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Plastics — Simple heat release test using a conical radiant heater and a thermopile detector

Plastiques — Essai simple pour la détermination du débit calorifique au moyen d'un radiateur conique et d'une sonde à thermopile

Reference number
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Burning behaviour,* in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 249, *Plastics,* in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 13927:2015), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— the normative references have been updated to the latest editions (see Clause 2);

— use of mass flow rate of methane gas corresponding to the net heat of combustion for calibration of the thermopile has been added in Clause 9;

— a new Annex D giving an example of thermopile calibration has been added and subsequent annex has been renamed as Annex E.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

Fire is a complex phenomenon; its behaviour and effects depend upon a number of interrelated factors. The behaviour of materials and products depends upon the characteristics of the fire, the method of use of the materials, and the environment in which they are exposed (see also ISO 13943).

A test, such as the one specified in this document, deals only with a simple representation of a particular aspect of the potential fire situation, typified by a radiant heat source, and it cannot alone provide any direct guidance on the behaviour or safety in fire (see ISO/TS 3814). A test of this type can, however, be used for comparative purposes or to ensure the existence of a certain quality of performance (in this case, heat release from a composite material or an assembly) considered to have a bearing on fire performance generally. It would be wrong to attach any other meaning to performance in this test. The attention of all users of this test is drawn to the warning that immediately precedes Clause 10.

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Plastics — Simple heat release test using a conical radiant heater and a thermopile detector

1 Scope

This document specifies a method suitable for the production control or product development purposes for assessing the heat release rate of essentially flat products exposed in the horizontal orientation to controlled levels of radiant heating with an external igniter. The heat release rate is determined by the use of a thermopile instead of the more accurate oxygen consumption techniques. The time to ignition and sustained flaming are also measured in this test. The mass loss of the test specimen can also be measured optionally.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

ISO 291, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 5660-1, *Reaction-to-fire tests — Heat release, smoke production and mass loss rate — Part 1: Heat release rate (cone calorimeter method) and smoke production rate (dynamic measurement)*

ISO 13943, *Fire safety — Vocabulary*

ISO 14697, *Reaction-to-fire tests — Guidance on the choice of substrates for building and transport products*

ISO 14934-3, *Fire tests — Calibration and use of heat flux meters — Part 3: Secondary calibration method*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 13943 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
flat surface
surface whose irregularity from a plane does not exceed ±1 mm

3.2
ignition
onset of *sustained flaming* (3.7)

3.3
material
single substance or uniformly dispersed mixture, for example, metal, stone, timber, concrete, mineral fibre or polymer

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