

DECISION SHEET

Standard(s)- (year and edition): IEC 60601-1:1988 Ed.2 Am1+Am2	Sub clause(s): 17, 17c)	Sheet n°: DSH-431
Subject: Flexible shafts	Key words: Shaft, accessible, applied part	Confirmed by CTL at its 39th meeting, in Cologne

Question:

Hand held flexible shafts driven APPLIED PARTS may have parts of the flexible shaft which are accessible and not connected to PROTECTIVE EARTH.
This particularly applies to the termination of the flexible shaft which is normally of metal for durability and strength.

Decision:

Hand-held flexible shafts driving an APPLIED PART, e.g. Surgical or Dental drill, may be considered part of the APPLIED PART and therefore the requirements of Sub-clause 17c) will not apply to the ACCESSIBLE PARTS of that flexible shaft. 17d) shall apply

Explanatory notes:

17c requires that APPLIED PARTS may not have a CONDUCTIVE CONNECTION to ACCESSIBLE METAL PARTS which are not PROTECTIVELY EARTHED. Hand held flexible shafts are deemed likely to come into contact with the OPERATOR or Patient during NORMAL USE. If that is the normal situation then it seems reasonable to treat the whole of the flexible shaft as an APPLIED PART.