

Pressure regulators for use with medical gases —

Part 4: Low-pressure regulators intended for incorporation into medical equipment

The European Standard EN 738-4:1998, with the incorporation of amendment A1:2002, has the status of a British Standard

ICS 11.040.10; 23.060.40

National foreword

This British Standard is the English language version of EN 738-4:1998, including amendment A1:2002.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags **A1** **A1**. Tags indicating changes to CEN text carry the number of the CEN amendment. For example, text altered by CEN amendment A1 is indicated by **A1** **A1**.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CH/44, Anaesthetic machines, breathing attachments, medical gas pipeline systems and hose assemblies, to Subcommittee CH/44/2, Medical gas supply systems, which has the responsibility to:

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- present to the responsible European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
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(includes amendment A1:2002)

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médicaux —
Partie 4: Détendeurs basse pression conçus
pour le matériel médical
(inclut l'amendement A1:2002)

Druckminderer zur Verwendung mit
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Teil 4: Niederdruckminderer zum Einsetzen in
medizinische Geräte
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Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 215, Respiratory and anaesthetic equipment, the Secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by April 1999, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by April 1999.

This European Standard has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

For relationship with EU Directive(s), see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this standard.

EN 738 consists of the following parts under the general title, *Pressure regulators for use with medical gases*:

Part 1: *Pressure regulators and pressure regulators with flow-metering devices.*

Part 2: *Manifold and line pressure regulators.*

Part 3: *Pressure regulators integrated with cylinder valves.*

Part 4: *Low-pressure regulators intended for incorporation into medical equipment.*

For special national conditions see Annex A.

Annex A forms a normative part of this European Standard. Annex B, Annex C, Annex D and Annex ZA are given for information only.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Foreword to amendment A1

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	2
Introduction	3
1 Scope	3
2 Normative references	3
3 Definitions	4
4 Symbols and terminology	5
5 General requirements	5
6 Test methods	8
7 Marking and packaging	16
8 Information to be supplied by the manufacturer	16
Annex A (normative) Special national conditions	17
Annex B (informative) Example of pressure regulators	18
Annex C (informative) Bibliography	18
Annex D (informative) Rationale	19
Annex ZA (informative) Clauses of this European Standard addressing essential requirements or other provisions of EU Directives	20

Introduction

Pressure regulators are fitted within medical equipment to maintain a constant outlet pressure irrespective of variation of inlet pressure or flow.

To enable correct application of these devices it is important that the operating characteristics are specified and tested in a defined manner.

As pressure regulators of this type are often derived from products designed for industrial applications, this European Standard pays particular attention to:

- suitability of materials;
- safety (mechanical strength and resistance to ignition);
- cleanliness;
- testing;
- identification;
- information supplied.

It is also essential that regular inspection and maintenance procedures are recommended.

Clauses and subclauses marked with **R** after their numbers have corresponding rationales contained in Annex D.

1 Scope

1.1 This European Standard applies to low-pressure regulators suitable for inlet pressures between 280 kPa and 600 kPa, supplied and packaged as for use in medical equipment intended for the administration of medical gases in the treatment, management, diagnostic evaluation and care of patients for use with the following medical gases:

- oxygen;
- nitrous oxide;
- air for breathing;
- helium;
- carbon dioxide;
- xenon;
- NO/N_2 mixtures ($\text{NO} \leq 1\,000\ \mu\text{l/l}$);
- specified mixtures of the gases listed above.

1.2 This European Standard does not apply to pressure regulators supplied as spare parts for a specific application.

1.3 This European Standard does not apply to pressure regulators for use with suction services (see EN ISO 10079-3).

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revision of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

EN 737-1, *Medical gas pipeline systems — Part 1: Terminal units for compressed medical gases and vacuum.*

prEN 737-6, *Medical gas pipeline systems — Part 6: Dimensions of probes for terminal units for compressed medical gases and vacuum.*

EN 739, *Low-pressure hose assemblies for use with medical gases.*

EN 1441, *Medical devices — Risk analysis.*

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this European Standard, the following definitions apply.

3.1

adjustable pressure regulator

regulator which has been provided with a means of operator adjustment of the delivery pressure under normal use

3.2

bleed flow

intended small flow of gas to the atmosphere for the purpose of the correct operation of the regulator

3.3

closure pressure, P_4

stabilized outlet pressure, one minute after cessation of the flow, from a regulator where the flow has been set to standard discharge

3.4

flow characteristic

variation of the outlet pressure in relation to the rate of flow from zero to maximum capacity flow of the regulator with the inlet pressure remaining constant

3.5

hysteresis

lagging of the outlet pressure (effect) when the flow (cause) is varied so that at a constant inlet pressure the values of outlet pressure measured with increasing flow do not coincide with the values of outlet pressure measured with decreasing flow

3.6

low pressure

pressure of 1 400 kPa or less

3.7

maximum closure pressure, $P_{4 \max}$

stabilized outlet pressure, one minute after cessation of the flow, from a regulator where the flow has been set to maximum discharge

3.8

maximum discharge, $Q_{\max}$

maximum flow which is delivered by the regulator at the rated outlet pressure, P_2 at test inlet pressure, P_3

3.9

preset pressure regulator

regulator which has not been provided with a means of operator adjustment of the delivery pressure under normal use

3.10

pressure characteristic

variation of the outlet pressure with inlet pressure under constant flow conditions

3.11

pressure regulator

device for regulation of a generally variable inlet pressure to as constant as possible an outlet pressure

3.12

rated inlet pressure, P_1

rated maximum upstream pressure for which the pressure regulator is designed

3.13

rated outlet pressure, P_2

rated downstream pressure for the standard discharge Q_1 specified in the instructions for use

3.14**single fault condition**

condition in which a single means for protection against a safety hazard in equipment is defective or a single external abnormal condition is present

3.15**single stage pressure regulator**

regulator that reduces the inlet pressure in a single stage to the required pressure

3.16**standard discharge, Q_1**

flow, specified in the instructions for use for which the regulator is designed to maintain a rated outlet pressure, P_2 at test inlet pressure P_3

3.17**test inlet pressure, P_3**

minimum inlet pressure at which the standard discharge of the regulator Q_1 is measured and which is equivalent to twice the rated outlet pressure P_2 plus 100 kPa, i.e. $P_3 = (2 P_2 + 100)$ kPa

3.18**two stage pressure regulator**

regulator that reduces the pressure in two stages to the required pressure

4 Symbols and terminology

The symbols used for the physical characteristics are given in Table 1.

A diagram of typical pressure regulators with examples of terminology is given in Figure B.1.

Table 1 — Notations, symbols and designations

P_1	rated inlet pressure
P_2	rated outlet pressure
P_3	test inlet pressure $(2 P_2 + 100)$ kPa
P_4	closure pressure
$P_{4 \max}$	maximum closure pressure
Q_1	standard discharge
$Q_{\max}$	maximum discharge

5 General requirements**5.1 Safety**

Pressure regulators shall, when stored, installed, operated in normal use and maintained according to the recommendations of the manufacturer, cause no safety hazard which could be foreseen using risk analysis procedures in accordance with EN 1441 and which is connected with their intended applications, in normal condition and in single fault condition.

5.2 R Alternative construction

Pressure regulators and components or parts thereof, using materials or having forms of construction different from those detailed in clause 5 of this European Standard shall be accepted if it can be demonstrated that an equivalent degree of safety is obtained.

Such evidence shall be provided by the manufacturer.

See Annex A for special national conditions.

5.3 Materials

5.3.1 The materials in contact with the gas shall be compatible with oxygen, the other medical gases and their mixtures in the temperature range specified in **5.3.2**.

NOTE 1 Corrosion resistance includes resistance against moisture and surrounding materials.

NOTE 2 Compatibility with oxygen involves both combustibility and ease of ignition. Materials which burn in air will burn violently in pure oxygen. Many materials which do not burn in air will do so in pure oxygen, particularly under pressure. Similarly, materials which can be ignited in air require lower ignition energies for ignition in oxygen. Many such materials can be ignited by friction at a valve seat.

NOTE 3 A standard prEN 13159, *Compatibility of medical equipment with oxygen*, is in preparation by CEN/TC 215/WG3.

A1 NOTE 4 Guidance for the selection of metallic and non-metallic materials for use with NO/N₂ mixtures (NO ≤ 1 000 µl/l) is given in CEN Report CR 13903. **A1**

5.3.2 The materials shall permit the pressure regulator and its components to meet the requirements of **5.4** in the temperature range of 0 °C to +40 °C.

If the pressure regulator is suitable for use outside this temperature range, the range shall be specified by the manufacturer.

5.3.3 Pressure regulators shall be capable, while packed for transport and storage, of being exposed to environmental conditions as stated by the manufacturer.

5.3.4 Springs, highly strained components and parts liable to wear which come in contact with the medical gas shall not be plated.

NOTE Plating could come off.

5.3.5 R Evidence of conformity with the requirements of **5.3.1**, **5.3.2**, **5.3.3** and **5.3.4** shall be provided by the manufacturer.

5.4 Design requirements

5.4.1 Inlet pressure

5.4.1.1 R Pressure regulators shall operate and meet the requirements of this European Standard when supplied with an inlet pressure ranging from 280 kPa to 600 kPa.

5.4.1.2 R Pressure regulators shall meet the requirements of **5.4.1.1** following exposure to an inlet pressure of 1 000 kPa for 10 min.

5.4.2 Inlet connection

See Annex A for special national conditions.

If the inlet connection of the pressure regulator is intended to be used as the inlet connection to the equipment, it shall be either a probe complying with prEN 737-6 or a NIST body complying with EN 739. Cylinder valve connections shall not be used.

A1 NOTE An example of inlet connector suitable for use with NO/N₂ mixtures (NO ≤ 1 000 µl/l) is the stem of the quick-connector "Swagelock – QC4 DESO – Stainless steel 316".¹⁾ **A1**

5.4.3 Outlet connection

See Annex A for special national conditions.

If a gas-specific outlet connection of the pressure regulator is intended to be used as the outlet connection of the equipment, it shall be either a socket complying with EN 737-1 or a NIST body complying with EN 739.

In this case it shall not be possible for the operator to set the outlet pressure below 280 kPa.

A1 NOTE An example of outlet connector suitable for use with NO/N₂ mixtures (NO ≤ 1 000 µl/l) is the body of the quick-connector "Swagelock – QC4 DESO – Stainless steel 316".¹⁾ **A1**

¹⁾ **A1** This information is given for the convenience of users of this standard and does not constitute an endorsement by CEN of the product named. **A1**