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Fire safety — Vocabulary

Sécurité au feu — Vocabulaire

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 92, *Fire safety*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 127, *Fire safety in buildings,* in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 13943:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— a total of 86 terms have been added or have had their definitions revised.

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

0.1 General

Over the last two decades, there has been a significant growth in the field of fire safety. There has been a considerable development of fire safety engineering design, especially as it relates to construction projects, as well as the development of concepts related to performance-based design. With this continuing evolution, there is an increasing need for agreement on a common language in the broad and expanding area of fire safety, beyond what has traditionally been limited to the field of fire testing.

The first edition of this document, ISO 13943:2000, contained definitions of about 180 terms. However, the areas of technology that are related to fire safety have continued to evolve rapidly and this edition contains many new terms and their definitions, as well as revised definitions of some of the terms that were in earlier editions.

This document defines general terms in order to establish a vocabulary applicable to fire safety, including fire safety in buildings and civil engineering works and other elements within the built environment. It will be updated as terms and definitions for further concepts in the field of fire safety are agreed upon and developed.

It is important to note that some fire safety terms can have a somewhat different interpretation than the one used in this document when used for regulations. In that case, the definition given in this document may not apply.

The terms in this document concern:

— fundamental concepts;

— more specific concepts, such as those used specifically in fire testing or in fire safety engineering and potentially in ISO or IEC International Standards relating to fire; and

— related concepts, such as terms used in building and civil engineering.

The layout is designed according to ISO 10241-1:2011. The terms are presented in English alphabetical order and preferred terms are written in **bold type** with admitted and deprecated terms listed below in normal type.

0.2 Use of the term “item”

For the purposes of this document, the term “item” (in French “*objet*”) is used to represent any single object or assembly of objects. It may cover, for example, material, product, assembly, structure or building, as required in the context of any individual definition.

If the “item” under consideration is a test specimen, then the term “test specimen” is used.

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Fire safety — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document defines terminology relating to fire safety as used in ISO and IEC International Standards.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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
abnormal heat
<electrotechnical> heat that is additional to that resulting from use under normal conditions, up to and including that which causes a *fire* (3.138)

3.2
absorptivity
ratio of the absorbed *radiant heat flux* (3.358) to the incident *radiative heat flux* (3.361)

Note 1 to entry: The absorptivity is dimensionless.

3.3
acceptance criteria
criteria that form the basis for assessing the acceptability of the safety of a design of a *built environment* (3.36)

Note 1 to entry: The criteria can be qualitative, quantitative or a combination of both.

3.4
accuracy
closeness of the agreement between the result of a measurement and the true value of the *measurand* (3.298)

[SOURCE: ASTM E176:2021]

3.5
activation time
time interval from response by a sensing device until the *suppression system* (3.418), *smoke* (3.389) control system, alarm system or other fire safety system is fully operational

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