

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Radiation protection instrumentation – Alarming personal radiation devices (PRDs) for the detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material





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Radiation protection instrumentation – Alarming personal radiation devices (PRDs) for the detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions, abbreviated terms and symbols, quantities and units.....	7
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	7
3.2 Abbreviated terms and symbols	10
3.3 Quantities and units	10
4 General characteristics and requirements.....	10
4.1 General.....	10
4.2 Mechanical requirements	11
4.2.1 Size	11
4.2.2 Mass	11
4.2.3 Alarm characteristics	11
4.2.4 Case construction.....	11
4.2.5 Reference point marking.....	11
4.2.6 Switches.....	11
4.3 Data format.....	12
4.4 Explosive atmospheres	12
5 General test procedures	12
5.1 Nature of tests	12
5.2 Statistical fluctuations	13
5.3 General test information.....	13
5.4 Instrument setup.....	13
5.5 Speed of moving sources.....	13
5.6 Functionality test.....	14
5.6.1 General	14
5.6.2 Pre-test (preparation)	14
5.6.3 Post-test.....	14
6 Radiation detection requirements	15
6.1 Rate of false alarms.....	15
6.1.1 Requirements	15
6.1.2 Method of test.....	15
6.2 Gamma alarm	15
6.2.1 Requirements	15
6.2.2 Method of test.....	15
6.3 Personal protection alarm	16
6.3.1 Requirements	16
6.3.2 Method of test.....	16
6.4 Relative intrinsic error.....	16
6.4.1 Requirements	16
6.4.2 Method of test.....	16
6.5 Detection of gradually increasing radiation levels.....	16
6.5.1 Requirements	16
6.5.2 Method of test.....	16
6.6 Over-range	17

6.6.1	Requirements	17
6.6.2	Method of test.....	17
6.7	Detection of neutrons (if provided)	17
6.7.1	Requirements	17
6.7.2	Method of test.....	17
6.8	Gamma response of neutron detector (if provided).....	18
6.8.1	Requirements	18
6.8.2	Method of test.....	18
7	Environmental requirements	18
7.1	Ambient temperature.....	18
7.1.1	Requirements	18
7.1.2	Method of test.....	18
7.2	Relative humidity	18
7.2.1	Requirements	18
7.2.2	Method of test.....	19
7.3	Moisture and dust protection	19
7.3.1	Requirements	19
7.3.2	Method of test.....	19
8	Mechanical requirements.....	19
8.1	Drop test.....	19
8.1.1	Requirements	19
8.1.2	Method of test.....	19
8.2	Vibration test	20
8.2.1	Requirements	20
8.2.2	Method of test.....	20
9	Electric and electromagnetic requirements	20
9.1	Battery lifetime.....	20
9.1.1	Requirements	20
9.1.2	Method of test.....	20
9.2	Electrostatic discharge, radiofrequency immunity, radiated emissions and magnetic fields.....	20
9.2.1	Requirements	20
9.2.2	Method of test.....	21
10	Documentation	21
10.1	Type test report	21
10.2	Certificate	21
10.3	Operation and maintenance manuals	22
Annex A (informative) Summary of performance requirements		23
Bibliography.....		25
Table 1 – IEC standards concerning instruments for the detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material		6
Table 2 – Standard test conditions.....		12
Table A.1 – Summary of the most important performance requirements		24

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

RADIATION PROTECTION INSTRUMENTATION – ALARMING PERSONAL RADIATION DEVICES (PRDs) FOR THE DETECTION OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62401 has been prepared by subcommittee 45B: Radiation protection instrumentation, of IEC technical committee 45: Nuclear instrumentation.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC 62401, issued in 2007. It constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) making the standard consistent with the new standards for detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material (see the Introduction);
- b) changing some requirements:
 - removal of the 2 levels of background levels (high and low) needed for the different tests. Only one background level (laboratory) remains,
 - the gamma alarm is tested using moving sources and not statically (6.2),

- relative intrinsic error,
 - over-range,
 - detection of neutrons;
- c) creating a uniform functionality test for all environmental, electromagnetic and mechanical tests and a requirement for the coefficient of variation of each nominal mean reading;
- d) reference to IEC 62706 for the environmental, electromagnetic and mechanical test conditions.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
45B/881/FDIS	45B/888/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

INTRODUCTION

Illicit and inadvertent movement of radioactive materials has become a problem of increasing importance. Radioactive sources out of regulatory control, so-called “orphan sources”, have frequently caused serious radiation exposures and widespread contamination. Although illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials is not a new phenomenon, concern about a nuclear “black market” has increased in the last few years, particularly in view of its terrorist potential.

In response to the technical policy of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) related to the detection and identification of special nuclear materials and security trends, nuclear instrumentation companies are developing and manufacturing radiation instrumentation to assist in the detection of illicit movement of radioactive and special nuclear materials. This type of instrumentation is widely used for security purposes at nuclear facilities, border control checkpoints, and international seaports and airports.

However, to ensure that measurement results made at different locations are consistent, it is imperative that radiation instrumentation be designed to rigorous specifications based upon agreed performance requirements stated in international standards. Several IEC standards have been developed to address body-worn, hand-held and portal instruments, see Table 1.

Table 1 – IEC standards concerning instruments for the detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material

Type of instrumentation	IEC number	Title of the standard
Body-worn	62401	Radiation protection instrumentation – Alarming Personal Radiation Devices (PRDs) for the detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material
	62618	Radiation protection instrumentation – Spectroscopy-Based Alarming Personal Radiation Devices (SPRD) for detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material
	62694	Radiation protection instrumentation – Backpack-type radiation detector (BRD) for detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive material
Portable or hand-held	62327	Radiation protection instrumentation – Hand-held instruments for the detection and identification of radionuclides and for the estimation of ambient dose equivalent rate from photon radiation
	62533	Radiation protection instrumentation – Highly sensitive hand-held instruments for photon detection of radioactive material
	62534	Radiation protection instrumentation – Highly sensitive hand-held instruments for neutron detection of radioactive material
Portal	62244	Radiation protection instrumentation – Installed radiation portal monitors (RPMs) for the detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials
	62484	Radiation protection instrumentation – Spectroscopy-based portal monitors used for the detection and identification of illicit trafficking of radioactive material
Data format	62755	Radiation protection instrumentation – Data format for radiation instruments used in the detection of illicit trafficking of radioactive materials