
Flares for combustion of biogas

Torchères pour les installations de biogaz



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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 documents 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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 255, *Biogas*.

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.

Introduction

Flares for combustion of biogas are amongst others applied at industrial plants like food and beverage industries, waste water treatment plants, waste plants, landfill sites, small scale plants next to agricultural companies and small-scale household systems.

Biogas is normally a by-product produced by amongst others wastewater treatment plants, food & beverage plants, waste plants, landfill sites, small scale plants next to agricultural companies and small-scale household systems. The main ingredients are approximately 50 ~ 65 volume % of methane and approximately 30 ~ 50 volume % of carbon dioxide and also contains many other ingredients, such as water vapor, hydrogen sulphide, ammonia, nitrogen, oxygen, siloxanes, and hydrocarbons. Methane is one of the main initiators of the greenhouse effect. Biogas will not only pollute the environment, but also causes serious potential safety hazards. Therefore, centralized processing of anaerobic methane is needed. In case the biogas output cannot be used to generate energy or upgraded to biomethane, because of economic reasons or in case the energy production installation does not work properly, the biogas or biomethane is collected and combusted in a flare. The methane percentage of biogas or biomethane to be combusted in a biogas flare can vary from 5 volume % to (almost) 100 volume %. Biogas flares have the function of improving workplace safety, increasing the social identification, reducing the odour pollution and reducing the greenhouse effect.

This document about flares for biogas plants is applicable for combustion of biogas as defined in ISO 20675. The main purposes of this document are to ensure safe flares, to prevent health hazards because of dangerous gases and explosive atmospheres and to reduce the emission of the strong greenhouse gas methane.

The availability of a standard for biogas flares is necessary in order to:

- ensure that flares are built, operated and maintained safely;
- facilitate development of regional and national regulations and incentive programs to regulate methane emissions;
- moderate communication between the different biogas parties through meaningful discussions;
- contribute to reinforcement of biogas flares' safety and business competitiveness with recognized terms and definitions that clarify actors' expectations related to procurement;
- contracts and services as well as reporting on biogas related action plans, road maps, etc.;
- contribute to the use of standards by facilitating their development and furthering users' understanding and application of standards.

Flares for combustion of biogas

1 Scope

This document applies to the design, manufacture, installation and operation of flares for the combustion of biogas. Test methods and performance requirements are also included.

Biogas systems are amongst others applied at industrial plants like food and beverage industries, waste water treatment plants, waste plants, landfill sites, small scale plants next to agricultural companies and small-scale household systems.

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 13577-2:2014, *Industrial furnaces and associated processing equipment — Safety — Part 2: Combustion and fuel handling systems*

ISO 13577-4, *Industrial furnace and associated processing equipment — Safety — Part 4: Protective systems*

ISO 16852, *Flame arresters — Performance requirements, test methods and limits for use*

ISO 20675, *Biogas — Biogas production, conditioning, upgrading and utilization — Terms, definitions and classification scheme*

ISO 23551-1, *Safety and control devices for gas burners and gas-burning appliances — Particular requirements*

IEC 60730-2-5, *Automatic electrical controls— Part 2-5: Particular requirements for automatic electrical burner control systems*

IEC 60730-2-6, *Automatic electrical controls— Part 2-6: Particular requirements for automatic electrical pressure sensing controls including mechanical requirements*

IEC 62305-2, *Protection against lightning — Part 2: Risk management*

IEC 60079-10-1, *Explosive atmospheres — Part 10-1: Classification of areas — Explosive gas atmospheres*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 20675 and the following apply.

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

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

open flare

biogas flare from which the burning flame is visible from outside

Note 1 to entry: This is also called external combustion flame burner.

Note 2 to entry: The flame burner combustion is not optimal, the combustion temperature is relatively low.