



BSI Standards Publication

Fire resistance tests

Part 1: General requirements

National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2020, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2020.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.