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# **Magnetic Resonance (MR) Receive-only Coil – Performance Criteria for Safety and Performance Based Pathway**

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## **Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff**

**Document issued on December 11, 2020.**

**The draft of this document was issued on December 9, 2019.**

For questions about this document, contact Division of Radiological Health at 301-796-6641.



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Devices and Radiological Health**

# Preface

## Public Comment

You may submit electronic comments and suggestions at any time for Agency consideration to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, (HFA-305), Rockville, MD 20852. Identify all comments with the docket number FDA-2019-D-1650. Comments may not be acted upon by the Agency until the document is next revised or updated.

## Additional Copies

Additional copies are available from the Internet. You may also send an email request to [CDRH-Guidance@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CDRH-Guidance@fda.hhs.gov) to receive a copy of the guidance. Please include the document number 19011 and complete title of the guidance in the request.

# Magnetic Resonance (MR) Receive-only Coil – Performance Criteria for Safety and Performance Based Pathway

## Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

*This guidance represents the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff or Office responsible for this guidance as listed on the title page.*

### I. Introduction

This guidance provides performance criteria for magnetic resonance (MR) receive-only coils in support of the [Safety and Performance Based Pathway](#).<sup>1</sup> Under this framework, submitters (you) planning to submit a 510(k) using the Safety and Performance Based Pathway for MR receive-only coils will have the option to use the performance criteria proposed in this guidance to support substantial equivalence, rather than a direct comparison of the performance of the subject device to that of a predicate device.

For the current edition of the FDA-recognized consensus standard(s) referenced in this document, see the [FDA Recognized Consensus Standards Database](#).<sup>2</sup> For more information regarding use of consensus standards in regulatory submissions, please refer to the FDA guidance titled [Appropriate Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards in Premarket Submissions for Medical Devices](#).<sup>3</sup>

FDA's guidance documents, including this guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/safety-and-performance-based-pathway>

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfStandards/search.cfm>

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/appropriate-use-voluntary-consensus-standards-premarket-submissions-medical-devices>

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cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidance means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

## **II. Scope/Device Description**

The MR receive-only coils that are the subject of this guidance are intended to produce images of human anatomy for general diagnostic use by trained clinicians. These MR receive-only coils are Class II and are regulated under 21 CFR 892.1000 Magnetic resonance diagnostic device, with the product code MOS (Coil, Magnetic Resonance, Specialty).

### **Intended Use/Indications for Use:**

The MR receive-only coils that fall within the scope of this guidance document are intended for hydrogen/proton imaging. These devices are intended to have no patient contact or intended only for limited contact with intact skin (i.e., no endocavity coils). MR coils intended for specific clinical indications (for example, disease identification or rule-out, diagnosis or prognosis with respect to disease staging or severity, and prevention or reduction in morbidity and/or mortality associated with particular diseases) or intended for new imaging agent uses are outside the scope of this guidance document.

### **Device Design Characteristics:**

The MR coils that fall within the scope of this guidance document are designed to be air-cooled (i.e., no water-cooled or cryogen-cooled electronics). In addition, only receive-only radiofrequency (RF) coils are within the scope of this guidance.

General guidance that is beyond the scope of this safety and performance guidance document regarding submission of a 510(k) for MR coils (i.e., labeling), can be found in FDA's guidance [Submission of Premarket Notifications for Magnetic Resonance Diagnostic Devices](#).<sup>4</sup>

FDA may determine, on a case-by-case basis, that additional data are necessary to evaluate whether the device is appropriate for the Safety and Performance Based Pathway. In situations where you determine that additional testing outside of those identified in this guidance are necessary to determine whether the device is appropriate for the Safety and Performance Based Pathway, we encourage you to submit a Pre-Submission<sup>5</sup> to engage in discussion with FDA prior to submission of the 510(k).

## **III. Testing Performance Criteria**

If your device is appropriate for submission through the Safety and Performance Based Pathway, and you choose to use that option, you do not need to provide direct comparison testing against a legally marketed predicate device to demonstrate substantially equivalent performance characteristics. To ensure that the performance criteria outlined in this guidance remain

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<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/submission-premarket-notifications-magnetic-resonance-diagnostic-devices>

<sup>5</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/requests-feedback-and-meetings-medical-device-submissions-q-submission-program>

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contemporary and take into account relevant data from recent clearances, FDA recommends that you provide a results summary for all tests evaluated in addition to the other submission information (e.g., Declaration of Conformity (DoC)) identified for each test or evaluation below. Unless otherwise identified in the submission information sections below, test information such as results summary, test protocols (including MR system information), or complete test reports should be submitted as part of the 510(k) as described in FDA's guidance [Safety and Performance Based Pathway](#).<sup>6</sup> For additional information regarding the submission of non-clinical bench testing information, please see FDA's guidance [Recommended Content and Format of Non-Clinical Bench Performance Testing Information in Premarket Submissions](#).<sup>7</sup>

1. **Test name:** Image Signal to Noise (SNR)

**Methodology:** Conformance to one of the following FDA recognized consensus standards (as applicable):

- IEC 62464-1 *Magnetic resonance equipment for medical imaging - Part 1: Determination of essential image quality parameters*
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) MS 1 *Determination of Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) in Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Imaging*
- NEMA MS 6 *Determination of Signal-to-Noise Ratio and Image Uniformity for Single-Channel, Non-Volume Coils in Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)*
- NEMA MS 9 *Characterization of Phased Array Coils for Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Images (MRI)*

**Performance Criteria:** >130 (for 1.5T coils), >215 (for 3T coils) (using the lowest SNR measure over all imaging coils, planes, and anatomical regions)

**Performance Criteria Source:** Criteria are based on aggregated data submitted to FDA in 510(k) submissions for MR coils previously found to be substantially equivalent.

**Submission Information:** Results summary and Declaration of Conformity (DoC)

2. **Test name:** Image Uniformity

**Methodology:** Conformance to one of the following FDA recognized consensus standards (as applicable):

- IEC 62464-1 *Magnetic resonance equipment for medical imaging - Part 1: Determination of essential image quality parameters*
- NEMA MS 3 *Determination of Image Uniformity in Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Images*
- NEMA MS 6 *Determination of Signal-to-Noise Ratio and Image Uniformity for Single-Channel, Non-Volume Coils in Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)*
- NEMA MS 9 *Characterization of Phased Array Coils for Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Images (MRI)*

**Performance Criteria:** Worst-case non-uniformity < 50% (e.g., without any optional software correction algorithms applied)

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<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/safety-and-performance-based-pathway>

<sup>7</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/recommended-content-and-format-non-clinical-bench-performance-testing-information-premarket>

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**Performance Criteria Source:** Criteria are based on aggregated data submitted to FDA in 510(k) submissions for MR coils previously found to be substantially equivalent.

**Additional Considerations:** The gray-scale uniformity map methods described in NEMA MS 3 section 2.3.3 Gray-Scale Uniformity Map, NEMA MS 6 section 2.6 Primary Measurement Procedure for Image Uniformity, NEMA MS 9 (which refer to the previously mentioned sections of NEMA MS 3 and NEMA MS 6), and Alternative method “grey-scale map” in section A.2.2 in IEC 62464-1 (Edition 2.0 2018-12) are excluded because these methods do not provide results that lend to simple objective assessment and performance criteria.

**Submission Information:** Results summary and DoC

**3. Test name:** Surface heating

**Methodology:** Conformance to the following FDA recognized consensus standard:

- NEMA XS 14 *Characterization of Radiofrequency (RF) Coil Heating in Magnetic Resonance Imaging Systems*

**Performance Criteria:** Temperature criteria as defined by ANSI/AAMI ES 60601-1: <41°C for both normal use and single fault (coil not plugged in) condition.

**Performance Criteria Source:** FDA currently recognized version of ANSI/AAMI ES60601-1 (2012) *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*, Section 11.1.2 Temperature of Applied Parts

**Submission Information:** Results summary and DoC

**4. Test name:** Acquired Image Quality

**Methodology:** Sample clinical images from all target anatomical locations reviewed to determine images produced by the device are of sufficient quality for diagnostic use.

**Performance Criteria:** Statement from a US Board Certified or international equivalent qualified physician (e.g., radiologist, radiation oncologist) that images are of diagnostic quality and sample clinical images to support the ability of your coil to generate diagnostic quality images.

**Performance Criteria Source:** FDA guidance document [Submission of Premarket Notifications for Magnetic Resonance Diagnostic Devices](#)<sup>8</sup>

**Additional Considerations:** Due to the subjective nature of this assessment, you should provide a small, representative subset of clinical images. Additionally, the review of these sample clinical images will serve as an indirect assessment of the interoperability of the coil with an MR system.

**Submission Information:** Statement from US Board Certified or international equivalent qualified physician (e.g., radiologist, radiation oncologist) including a description of the sequences and anatomical regions reviewed by the radiologist and small, representative subset of clinical images including description of the target anatomical site, scan parameters employed, and the total imaging time for each image.

**5. Test name:** Decoupling circuit

**Methodology:** Inspection of circuit diagrams

**Performance Criteria:** Presence of decoupling mechanisms

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<sup>8</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/submission-premarket-notifications-magnetic-resonance-diagnostic-devices>

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**Performance Criteria Source:** FDA guidance document [Submission of Premarket Notifications for Magnetic Resonance Diagnostic Devices](#)

**Submission Information:** Circuit diagrams and description of decoupling mechanism

6. **Test name:** EMC – Immunity, electrostatic discharge  
**Methodology:** FDA currently recognized version of IEC 60601-1-2 *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance – Collateral Standard: Electromagnetic disturbances – Requirements and tests*  
**Performance Criteria:** pass at ±8 kV contact, ±2 kV, ±4 kV, ±8 kV, ±15 kV air  
**Performance Criteria Source:** Current version of FDA recognized consensus standard IEC 61000-4-2: *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-2: Testing and measurement techniques*  
**Additional Considerations:** Due to options within the standard, DoC should identify options chosen  
**Submission Information:** Results summary and DoC
  
7. **Test name:** General electrical/mechanical safety  
**Methodology:** Current version of FDA consensus standards AAMI/ANSI ES60601-1 *Medical electrical equipment - Part 1: General Requirements for Basic Safety and Essential Performance* and IEC 60601-2-33 *Medical electrical equipment - Part 2-33: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of magnetic resonance equipment for medical diagnosis*  
**Performance Criteria:** Demonstration that the device performs safely and as anticipated in its intended use environment  
**Performance Criteria Source:** FDA currently recognized version of AAMI/ANSI ES60601-1: *Medical electrical equipment - Part 1: General Requirements for Basic Safety and Essential Performance* and IEC 60601-2-33: *Medical electrical equipment - Part 2-33: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of magnetic resonance equipment for medical diagnosis*  
**Additional Considerations:** Due to options within the standard, DoC should identify options chosen. Coils with detachable parts should be considered in the context of patient setup (e.g., split-top design coils) for electrical/mechanical safety.  
**Submission Information:** Results summary and DoC

### **Biocompatibility Evaluation:**

To identify the biocompatibility endpoints to include as part of your biocompatibility evaluation you should use Attachment A of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health's (CDRH) guidance [Use of International Standard ISO 10993-1, Biological evaluation of medical devices – Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process](#),<sup>9</sup> referred to in the rest of this document as the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance for brevity. FDA considers the devices covered by this guidance to be categorized as Surface Devices with intact skin and contact duration of ≤ 24 hours, and you should assess the endpoints below per Attachment A of the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance.

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<sup>9</sup> Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/use-international-standard-iso-10993-1-biological-evaluation-medical-devices-part-1-evaluation-and>

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- Cytotoxicity
- Sensitization
- Irritation or Intracutaneous Reactivity

**Rationale in Lieu of Testing:** If the subject device is manufactured from the identical raw materials using identical manufacturing processes as a predicate device with the same type and duration of tissue contact, and any changes in geometry are not expected to impact the biological response, this is typically sufficient to establish substantially equivalent biocompatibility, if documentation such as that outlined in Attachment F of the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance is also provided.

**Testing:** If you determined that testing is needed to address some or all of the identified biocompatibility endpoints, FDA recommends that complete test reports be provided for all tests performed unless a declaration of conformity without supplemental information can be appropriately provided, per Attachment E of the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance. Any test-specific positive, negative, and/or reagent controls should perform as expected, and protocol deviations should be thoroughly described and justified; however, note that certain protocol deviations may invalidate comparison to the performance criteria listed below and require submission of a Traditional, Special, or Abbreviated 510(k).

8. **Test name:** Biocompatibility endpoints (identified from CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance)  
**Methodology:** FDA currently-recognized versions of biocompatibility consensus standards  
**Performance Criteria:** All direct or indirect tissue contacting components of the device and device-specific instruments should be determined to have an acceptable biological response.  
**Performance Criteria Source:** The CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance  
**Additional Considerations:** For any biocompatibility test samples with an adverse biological response, the biocompatibility evaluation should explain why the level of toxicity seen is acceptable. Some comparison testing against a legally marketed predicate may be necessary (and is considered acceptable under the Safety and Performance Based Pathway) to support such a rationale as explained in the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance. For standard biocompatibility test methods that include comparison device control samples, the legally marketed comparison device control samples should perform as expected, as specified above for the subject device samples.  
**Submission Information:** Refer to CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance