IEC 60825-4

Edition 2.2 2011-06

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Safety of laser products – Part 4: Laser guards

Sécurité des appareils à laser – Partie 4: Protecteurs pour lasers

IEC 60825-4:2006+A1:2008+A2:2011

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FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60825-4 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 76: Optical radiation safety and laser equipment.

This consolidated version of IEC 60825-4 consists of the second edition (2006) [documents 76/342/FDIS and 76/351/RVD], its amendment 1 (2008) [documents 76/383/FDIS and 76/385/RVD] and its amendment 2 (2011) [documents 76/428/CDV and 76/442/RVC.

The technical content is therefore identical to the base edition and its amendments and has been prepared for user convenience.

It bears the edition number 2.2.

A vertical line in the margin shows where the base publication has been modified by amendments 1 and 2.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendments will remain unchanged until the maintenance result date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
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INTRODUCTION

At low levels of irradiance or radiant exposure, the selection of material and thickness for shielding against laser radiation is determined primarily by a need to provide sufficient optical attenuation. However, at higher levels, an additional consideration is the ability of the laser radiation to remove guard material – typically by melting, oxidation or ablation; processes that could lead to laser radiation penetrating a normally opaque material.

IEC 60825-1 deals with basic issues concerning laser guards, including human access, interlocking and labelling, and gives general guidance on the design of protective housings and enclosures for high-power lasers.

This part of IEC 60825 deals with protection against laser radiation only. Hazards from secondary radiation that may arise during material processing are not addressed.

Laser guards may also comply with standards for laser protective eyewear, but such compliance is not necessarily sufficient to satisfy the requirements of this standard.

Where the term “irradiance” is used, the expression “irradiance or radiant exposure, as appropriate” is implied.

SAFETY OF LASER PRODUCTS –

Part 4: Laser guards

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60825 specifies the requirements for laser guards, permanent and temporary (for example for service), that enclose the process zone of a laser processing machine, and specifications for proprietary laser guards.

This standard applies to all component parts of a guard including clear (visibly transmitting) screens and viewing windows, panels, laser curtains and walls. Requirements for beam path components, beam stops and those other parts of a protective housing of a laser product which do not enclose the process zone are contained in IEC 60825-1.

In addition this part of IEC 60825 indicates:

a) how to assess and specify the protective properties of a laser guard; and

b) how to select a laser guard.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60825-1:2007, *Safety of laser products – Part 1: Equipment classification and requirements*

ISO 11553-1:2005, *Safety of machinery – Laser processing machines – Safety requirements*

ISO 12100-1:2003, *Safety of machinery – Basic concepts, general principles for design – Part 1: Basic terminology, methodology*

ISO 12100-2:2003, *Safety of machinery – Basic concepts, general principles for design – Part 2: Technical principles and specifications*

ISO 13849-1:2006, *Safety of machinery – Safety-related parts of control systems – Part 1: General principles for design*

ISO 14121-1:2007, *Safety of machinery – Risk assessment – Part 1: Principles*

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this part of IEC 60825, the following definitions apply in addition to the definitions given in IEC 60825-1.

3.1
active guard protection time
for a given laser exposure of the front surface of an active laser guard, the minimum time, measured from the issue of an active guard termination signal, for which the active laser guard can safely prevent laser radiation accessible at its rear surface from exceeding the class 1 AEL

3.2
active guard termination signal
the signal issued by an active guard in response to an excess exposure of its front surface to laser radiation and which is intended to lead to automatic termination of the laser radiation

NOTE The action of a safety interlock becoming open circuit is considered a "signal" in this context.

3.3
active laser guard
a laser guard which is part of a safety-related control system. The control system generates an active guard termination signal in response to the effect of laser radiation on the front surface of the laser guard

3.4
foreseeable exposure limit
FEL
the maximum laser exposure on the front surface of the laser guard, within the maintenance inspection interval, assessed under normal and reasonably foreseeable fault conditions

3.5
front surface
the face of the laser guard intended for exposure to laser radiation

3.6
laser guard
a physical barrier which limits the extent of a danger zone by preventing laser radiation accessible at its rear surface from exceeding the class 1 AEL

3.7
laser processing machine
a machine which uses a laser to process materials and is within the scope of ISO 11553-1

3.8
laser termination time
the maximum time taken, from generation of an active guard termination signal, for the laser radiation to be terminated

NOTE Laser termination time does not refer to the response of an active laser guard but to the response of the laser processing machine, in particular the laser safety shutter.

3.9
maintenance inspection interval
the time between successive safety maintenance inspections of a laser guard

3.10
passive laser guard
a laser guard which relies for its operation on its physical properties only