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Fire resistance tests - Part 1: General requirements

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Anforderungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 4 November 2019.

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Contents		Page
European foreword.....		6
Introduction		7
1	Scope	8
2	Normative references	8
3	Terms, definitions, symbols and designations	8
3.1	Terms and definitions	8
3.2	Symbols and designations.....	11
4	Test equipment.....	11
4.1	General.....	11
4.2	Furnace	12
4.3	Loading equipment.....	12
4.4	Test frames	12
4.5	Instrumentation	13
4.5.1	Temperature.....	13
4.5.2	Pressure.....	14
4.5.3	Load.....	14
4.5.4	Deflection	14
4.5.5	Integrity	14
4.6	Precision of measuring equipment.....	15
5	Test conditions.....	15
5.1	Furnace temperature.....	15
5.1.1	Heating curve.....	15
5.1.2	Tolerances	15
5.2	Furnace pressure	16
5.2.1	General.....	16
5.2.2	Establishing the neutral pressure plane.....	17
5.3	Furnace atmosphere	17
5.4	Loading.....	17
5.5	Restraint/boundary conditions.....	17
5.6	Ambient temperature conditions.....	18
5.7	Deviation from required test conditions.....	18
6	Test specimen(s)	18
6.1	Size.....	18
6.2	Number	18
6.2.1	Separating elements.....	18
6.2.2	Non-separating elements	18
6.3	Design	18
6.4	Construction.....	19
6.5	Verification.....	19
7	Installation of test specimen	19
7.1	General.....	19
7.2	Supporting constructions.....	19
7.2.1	General.....	19
7.2.2	Standard supporting constructions.....	19

7.2.3	Non-standard supporting constructions.....	22
8	Conditioning.....	22
8.1	Test specimen.....	22
8.2	Supporting constructions.....	22
9	Application of instrumentation.....	23
9.1	Thermocouples.....	23
9.1.1	Furnace thermocouples (plate thermometers).....	23
9.1.2	Unexposed surface thermocouples.....	23
9.1.3	Internal thermocouples.....	24
9.2	Pressure.....	24
9.2.1	General.....	24
9.2.2	Furnaces for vertical elements.....	24
9.2.3	Furnaces for horizontal elements.....	24
9.3	Deflection.....	25
10	Test procedure.....	25
10.1	Restraint application.....	25
10.2	Load application.....	25
10.3	Commencement of test.....	25
10.4	Measurements and observations.....	25
10.4.1	General.....	25
10.4.2	Temperatures.....	26
10.4.3	Furnace pressure.....	26
10.4.4	Deflection.....	26
10.4.5	Integrity.....	26
10.4.6	Load and restraints.....	27
10.4.7	General behaviour.....	27
10.5	Termination of test.....	28
11	Performance criteria.....	28
11.1	Loadbearing capacity.....	28
11.2	Integrity.....	29
11.3	Insulation.....	29
11.4	Consequential effects of failing certain performance criteria.....	29
11.4.1	Insulation and integrity versus loadbearing capacity.....	29
11.4.2	Insulation versus integrity.....	29
12	Test report.....	30
12.1	Test report.....	30
12.2	Expression of test results in the test report.....	32
Annex A (informative) Field of application of test results.....		41
A.1	General.....	41
A.2	Field of direct application.....	41
A.3	Extended application.....	41
Annex B (informative) The role of supporting constructions.....		42
B.1	General.....	42
B.2	Standard supporting constructions.....	42
B.3	Non-standard supporting constructions.....	42
Annex C (informative) General information on thermocouples.....		44

C.1	Furnace thermocouples (plate thermometers)	44
C.1.1	Maintenance	44
C.1.2	Positioning	44
C.2	Internal thermocouples	44
C.2.1	General	44
C.2.2	Specification	44
C.2.3	Fixing methods and positioning	44
C.3	Unexposed face thermocouples	45
C.3.1	General	45
C.3.2	Positioning	45
C.3.2.1	Flat surfaces	45
C.3.2.2	Irregular surfaces	45
C.3.2.3	Small features	46
C.3.3	Fixing to specific materials	46
C.3.3.1	General	46
C.3.3.2	Steel	46
C.3.3.3	Mineral wool	46
C.3.3.4	Mineral fibre spray	46
C.3.3.5	Vermiculite/cement type spray	46
C.3.3.6	Boards of fibrous or mineral aggregate composition	46
C.3.3.7	Timber	46
C.3.3.8	Surfaces with applied finishes	47
	Annex D (informative) Guidance on the basis for selection of the test load	48
D.1	General	48
D.2	Options for selecting the test load	48
	Annex E (informative) Boundary and support conditions	49
	Annex F (informative) Guidance on conditioning	50
F.1	General	50
F.2	Guidance on procedures for conditioning	50
F.3	Guidance on measurement techniques	51
F.3.1	Direct reading moisture meter	51
F.3.2	Oven drying techniques	51
	Annex G (informative) Guidance on deflection measurements of vertical separating elements using a fixed datum	52
G.1	General	52
G.2	Apparatus	52
G.3	Procedure	52

G.4 Reporting	53
Bibliography	54

EN 1363-1:2020 (E)

European foreword

This document (EN 1363-1:2020) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 127 “Fire safety in buildings”, 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 August 2020, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2020.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 1363-1:2012.

The main change compared to EN 1363-1:2012 is:

- a) a redefinition for the load bearing capacity criterion.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

This European standard is technically related to ISO 834-1 prepared by ISO/TC92/SC2 “Fire resistance tests”.

EN 1363, *Fire resistance tests*, consists of the following parts:

- *Part 1: General requirements* (this European standard);
- *Part 2: Alternative and additional procedures*;
- *Part 3: Verification of furnace performance* (published as an ENV).

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

The objective of determining fire resistance is to assess the behaviour of a specimen of an element of building construction when subjected to defined heating and pressure conditions. The method provides a means of quantifying the ability of an element to withstand exposure to high temperatures. It does so by setting criteria against which the loadbearing capacity, the fire containment (integrity) and the thermal transmittance (insulation) functions amongst other characteristics can be evaluated.

A representative sample of the element is exposed to a specified regime of heating and the performance of the test specimen is monitored on the basis of criteria described in the standard. Fire resistance of the test element is expressed as the time for which the appropriate criteria have been satisfied. The times so obtained are a measure of the adequacy of the construction in a fire; but they have no direct relationship with the duration time of a real fire.

Caution

The attention of all persons concerned with managing and carrying out fire resistance testing is drawn to the fact that fire testing might be hazardous and that there is a possibility that toxic and/or harmful smoke and gases will be emitted during the test. Mechanical and operational hazards might also arise during the construction of the test elements or structures, their testing and disposal of test residues.

An assessment of all potential hazards and risks to health needs to be made and safety precautions need to be identified and provided. Written safety instructions will be issued. Appropriate training will be given to relevant personnel. Laboratory personnel will ensure that they follow written safety instructions at all times.

Uncertainty of measurement of fire resistance

There are many factors which can affect the result of a fire resistance test. Those concerned with the variability of the specimen including its materials, manufacture and installation are not related to the uncertainty of measurement. Of the remainder, some, such as the different thermal dose provided by different furnaces, are much more significant than others such as the accuracy of calibration of the data logging system.

Because of the very labour intensive nature of the test, many of the factors that have a bearing on the result are operator-dependent. The training, experience and attitude of the operator is thus crucial to eliminate such variables which can significantly affect the degree of uncertainty of measurement. Unfortunately, it is not possible to numerically quantify these factors and therefore any attempt to determine uncertainty of measurement that does not take into account operator-dependent variables is of limited value.

1 Scope

This document establishes the general principles for determining the fire resistance of various elements of construction when subjected to standard fire exposure conditions. Alternative and additional procedures to meet special requirements are given in EN 1363-2.

The principle that has been embodied within all European standards relating to fire resistance testing is that where aspects and procedures of testing are common to all specific test methods e.g. the temperature/time curve, then they are specified in this test method. Where a general principle is common to many specific test methods but the details vary according to the element being tested (e.g. the measurement of unexposed face temperature), then the principle is given in this document, but the details are given in the specific test method. Where certain aspects of testing are unique to a particular specific test method (e.g. the air leakage test for fire dampers), then no details are included in this document.

The test results obtained might be directly applicable to other similar elements, or variations of the element tested. The extent to which this application is permitted depends upon the field of direct application of the test result. This is restricted by the provision of rules which limit the variation from the tested specimen without further evaluation. The rules for determining the permitted variations are given in each specific test method.

Variations outside those permitted by direct application are covered under extended application of test results. This results from an in-depth review of the design and performance of a particular product in test(s) by a recognized authority. Further consideration on direct and extended application is given in Annex A.

The duration for which the tested element, as modified by its direct or extended field of application, satisfies specific criteria will permit subsequent classification.

All values given in this document are nominal unless otherwise specified.

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.

EN 520, *Gypsum plasterboards — Definitions, requirements and test methods*

EN 1363-2, *Fire resistance tests — Part 2: Alternative and additional procedures*

EN 13501-1, *Fire classification of construction products and building elements — Part 1: Classification using data from reaction to fire tests*

EN ISO 13943:2017, *Fire safety — Vocabulary (ISO 13943:2017)*

EN 60584-1, *Thermocouples — Part 1: EMF specifications and tolerances (IEC 60584-1)*

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and designations

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of document, the terms and definitions given in EN ISO 13943:2017 and the following apply.