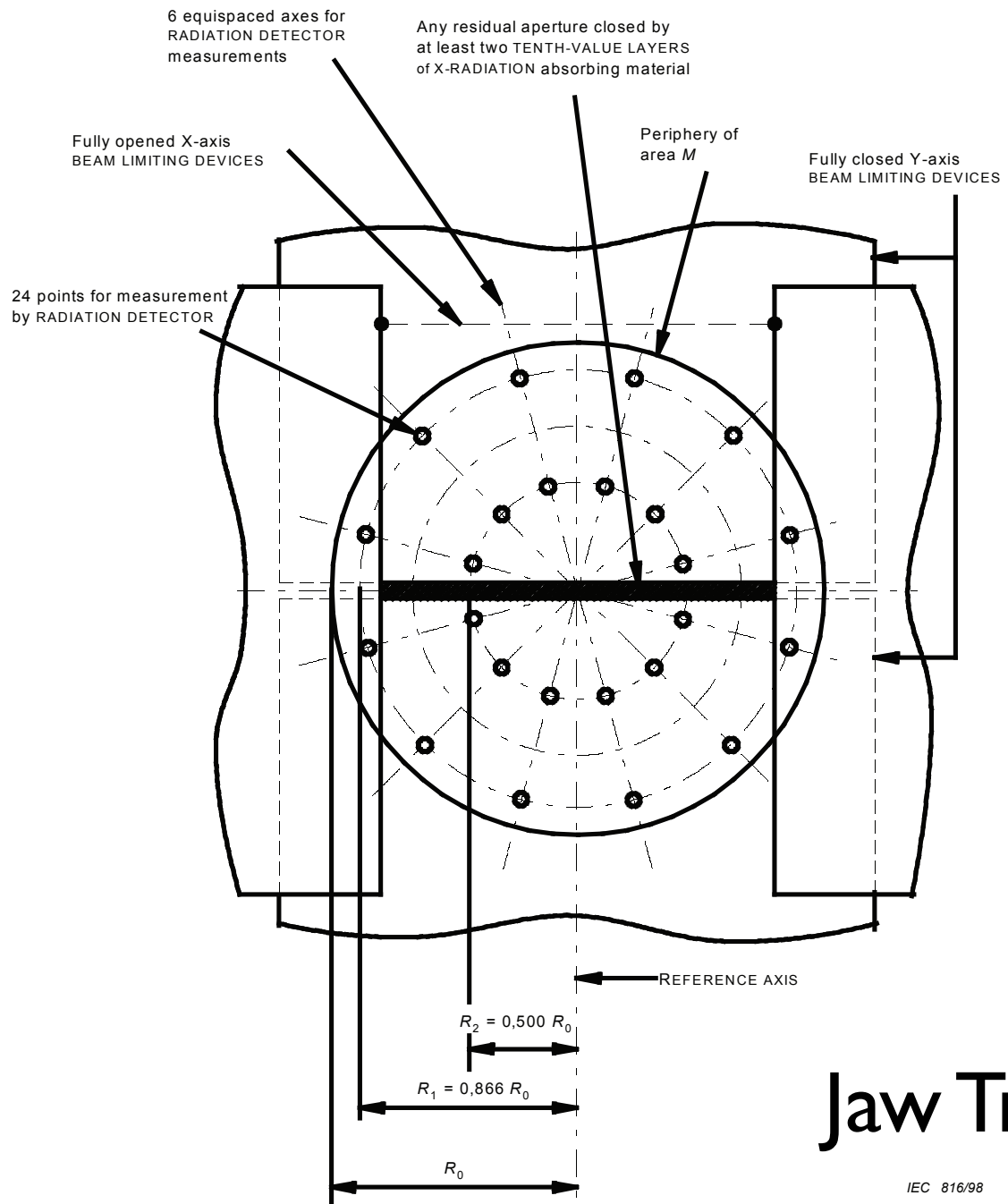
c) If, under any fault conditions, the device delivers an ABSORBED DOSE RATE ten times the maximum value of the design of radiation beam monitoring device and the value of the excess absorbed dose that causes termination of irradiation.

c) Site test grade C – Principle: verification of the functioning of the radiation beam monitoring device by generating or simulating excess electron beam current.

# Measurement of Leakage Radiation



IEC



# Jaw Transmission

IEC 816/98

# Proposed new safety clauses for SRS

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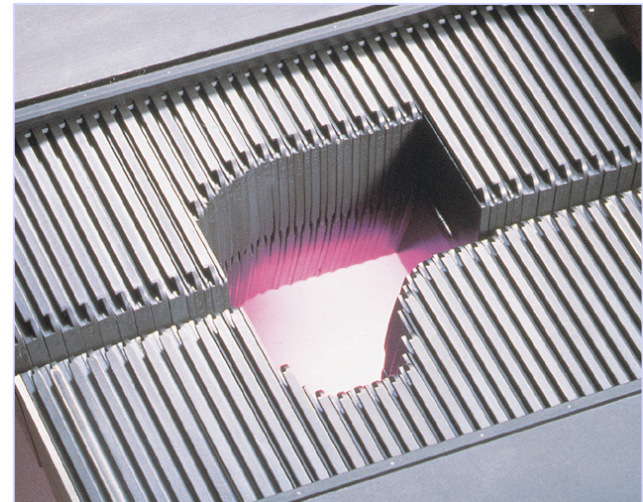
- Positioning accuracy
- Strain caused by moving parts
- Collision avoidance



# Proposed new safety clauses for IMRT

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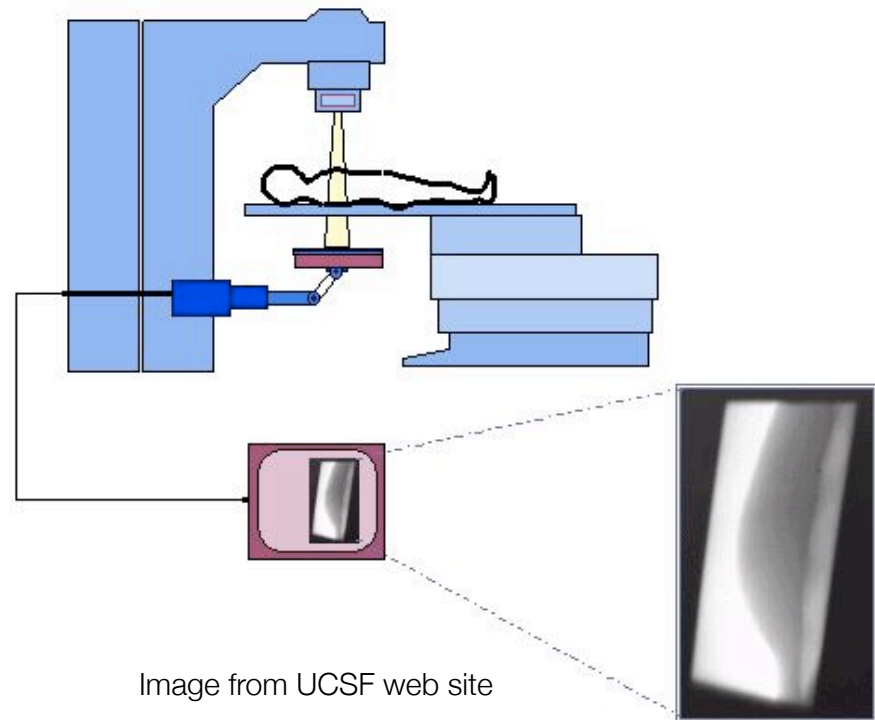
- Incorrect field shape
- Incorrect MU for part of field
- Record and verify capability
- Neutron dose
- Whole body dose



# Proposed new safety clauses for EPIDs

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- Correct image orientation
- Correct scale factor of image
- Adequate detail
- Correct field of view
- Collision avoidance
- Artifacts

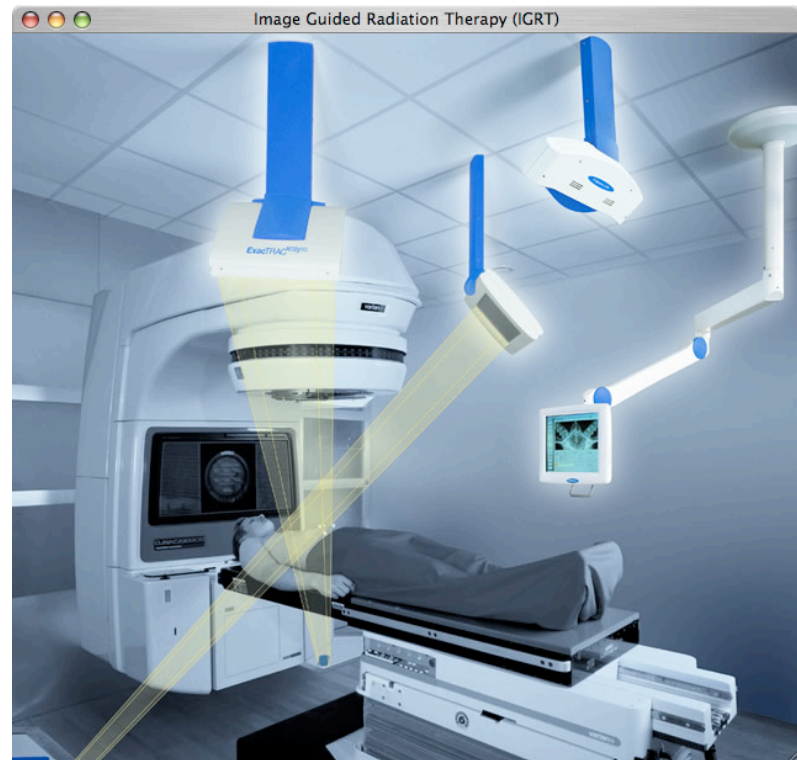




# Proposed new safety clauses for IGRT

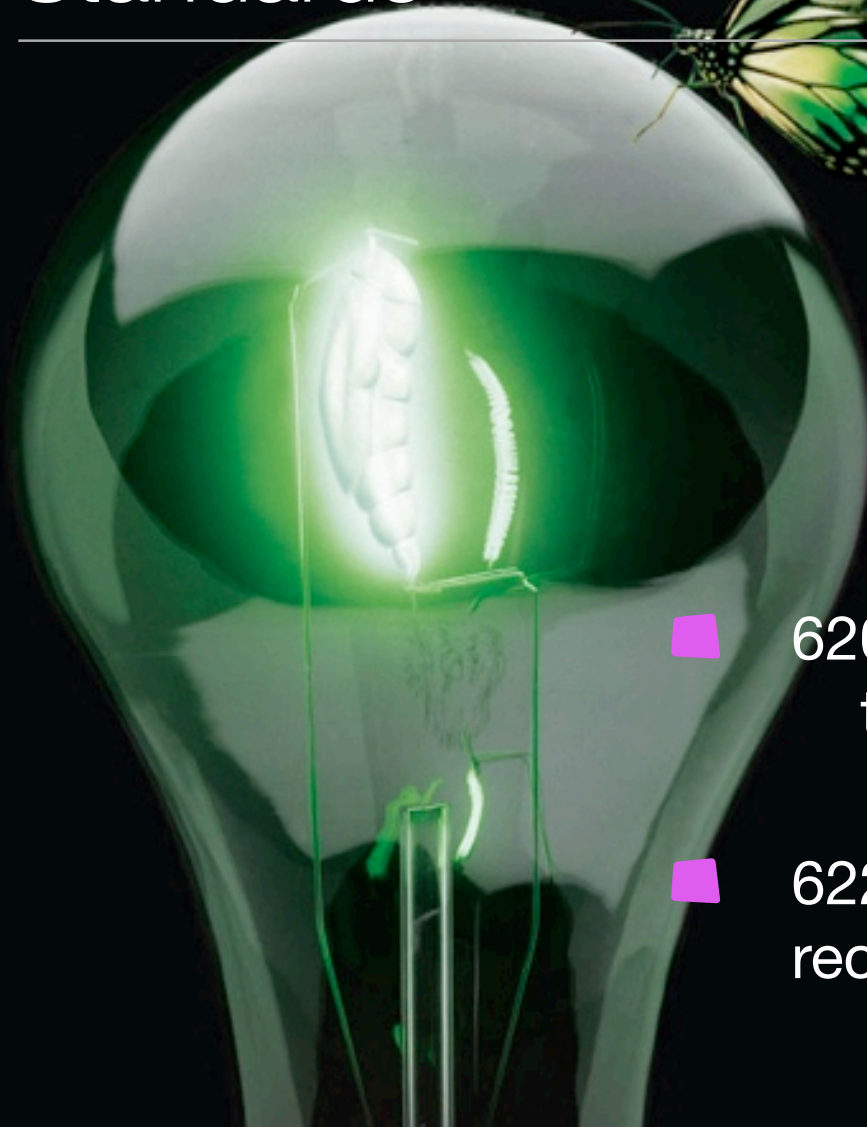
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- Registration of images
- Accuracy of movement of patient support
- Movement of MLC in response to imaging
- Movement of gantry in response to imaging
- ...



# Additional Safety Standards

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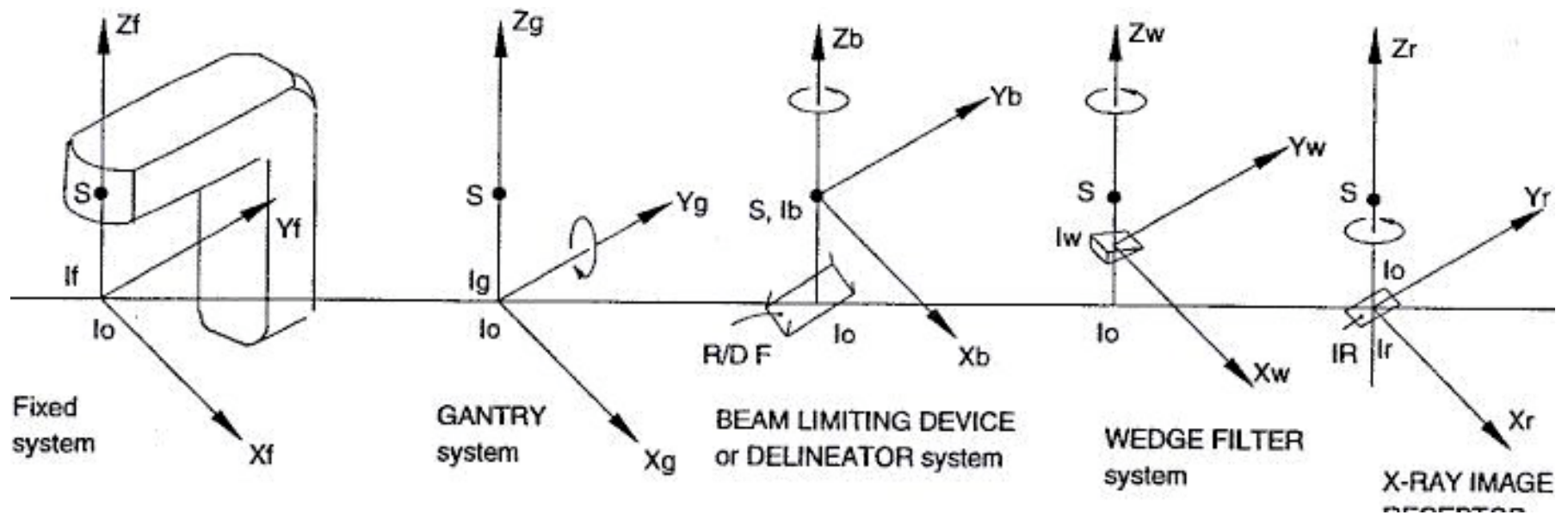
- 62083: Safety of radiotherapy treatment planning systems
- 62274: Safety of radiotherapy record and verify systems

# IEC 62083 - Safe Operation of Treatment Planning Systems

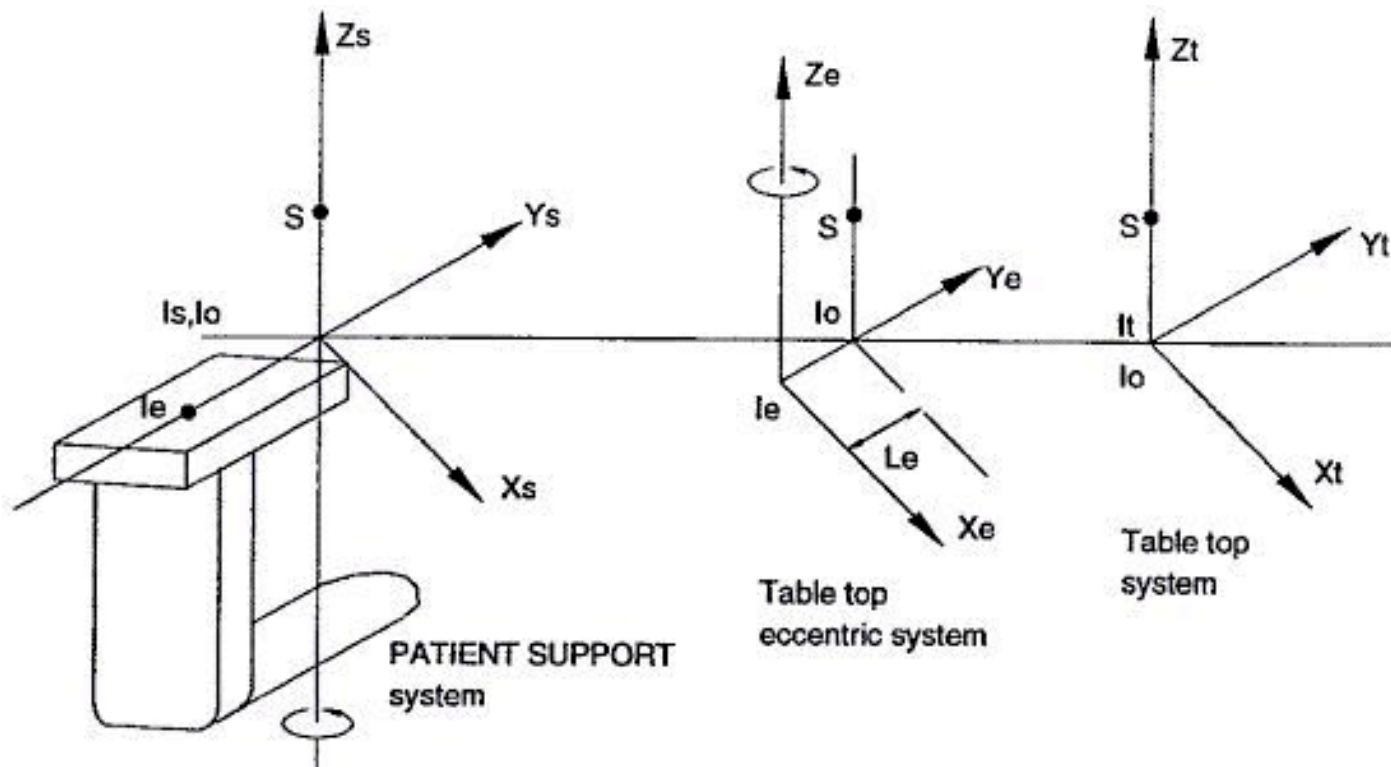
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- Format of displays, units, date & time
- Data limits, transfer
- Saving and archiving data
- Equipment and source model
- Patient model
- Treatment planning
- Dose calculation
- Treatment plan report

# IEC 61217. Coordinates, Movements & Scales



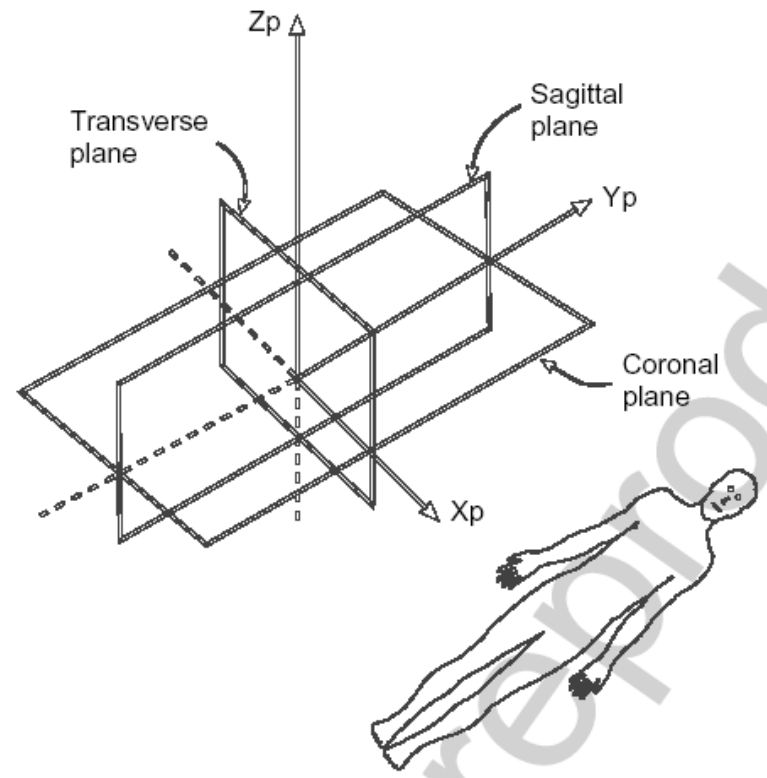
# IEC 61217. Coordinates, Movements & Scales



# 61217: Coordinates, movements and scales

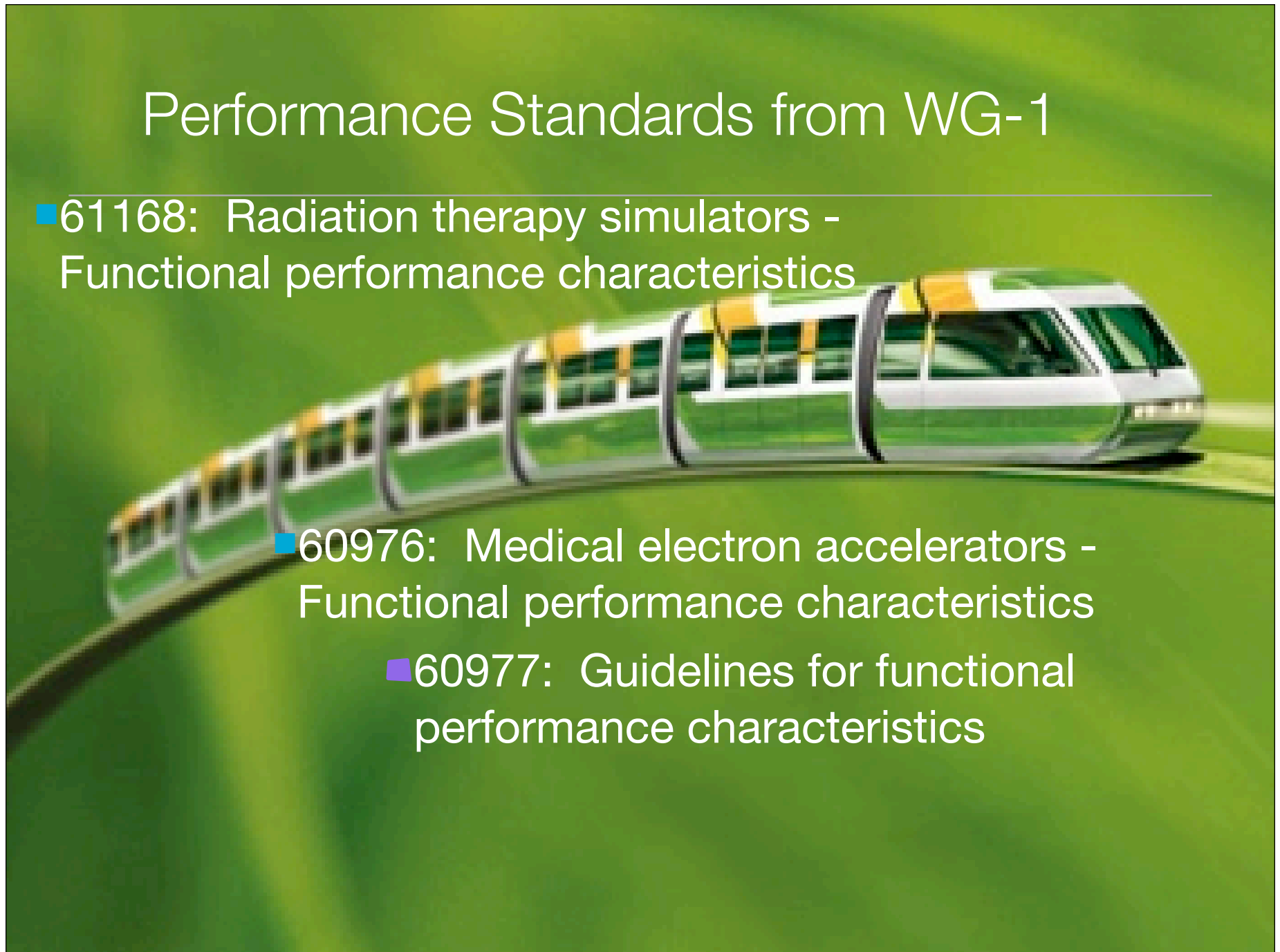
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- Amendment for patient coordinate system



# Performance Standards from WG-1

- 61168: Radiation therapy simulators -  
Functional performance characteristics
- 60976: Medical electron accelerators -  
Functional performance characteristics
  - 60977: Guidelines for functional  
performance characteristics



# IEC 60976. Medical electron accelerators - Functional performance characteristics

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“... specifies test procedures for the determination and disclosure of functional performance characteristics,

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knowledge of which is deemed necessary for proper application and use of a medical ELECTRON ACCELERATOR and which are to be declared in the ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS together with the greatest deviation or variation to be expected under specific conditions in NORMAL USE.”





## 6.4 Dependence on angular positions

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### **6.4.1 Information to the USER**

*[R is dose per MU]*

The ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS shall state the maximum differences between the maximum value and the minimum value of the ratio  $R$  for both X-RADIATION and ELECTRON RADIATION when the equipment is placed in different positions through the full range of rotations.

The maximum differences shall be expressed as percentages of the mean value of  $R$  for both X-RADIATION and ELECTRON RADIATION.

# IEC 60977. Guidelines for functional performance characteristics

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Provides a suggested format for the reporting of performance characteristics

Provides suggested performance levels

Clause	Abbreviation of Statement in Disclosure Standard	Values declared (suggested)
6.4	<b>Dependence on angular positions</b>	
	Maximum difference between the maximum and minimum values of $\bar{R}$ over the full angular ranges of the GANTRY and BEAM LIMITING SYSTEM...	
	X-RADIATION	
	Declared maximum difference... _____ %	(3)
6.5	ELECTRON RADIATION	
	Declared maximum difference _____ %	(3)
	<b>Dependence on GANTRY rotation</b>	
	As the GANTRY moves, the maximum deviation of $\bar{R}$ from the arithmetic mean of the maximum and minimum values of $\bar{R}$ determined in 5.3	
6.5	X-RADIATION	
	Declared maximum deviation... _____ %	(3)
6.5	ELECTRON RADIATION	
	Declared maximum deviation... _____ %	(2)

## 6.4 Dependence on angular positions

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Maximum difference between the maximum and minimum values of  $R$  over the full angular ranges of the GANTRY and BEAM LIMITING SYSTEM ...

X-RADIATION

Declared maximum difference ... \_\_\_\_\_ % (3)

*[Where  $R$  is the average dose per MU]*

# IEC 60976. Performance standard

4. General information to user
5. Standardized test conditions
6. Tests of dose monitoring system
7. Depth dose characteristics
8. Uniformity of radiation fields
9. Indication of radiation fields
10. Indication of radiation beam axis
11. Isocenter
12. Indication of distance along the beam axis
13. Zero position of rotational scales
14. Congruence of opposed radiation fields
15. Movements of the patient table
16. EPIDs

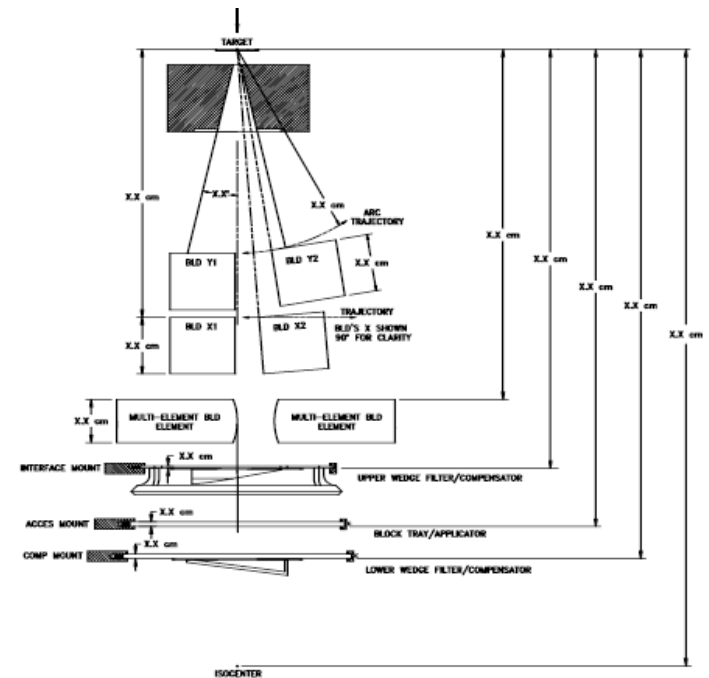


Figure 10 – RADIATION HEAD showing X-RADIATION BLDs and ACCESSORIES (see 4.11)

# IEC 60976. Performance standard

60976 Ed. 2/CDV © IEC:200X

- 64 -

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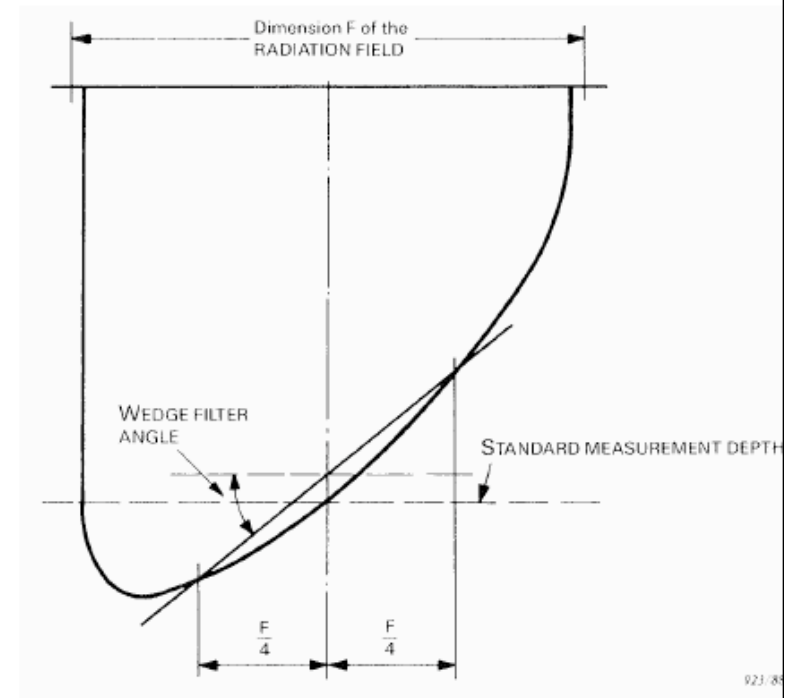


Figure 1 – Explanatory diagram for the definition of wedge

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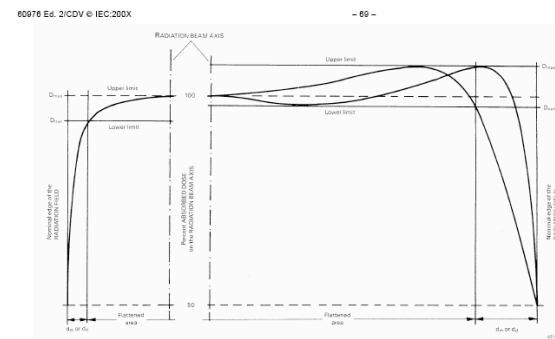
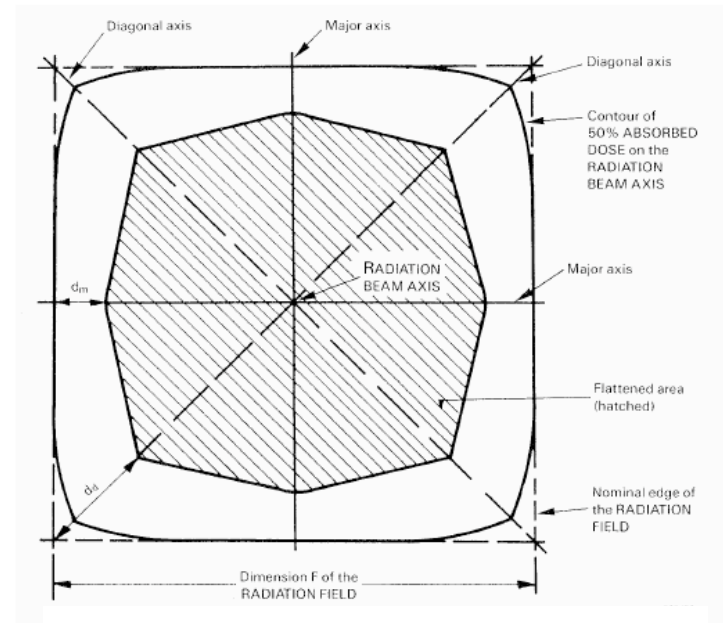
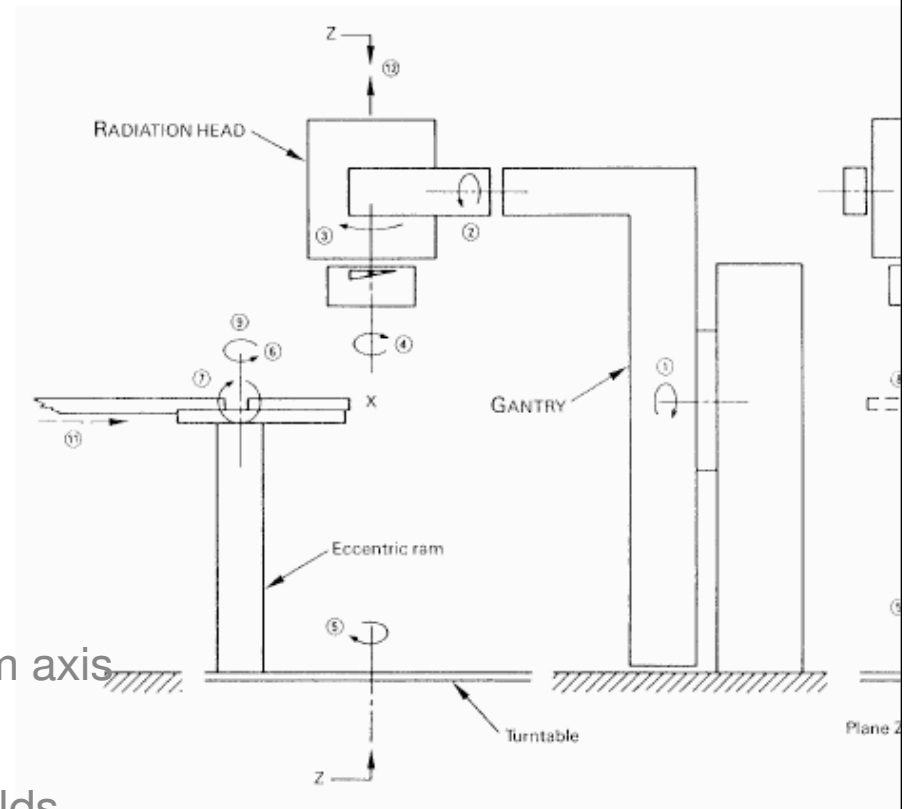


Figure 6 – Examples of profiles of absorbed dose along the major axes or the diagonal axes. All profiles lie within the permitted limits. Shown in the figure are halves of the profile for a small radiation field (left) and a large radiation field P=30 cm (right).

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## Legend:

- |   |                                     |   |                                |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| ① | Rotation of the GANTRY, Axis 1      | ⑦ | Pitch of the table, Axis 7     |
| ② | Roll of the RADIATION HEAD, Axis 2  | ⑧ | Roll of the table, Axis 8      |
| ③ | Pitch of the RADIATION HEAD, Axis 3 | ⑨ | Height of the table, Direction |

# Additional Performance Standards

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61852: Medical electrical equipment -  
Digital imaging and communications in  
medicine (DICOM) - Radiotherapy objects

61859: Guidelines for radiotherapy  
treatment rooms design



# Gestation of an IEC Standard



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Typical for a new standard to take at least 5 years in development

IEC requires standards to be revised every 5 years; review begins 3 years after publication

General Standard has been revised; will require revision of all particular standards



Thank You!

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