

ANNEX IX

CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

III. CLASSIFICATION

1. Non-invasive devices

1.1. Rule 1

All non-invasive devices are in Class I, unless one of the rules set out hereinafter applies.

1.2. Rule 2

All non-invasive devices intended for channelling or storing blood, body liquids or tissues, liquids or gases for the purpose of eventual infusion, administration or introduction into the body are in Class IIa:

- if they may be connected to an active medical device in Class IIa or a higher class,
- if they are intended for use for storing or channelling blood or other body liquids or for storing organs, parts of organs or body tissues,

in all other cases they are in Class I.

1.3. Rule 3

All non-invasive devices intended for modifying the biological or chemical composition of blood, other body liquids or other liquids intended for infusion into the body are in Class IIb, unless the treatment consists of filtration, centrifugation or exchanges of gas, heat, in which case they are in Class IIa.

1.4. Rule 4

All non-invasive devices which come into contact with injured skin:

- are in Class I if they are intended to be used as a mechanical barrier, for compression or for absorption of exudates,
- are in Class IIb if they are intended to be used principally with wounds which have breached the dermis and can only heal by secondary intent,
- are in Class IIa in all other cases, including devices principally intended to manage the micro-environment of a wound.

2. Invasive devices

2.1. Rule 5

[^{F1}All invasive devices with respect to body orifices, other than surgically invasive devices and which are not intended for connection to an active medical device or which are intended for connection to an active medical device in Class I:]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2007/47/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 September 2007 amending Council Directive 90/385/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to active implantable medical devices, Council Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices and Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market \(Text with EEA relevance\).](#)

- are in Class I if they are intended for transient use,

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- are in Class IIa if they are intended for short-term use, except if they are used in the oral cavity as far as the pharynx, in an ear canal up to the ear drum or in a nasal cavity, in which case they are in Class I,
- are in Class IIb if they are intended for long-term use, except if they are used in the oral cavity as far as the pharynx, in an ear canal up to the ear drum or in a nasal cavity and are not liable to be absorbed by the mucous membrane, in which case they are in Class IIa.

All invasive devices with respect to body orifices, other than surgically invasive devices, intended for connection to an active medical device in Class IIa or a higher class, are in Class IIa.

[^{F1}2.2. Rule 6

All surgically invasive devices intended for transient use are in Class IIa unless they are:

- intended specifically to control, diagnose, monitor or correct a defect of the heart or of the central circulatory system through direct contact with these parts of the body, in which case they are in Class III,
- reusable surgical instruments, in which case they are in Class I,
- intended specifically for use in direct contact with the central nervous system, in which case they are in Class III,
- intended to supply energy in the form of ionising radiation in which case they are in Class IIb,
- intended to have a biological effect or to be wholly or mainly absorbed in which case they are in Class IIb,
- intended to administer medicines by means of a delivery system, if this is done in a manner that is potentially hazardous taking account of the mode of application, in which case they are in Class IIb.]

2.3. Rule 7

All surgically invasive devices intended for short-term use are in Class IIa unless they are intended:

- [^{F1}either specifically to control, diagnose, monitor or correct a defect of the heart or of the central circulatory system through direct contact with these parts of the body, in which case they are in Class III,]
- or specifically for use in direct contact with the central nervous system, in which case they are in Class III,
- or to supply energy in the form of ionizing radiation in which case they are in Class IIb,
- or to have a biological effect or to be wholly or mainly absorbed in which case they are in Class III,
- or to undergo chemical change in the body, except if the devices are placed in the teeth, or to administer medicines, in which case they are in Class IIb.

2.4. Rule 8

All implantable devices and long-term surgically invasive devices are in Class IIb unless they are intended:

- to be placed in the teeth, in which case they are in Class IIa,
- to be used in direct contact with the heart, the central circulatory system or the central nervous system, in which case they are in Class III,
- to have a biological effect or to be wholly or mainly absorbed, in which case they are in Class III,

- or to undergo chemical change in the body, except if the devices are placed in the teeth, or to administer medicines, in which case they are in Class III.

3. Additional rules applicable to active devices

3.1. Rule 9

All active therapeutic devices intended to administer or exchange energy are in Class IIa unless their characteristics are such that they may administer or exchange energy to or from the human body in a potentially hazardous way, taking account of the nature, the density and site of application of the energy, in which case they are in Class IIb.

All active devices intended to control or monitor the performance of active therapeutic devices in Class IIb, or intended directly to influence the performance of such devices are in Class IIb.

3.2. Rule 10

Active devices intended for diagnosis are in Class IIa:

- if they are intended to supply energy which will be absorbed by the human body, except for devices used to illuminate the patient's body, in the visible spectrum,
- if they are intended to image *in vivo* distribution of radiopharmaceuticals,
- if they are intended to allow direct diagnosis or monitoring of vital physiological processes, unless they are specifically intended for monitoring of vital physiological parameters, where the nature of variations is such that it could result in immediate danger to the patient, for instance variations in cardiac performance, respiration, activity of CNS in which case they are in Class IIb.

Active devices intended to emit ionizing radiation and intended for diagnostic and therapeutic interventional radiology including devices which control or monitor such devices, or which directly influence their performance, are in Class IIb.

Rule 11

All active devices intended to administer and/or remove medicines, body liquids or other substances to or from the body are in Class IIa, unless this is done in a manner:

- that is potentially hazardous, taking account of the nature of the substances involved, of the part of the body concerned and of the mode of application in which case they are in Class IIb.

3.3. Rule 12

All other active devices are in Class I.

4. Special Rules

4.1. Rule 13

All devices incorporating, as an integral part, a substance which, if used separately, can be considered to be a medicinal product, as defined in Article 1 of Directive [F12001/83/EC], and which is liable to act on the human body with action ancillary to that of the devices, are in Class III.

[F1All devices incorporating, as an integral part, a human blood derivative are in Class III.]

4.2. Rule 14

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All devices used for contraception or the prevention of the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases are in Class IIb, unless they are implantable or long term invasive devices, in which case they are in Class III.

4.3. Rule 15

All devices intended specifically to be used for disinfecting, cleaning, rinsing or, when appropriate, hydrating contact lenses are in Class IIb.

All devices intended specifically to be used for disinfecting medical devices are in Class IIa. [^{F2}Unless they are specifically to be used for disinfecting invasive devices in which case they are in Class IIb.]

Textual Amendments

F2 Inserted by Directive 2007/47/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 September 2007 amending Council Directive 90/385/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to active implantable medical devices, Council Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices and Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market (Text with EEA relevance).

This rule does not apply to products that are intended to clean medical devices other than contact lenses by means of physical action.

4.4. Rule 16

[^{F1}Devices] specifically intended for recording of X-ray diagnostic images are in Class IIa.

4.5. Rule 17

All devices manufactured utilizing animal tissues or derivatives rendered non-viable are Class III except where such devices are intended to come into contact with intact skin only.

5. Rule 18

By derogation from other rules, blood bags are in Class IIb.