

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

---

**Fire hazard testing –  
Part 5-2: Corrosion damage effects of fire effluent – Summary and relevance of  
test methods**



**THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED**  
**Copyright © 2021 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland**

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

IEC Central Office  
3, rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

**About the IEC**

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

**About IEC publications**

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

**IEC publications search - [webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform](http://webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform)**

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee, ...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

**IEC Just Published - [webstore.iec.ch/justpublished](http://webstore.iec.ch/justpublished)**

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

**IEC Customer Service Centre - [webstore.iec.ch/csc](http://webstore.iec.ch/csc)**

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: [sales@iec.ch](mailto:sales@iec.ch).

**IEC online collection - [oc.iec.ch](http://oc.iec.ch)**

Discover our powerful search engine and read freely all the publications previews. With a subscription you will always have access to up to date content tailored to your needs.

**Electropedia - [www.electropedia.org](http://www.electropedia.org)**

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 000 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 18 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

Preview generated by EVS



# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

---

**Fire hazard testing –  
Part 5-2: Corrosion damage effects of fire effluent – Summary and relevance of  
test methods**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

---

ICS 13.220.99; 19.020; 29.020

ISBN 978-2-8322-9842-8

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.**

## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| FOREWORD.....   | 4  |
| INTRODUCTION.....   | 6  |
| 1 Scope.....  | 7  |
| 2 Normative references .....  | 7  |
| 3 Terms and definitions .....   | 7  |
| 4 Classification of test methods .....  | 9  |
| 4.1 General.....  | 9  |
| 4.2 Test specimen .....   | 9  |
| 4.2.1 Product testing .....   | 9  |
| 4.2.2 Material or composite sample testing.....   | 9  |
| 4.3 The physical fire model.....  | 9  |
| 4.4 The nature of the corrosivity measurement .....   | 9  |
| 4.4.1 Product as target.....  | 9  |
| 4.4.2 Simulated product as target.....  | 9  |
| 4.4.3 Indirect assessment.....  | 11 |
| 5 Published test methods .....  | 11 |
| 5.1 General.....  | 11 |
| 5.2 Tests for the determination of halogen acid in combustion gases .....   | 11 |
| 5.2.1 Standards.....  | 11 |
| 5.2.2 Purpose and principle .....   | 11 |
| 5.2.3 Test specimen .....   | 11 |
| 5.2.4 Test method .....   | 11 |
| 5.2.5 Repeatability and reproducibility .....   | 11 |
| 5.2.6 Relevance of test data to corrosion hazard assessment.....  | 12 |
| 5.3 Tests for the determination of the acidity and conductivity of combustion gases dissolved in an aqueous solution .....        | 12 |
| 5.3.1 Standards.....  | 12 |
| 5.3.2 Purpose and principle .....   | 12 |
| 5.3.3 Test specimen .....   | 12 |
| 5.3.4 Test method .....   | 12 |
| 5.3.5 Repeatability and reproducibility .....   | 12 |
| 5.3.6 Relevance of test data to corrosion hazard assessment.....  | 13 |
| 5.4 Tests for the determination of corrosive gases by evaluation of copper corrosion in ASTM D 2671 – Sections 89 to 95 [9] ..... | 13 |
| 5.4.1 Purpose and principle .....   | 13 |
| 5.4.2 Test specimen .....   | 13 |
| 5.4.3 Test methods.....   | 13 |
| 5.4.4 Special observations .....  | 13 |
| 5.4.5 Repeatability and reproducibility .....   | 13 |
| 5.4.6 Relevance of test data to corrosion hazard assessment.....  | 13 |
| 5.5 Cone corrosimeter method.....   | 14 |
| 5.5.1 Standards.....  | 14 |
| 5.5.2 Purpose and principle .....   | 14 |
| 5.5.3 Test specimen .....   | 14 |
| 5.5.4 Corrosion target.....   | 14 |
| 5.5.5 Test method .....   | 14 |

|                       |  |    |
|-----------------------|--|----|
| 5.5.6                 | Special observation .....  | 15 |
| 5.5.7                 | Repeatability and reproducibility .....  | 15 |
| 5.5.8                 | Relevance of test data to corrosion hazard assessment.....   | 15 |
| 6                     | Overview of methods and relevance of data .....  | 15 |
| Annex A (informative) | Acidity and conductivity of aqueous solutions – Test methods .....   | 18 |
| Annex B (informative) | Determination of repeatability and reproducibility –<br>Comparative tests of solutions of combustion gases .....   | 19 |
|                       | Bibliography.....  | 23 |
|                       | Figure 1 – Schematic drawing of a typical corrosion target of defined metal thickness .....  | 15 |
|                       | Table 1 – Characteristics of fire stages (from Table 1 in ISO 19706:2011) .....  | 10 |
|                       | Table 2 – Overview of corrosivity test methods .....   | 17 |
|                       | Table A.1 – Test methods for the measurement of acidity and conductivity of aqueous<br>solutions obtained after bubbling combustion effluent through water ..... | 18 |
|                       | Table B.1 – Determination of repeatability and reproducibility – Comparative pH tests<br>on solutions of combustion gases .....                                  | 20 |
|                       | Table B.2 – Determination of repeatability and reproducibility – Comparative resistivity<br>tests on solutions of combustion gases .....                         | 21 |
|                       | Table B.3 – Results obtained on brominated polycarbonate .....   | 22 |

Preview generated by EVS

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

### Part 5-2: Corrosion damage effects of fire effluent – Summary and relevance of test methods

#### 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 preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

IEC 60695-5-2, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 89: Fire hazard testing.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2002.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- References to IEC TS 60695-5-3 (withdrawn in 2014) have been removed.
- ISO/TR 9122-1 has been revised by ISO 19706.
- References to ISO 11907-2 and ISO 11907-3 have been removed.
- Terms and definitions have been updated.
- Text in 5.4 has been updated.
- Text in 5.5.8 (5.7.8 in Ed. 2) has been updated.
- Text in Clause 6 (7 in Ed. 2) has been updated.

– Bibliographic references have been updated.

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

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

| Draft       | Report on voting |
|-------------|------------------|
| 89/1473/DTS | 89/1506/RVDTS    |

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

The language used for the development of this Technical Specification is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications](http://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications).

In this technical specification, the following print types are used:

**Arial bold: terms referred to in Clause 3**

This technical specification is to be read in conjunction with IEC 60695-5-1.

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 committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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

## INTRODUCTION

In the design of an electrotechnical product the risk of fire and the potential hazards associated with fire need to be considered. In this respect the objective of component, circuit and equipment design, as well as the choice of materials, is to reduce the risk of fire to a tolerable level even in the event of reasonably foreseeable (mis)use, malfunction or failure. IEC 60695-1-10 [1]<sup>1</sup>, IEC 60695-1-11 [2], and IEC 60695-1-12 [3] provide guidance on how this is to be accomplished.

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.

The aim of the IEC 60695 series is to save lives and property by reducing the number of fires or reducing the consequences of the fire. This can be accomplished by:

- trying to prevent ignition caused by an electrically energised component part and, in the event of ignition, to confine any resulting fire within the bounds of the enclosure of the electrotechnical product.
- trying to minimise flame spread beyond the product's enclosure and to minimise the harmful effects of **fire effluents** including heat, **smoke**, and toxic or corrosive combustion products.

All **fire effluent** is corrosive to some degree and the level of potential to corrode depends on the nature of the fire, the combination of combustible materials involved in the fire, the nature of the substrate under attack, and the temperature and relative humidity of the environment in which the corrosion is taking place. There is no evidence that **fire effluent** from electrotechnical products offers greater risk of **corrosion damage** than the **fire effluent** from other products such as furnishings, building materials, etc.

The performance of electrical and electronic components can be adversely affected by **corrosion damage** when subjected to **fire effluent**. A wide variety of combinations of small quantities of effluent gases, **smoke** particles, moisture and temperature may provide conditions for electrical component or system failures from breakage, overheating or shorting.

Evaluation of potential **corrosion damage** is particularly important for high value and safety-related electrotechnical products and installations.

Technical committees responsible for the products will choose the test(s) and specify the level of severity.

The study of **corrosion damage** requires an interdisciplinary approach involving chemistry, electricity, physics, mechanical engineering, metallurgy and electrochemistry. In the preparation of this part of IEC 60695, all of the above have been considered.

IEC 60695-5-1 defines the scope of the guidance and indicates the field of application.

IEC 60695-5-2 provides a summary of test methods including relevance and usefulness.

---

<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.



## FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

### Part 5-2: Corrosion damage effects of fire effluent – Summary and relevance of test methods

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60695, which is a technical specification, gives a summary of the test methods that are used in the assessment of the corrosivity of **fire effluent**. It presents a brief summary of test methods in common use, either as international standards or national or industry standards. It includes special observations on their relevance, for electrotechnical products and their materials, to real **fire scenarios** and gives recommendations on their use.

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

#### 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.

IEC 60695-4:2012, *Fire hazard testing – Part 4: Terminology concerning fire tests for electrotechnical products*

IEC 60695-5-1, *Fire hazard testing – Part 5-1: Corrosion damage effects of fire effluent - General guidance*

IEC GUIDE 104, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

ISO Guide 51, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*

ISO 13943:2017, *Fire safety – Vocabulary*

ISO 19706:2011, *Guidelines for assessing the fire threat to people*

#### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60695-4:2012 and ISO 13943:2017 (some of which are reproduced below), apply.

##### 3.1

##### **corrosion damage**

physical and/or chemical damage or impaired function caused by chemical action

[SOURCE: ISO 13943:2017, 3.69]