

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

PUBLICATION FONDAMENTALE DE SÉCURITÉ

Fire hazard testing –

**Part 1-20: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products –
Ignitability – General guidance**

Essais relatifs aux risques du feu –

**Partie 1-20: Lignes directrices pour l'évaluation des risques du feu des produits
électrotechniques – Allumabilité – Lignes directrices générales**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

FIRE HAZARD TESTING –**Part 1-20: Guidance for assessing the
fire hazard of electrotechnical products –
Ignitability – General guidance**

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparatory work. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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International Standard IEC 60695-1-20 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 89: Fire hazard testing.

This first edition of IEC 60695-1-20 cancels and replaces the first edition of IEC TS 60695-1-20 published in 2008. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) ISO 5660-1 has been added to the normative references;
- b) definitions of "pyrolysis" and "short-circuit" have been added to Clause 3;
- c) some text from the introduction has been moved to Clause 5 and is now part of the normative text;

d) Clause 5 now contains several mandatory statements.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
89/1296/FDIS	89/1302/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

In this standard, the terms defined in Clause 3 are printed in bold type.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60695 series, published under the general title *Fire hazard testing*, can be found on the IEC website.

The IEC 60695-1 series, under the general title *Fire hazard testing*, consists of the following parts:

- Part 1-10: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – General guidelines
- Part 1-11: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire hazard assessment
- Part 1-12: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire safety engineering
- Part 1-20: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Ignitability – General guidance
- Part 1-21: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Ignitability – Summary and relevance of test methods
- Part 1-30: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Preselection testing procedures – General guidelines
- Part 1-40: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Insulating liquids

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

INTRODUCTION

Fires are responsible for creating hazards to life and property as a result of the generation of heat (thermal hazard), and also as a result of the production of toxic effluent, corrosive effluent and smoke (non-thermal hazard). Fires start with ignition and then can grow, leading in some cases to flash-over and a fully developed fire. Ignition resistance is therefore one of the most important parameters of a material to be considered in the assessment of fire hazard. If there is no ignition, there is no fire.

For most materials (other than metals and some other elements), ignition occurs in the gas phase. Ignition occurs when combustible vapour, mixed with air, reaches a high enough temperature for exothermic oxidation reactions to rapidly propagate. The ease of ignition is a function of the chemical nature of the vapour, the fuel/air ratio and the temperature.

In the case of liquids, the combustible vapour is produced by vaporization of the liquid, and the vaporization process is dependent on the temperature and chemical composition of the liquid.

In the case of solids, the combustible vapour is produced by pyrolysis when the temperature of the solid is sufficiently high. The vaporization process is dependent on the temperature and chemical composition of the solid, and also on the thickness, density, specific heat, and thermal conductivity of the solid.

The ease of ignition of a test specimen depends on many variables. Factors to be considered for the assessment of ignitability are:

- a) the geometry of the test specimen, including thickness and the presence of edges, corners or joints;
- b) the surface orientation;
- c) the rate and direction of air flow;
- d) the nature and position of the ignition source;
- e) the magnitude and position of any external heat flux; and
- f) whether the combustible material is a solid or a liquid.

The primary aims are to prevent ignition caused by an electrically energized component part, and in the event of ignition to confine any resulting fire within the bounds of the enclosure of the electrotechnical product.

Secondary aims include the minimization of any flame spread beyond the product's enclosure and the minimization of harmful effects of fire effluents including heat, smoke, and toxic or corrosive combustion products.

Fires involving electrotechnical products can also be initiated from external non-electrical sources. Considerations of this nature are dealt with in an overall fire hazard assessment.

This international standard gives an overview of ignitability and its relevance to the fire hazard of electrotechnical products.

FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

Part 1-20: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Ignitability – General guidance

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60695 provides guidance on the ignitability of electrotechnical products and the materials from which they are formed. It gives guidance on:

- a) the principles of ignitability;
- b) the selection of appropriate test methods, and
- c) the use and interpretation of results.

This part of IEC 60695 is intended for use by technical committees in preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, where applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. The requirements, test methods or test conditions of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant publications.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60695-1-10, *Fire hazard testing – Part 1-10: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – General guidelines*

IEC 60695-1-11, *Fire hazard testing – Part 1-11: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire hazard assessment*

IEC 60695-1-12, *Fire hazard testing – Part 1-12: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire safety engineering*

IEC TR 60695-1-21, *Fire hazard testing – Part 1-21: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Ignitability – Summary and relevance of test methods*

IEC 60695-2-11, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-11: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability test method for end-products (GWEPT)*

IEC 60695-2-12, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-12: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability index (GWFI) test method for materials*

IEC 60695-2-13, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-13: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire ignition temperature (GWIT) test method for materials*