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**Methods for calculating size specific dose estimates (SSDE) for computed tomography**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	7
4 Verification of method used to calculate $D_W(z)$ .....	9
4.1 General.....	9
4.2 Characteristics of the water PHANTOMS .....	9
4.3 Characteristics of the anthropomorphic PHANTOM .....	10
4.4 Generation of $D_{W,REF}(z)$ for the water PHANTOMS .....	10
4.5 Verification of $D_{W,REF}$ for the water PHANTOMS .....	10
4.6 Generation of $D_{W,IMP}$ for the water PHANTOMS .....	10
4.7 Verification of $D_{W,IMP}(z)$ against $D_{W,REF}(z)$ for the water PHANTOMS.....	11
4.8 Generation of $D_{W,REF}(z)$ for the anthropomorphic PHANTOM.....	11
4.9 Generation of $D_{W,IMP}(z)$ for the anthropomorphic PHANTOM .....	12
4.10 Verification of $D_{W,IMP}(z)$ against $D_{W,REF}(z)$ for the anthropomorphic PHANTOM .....	12
5 Requirements and limitations.....	12
5.1 Calculation of SSDE and $D_W$ for CT SCANNERS and RDIMS .....	12
5.2 Pre-scan display of SSDE for CT SCANNERS .....	12
5.3 Post-scan updating of SSDE and $D_W$ for CT SCANNERS.....	12
5.4 Pre and post-scan display of SSDE and $D_W$ for CT SCANNERS .....	13
5.5 Post-scan recording of SSDE and $D_W$ for CT SCANNERS.....	13
5.6 Limitations of calculation and display of SSDE and $D_W$ .....	13
5.7 Requirements for identification of limitations in the ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS .....	13
5.8 Updating SSDE conversion factors, $f$ .....	14
Annex A (normative) SSDE conversion factors.....	15
A.1 Clarification regarding the use of effective diameter versus $D_W$ .....	15
A.2 Equation for determination of SSDE conversion factor .....	15
Annex B (normative) Language regarding the general limitations of the SSDE methodology for use in the ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS .....	17
Annex C (informative) Estimates of the magnitude of uncertainties from special clinical scenarios.....	18
C.1 General.....	18
C.2 Neck included in scanned anatomy .....	18
C.3 Range of scan projection radiograph exceeded.....	18
C.4 Single or bilateral extremities scanned.....	18
C.5 PATIENT not positioned at the centre of rotation along the source/detector direction.....	19
C.6 PATIENT anatomy outside the scan field of view .....	19
C.7 Foreign objects within the scanned projection radiograph or scan volume .....	19
Bibliography.....	20
Index of defined terms used in this document .....	21

Figure A.1 – Visualization of $f(D_W)$ versus $D_W$ for the body and head parameters provided in Table A.1 .....	16
Table 1 – Anthropomorphic PHANTOM regions to be scanned .....	11
Table A.1 – SSDE Conversion factor as a function of $D_W$ .....	15

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

# METHODS FOR CALCULATING SIZE SPECIFIC DOSE ESTIMATES (SSDE) FOR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62985 has been prepared by subcommittee 62B: Diagnostic imaging equipment, of IEC technical committee 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
62B/1133/FDIS	62B/1144/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.

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;
- TERMS DEFINED IN CLAUSE 3, IN CLAUSE 3 OF IEC 60601-1:2005 AND IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012, OF THE COLLATERAL STANDARDS, OF IEC TR 60788:2004 OR AS NOTED: SMALL CAPITALS.

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.

NOTE The attention of the user of this document is drawn to the fact that equipment MANUFACTURERS and testing organizations may need a transitional period following publication of a new, amended or revised IEC 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.

The contents of the corrigendum 1 (2022-06) have been included in this copy.

## INTRODUCTION

The SIZE SPECIFIC DOSE ESTIMATE (SSDE) is an estimate of the average ABSORBED DOSE to the scan volume that takes into account the ATTENUATION of the anatomy being scanned (using the WATER EQUIVALENT DIAMETER  $D_W$ ) and the RADIATION OUTPUT of the CT SCANNER (using  $CTDI_{VOL}$ ).

SSDE is intended to provide a dose estimate for PATIENTS of all sizes. SSDE, which is given in units of mGy, is especially important for small paediatric PATIENTS since the corresponding applied level of RADIATION ( $CTDI_{VOL}$ , also given in units of mGy) does not adequately indicate the absorbed RADIATION DOSE.

SSDE is calculated using a SSDE CONVERSION FACTOR AT LONGITUDINAL POSITION  $Z$  ( $f$ ) and the  $CTDI_{VOL}$  AT LONGITUDINAL POSITION  $Z$ ,  $CTDI_{VOL}(Z)$ , where  $f$  is a function of the WATER EQUIVALENT DIAMETER AT LONGITUDINAL POSITION  $Z$ ,  $D_W(Z)$ , and the size of the  $CTDI$  PHANTOM used to report  $CTDI_{VOL}$ .  $f$  is given in normative Annex A.

This document provides a methodology (in Clause 4) for a MANUFACTURER to validate their method for calculating  $D_W(Z)$ , which is used for the determination of  $f$  and the calculation of SSDE. This method calculates a reference WATER EQUIVALENT DIAMETER AT LONGITUDINAL POSITION  $Z$ ,  $D_{W,REF}(Z)$ , and compares it against a known PHANTOM dimension and the implemented values of WATER EQUIVALENT DIAMETER AT LONGITUDINAL POSITION  $Z$ ,  $D_{W,IMP}(Z)$ . PHANTOM types and tolerances are also specified.

NOTE 1 The definition of SSDE used in this document differs from that of AAPM Report No. 204 [1]<sup>1</sup> in that AAPM Report No. 204 estimates the average dose at the centre of the scan volume, whereas in this document, SSDE estimates the average dose across the whole scan volume.

NOTE 2  $CTDI_{VOL}$  is a dose index that allows quantitation of the RADIATION OUTPUT of CT SCANNERS in terms of one of two PMMA test objects. These test objects are 16 cm and 32 cm in diameter. SSDE is calculated by conversion of one of these PHANTOM-based dose indices to an estimate of the RADIATION dose absorbed by a PATIENT of a specific size. The magnitude of the difference between SSDE and  $CTDI_{VOL}$  values increases as the difference between the PATIENT size and the size of the  $CTDI$  PHANTOM used to measure the  $CTDI_{VOL}$  increases. For infants, the calculated SSDE value may be 3 times as much as the corresponding  $CTDI_{VOL}$  dose index value. Conversely, the  $CTDI_{VOL}$  value for large PATIENTS overestimates SSDE, which is representative of the PATIENT's actual absorbed RADIATION DOSE. For extra-large adult PATIENTS, the  $CTDI_{VOL}$  dose index can overestimate the SSDE by as much as 40 % [1].

Potential uses of SSDE include the following:

- 1) evaluating PATIENT ABSORBED DOSE for quality assurance programs;
- 2) establishing diagnostic reference levels across PATIENT sizes;
- 3) displaying to the OPERATOR an estimate of PATIENT ABSORBED DOSE prior to initiation of the CT scan;
- 4) providing an estimate of ABSORBED DOSE for the DICOM RDSR;
- 5) developing DOSE NOTIFICATION VALUE and DOSE ALERT VALUES that better take into account PATIENT size;
- 6) providing an estimate of PATIENT ABSORBED DOSE for dose registries.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

## METHODS FOR CALCULATING SIZE SPECIFIC DOSE ESTIMATES (SSDE) FOR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

### 1 Scope

This document applies to

- CT SCANNERS that are able to display and report  $CTDI_{VOL}$  in accordance with IEC 60601-2-44, and
- RADIATION dose index monitoring software (RDIMS)

for the purpose of calculating, displaying and recording the SIZE SPECIFIC DOSE ESTIMATE (SSDE) and its associated components.

Specifically, this document provides standardized methods and requirements for calculating, displaying, or recording of SSDE,  $SSDE(z)$ , WATER EQUIVALENT DIAMETER ( $D_W$ ), and  $D_W(z)$ , where  $z$  represents a specific longitudinal position of the scanned object.

This document provides a method of determining a reference WATER EQUIVALENT DIAMETER,  $D_{W,REF}(z)$ , using CT scans of two cylindrical water PHANTOMS and one or more anthropomorphic PHANTOM(S), which conform to the specifications defined in this document. The method of calculating the WATER EQUIVALENT DIAMETER that is implemented by the MANUFACTURER,  $D_{W,IMP}(z)$ , is tested and validated against  $D_{W,REF}(z)$  using the TEST OBJECTS and methods defined within this document. This document also describes the methods for calculating SSDE and  $D_W$ , which represent the average values of  $SSDE(z)$  and  $D_W(z)$  over the RECONSTRUCTION LENGTH.

NOTE This standardization is important to ensure that comparisons between reported SSDEs are valid.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC TR 60788:2004, *Medical electrical equipment – Glossary of defined terms*

IEC 60601-1:2005, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*  
IEC 60601-1:2005/AMD1:2012

IEC 60601-1-3:2008, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-3: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: Radiation protection in diagnostic X-ray equipment*

IEC 60601-2-44:2009, *Medical electrical equipment – Part 2-44: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of X-ray equipment for computed tomography*