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Biocompatibility evaluation of breathing gas pathways in healthcare applications —

Part 3: Tests for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

*Évaluation de la biocompatibilité des voies de gaz respiratoires dans
les applications de soins de santé —*

*Partie 3: Essais concernant les émissions de composés organiques
volatils (COV)*



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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).

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).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of ISO 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 121, *Anaesthetic and respiratory equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Lung ventilators and related equipment*.

A list of all parts of the ISO 18562 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

This document is intended to protect PATIENTS connected to MEDICAL DEVICES from excessive amounts of VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs) that arise from within the GAS PATHWAYS of those MEDICAL DEVICES. This document represents the application of the best-known science by addressing the RISKS from potentially hazardous VOCs being conveyed to the PATIENT by the gas stream.

This document is intended to cover the biological evaluation of GAS PATHWAYS of MEDICAL DEVICES within a RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS, as part of the overall MEDICAL DEVICE evaluation and development. This approach combines the review and evaluation of existing data from all sources with, where necessary, the selection and application of additional tests.

In general, the ISO 10993 series^[1] is intended to cover the biological evaluation of MEDICAL DEVICES. However, the ISO 10993 series does not appropriately address the biological evaluation of the GAS PATHWAYS of MEDICAL DEVICES. For example, the ISO 10993 tests do not detect VOCs.

It is not within the scope of this document to address contamination arising from the source of the breathing gases entering such MEDICAL DEVICES, but rather only address the potential contamination generated from within the MEDICAL DEVICE itself. This contamination might be from the original manufacturing PROCESS or generated by the MEDICAL DEVICE itself during use.

This document is concerned with VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS that could be conveyed to the PATIENT by the breathing gases. VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS can have health effects ranging from unpleasant odour and irritation of the mucous membranes to possible long-term effects on the nervous system. It is accepted that there is no point in setting levels that are lower than those found in air that people might breathe every day.

The tests for the presence of VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS generated by respiratory MEDICAL DEVICES are based on advanced laboratory practice and require specialist training and equipment to generate meaningful results.

The methods to determine the acceptable levels of contamination are contained in ISO 18562-1.

In this document, the following print types are used:

- requirements and definitions: roman 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;
- *test specifications: italic type;*
- terms defined in [Clause 3](#) of this DOCUMENT or as noted: small capitals type.

In this document, 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 document conform to usage described in Annex H of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. For the purposes of this document, the auxiliary verb:

- a) “shall” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is mandatory for compliance with this document;
- b) “should” means that compliance with a requirement or a test is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this document;
- c) “may” is used to describe a permissible way to achieve compliance with a requirement or test.

An asterisk (*) as the first character of a title or at the beginning of a paragraph or table title indicates that there is guidance or rationale related to that item in [Annex A](#).

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The attention of Member Bodies is drawn to the fact that equipment manufacturers and testing organizations may need a transitional period following publication of a new, amended or revised ISO publication in which to make products in accordance with the new requirements and to equip themselves for conducting new or revised tests. It is the recommendation of the committee that the content of this publication be adopted for implementation nationally not earlier than 3 years from the date of publication for equipment newly designed and not earlier than 5 years from the date of publication for equipment already in production.