

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



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**Health software –  
Part 1: General requirements for product safety**

**Logiciels de santé –  
Partie 1: Exigences générales pour la sécurité des produits**



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IEC Central Office  
3, rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## HEALTH SOFTWARE –

## Part 1: General requirements for product safety

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International Standard IEC 82304-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 62A: Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice, and ISO technical committee 215: Health informatics.

It is published as a double logo standard.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents of IEC:

FDIS	Report on voting
62A/1140/FDIS	62A/1151/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this part of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table. In ISO, the standard has been approved by 21 P members out of 22 having cast a vote.

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

Terms defined in Clause 3 of this standard are printed in SMALL CAPITALS.

For the purposes of this standard:

- “shall” means that compliance with a requirement is mandatory for compliance with this standard;
- “should” means that compliance with a requirement is recommended but is not mandatory for compliance with this standard;
- “may” is used to describe a permissible way to achieve compliance with a requirement; and
- “establish” means to define, document, and implement.

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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## INTRODUCTION

HEALTH SOFTWARE PRODUCTS, within the context of this document, are software-only products. These products are intended to be used with computing equipment not explicitly developed for running the software. HEALTH SOFTWARE PRODUCTS may require specified platforms.

HEALTH SOFTWARE PRODUCTS are intended by their MANUFACTURER for managing, maintaining or improving health of individual persons, or the delivery of care. Some HEALTH SOFTWARE can contribute to a HAZARDOUS SITUATION. Accordingly, Clause 5 requires a RISK MANAGEMENT process for all HEALTH SOFTWARE. For HEALTH SOFTWARE that can contribute to a HAZARDOUS SITUATION, RISK CONTROL is needed to prevent HARM or reduce the likelihood of HARM occurring. Testing of the finished product is not, by itself, adequate to address the SAFETY of HEALTH SOFTWARE. Therefore, requirements for the processes by which the HEALTH SOFTWARE is developed are necessary. This document relies heavily on IEC 62304:2006 and IEC 62304:2006/AMD1:2015 for the software development process which can be applied to HEALTH SOFTWARE PRODUCTS.

Whether a HEALTH SOFTWARE PRODUCT has to meet regulatory requirements is a matter of national legislation. This document makes no attempt to determine whether a HEALTH SOFTWARE PRODUCT is or should be regulated.

This document aims to provide requirements for the SAFETY and SECURITY of HEALTH SOFTWARE PRODUCTS; it can only provide such requirements for software-only products. Situations where HEALTH SOFTWARE is a part of—or embedded in— a physical device are outside the scope of this document as these combined products are considered separately in, for example, IEC 60601-1 and associated collateral and particular standards.

This document understands health in a meaning similar to the WHO definition: “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (WHO, 1946). This definition appears not highly suitable for practical purposes: “a state of complete well-being” or the inclusion of social well-being could be interpreted more widely than seems reasonable. For example dating software, games, or flight simulator software could be considered within the scope of the standard. That is clearly not the intent. However, a precise definition – or even delineation – of “health” for practical use in “HEALTH SOFTWARE” is not available.

HEALTH SOFTWARE refers to software that contributes to the health of individual people as observed and/or demonstrated using measurable health parameters or clinical expertise. This is a subset of “health” as defined by the WHO. The requirements of the standard apply to the software that impacts such health parameters, and/or to software where SECURITY violations would undermine privacy or confidentiality of health and wellbeing information.

The reader is kindly referred to the Table A.1 for examples of what is in the scope and what is outside the scope of this document.