

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

PUBLICATION FONDAMENTALE DE SÉCURITÉ

**Fire hazard testing –**

**Part 2-12: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability index (GWFI) test method for materials**

**Essais relatifs aux risques du feu –**

**Partie 2-12: Essais au fil incandescent/chauffant – Méthode d'essai d'indice d'inflammabilité au fil incandescent (GWFI) pour matériaux**



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IEC 60695-2-12

Edition 2.0 2010-10

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INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION  
ELECTROTECHNIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE  
CODE PRIX

M

ICS 13.220.40; 29.020

ISBN 978-2-88912-215-8

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

**Part 2-12: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods –  
Glow-wire flammability index (GWFI) test method for materials**

## 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.
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International Standard IEC 60695-2-12 has been prepared by technical committee 89: Fire hazard testing.

This second edition of IEC 60695-2-12 cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2000. It also constitutes a technical revision.

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

This standard is to be used in conjunction with IEC 60695-2-10 and IEC 60695-2-13.

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

- modified title;
- addition of an Introduction;
- clarification of Scope;

- expansion of Clause 2: Normative references;
- definitions added to Clause 3;
- revision of Clause 4 to alignment with the IEC 60695-11 series to introduce guidance on test programs for material variations;
- clarification of Clause 8: Conditioning (now Clause 7);
- deletion of Clause 9 “Initial measurements”;
- expansion of Clause 10: Test procedures (now Clause 8);
- expansion of Clause 11: Observation and measurement (now Clause 9);
- clarification of Clause 12: Evaluation of test results (now Clause 10);
- expansion of Clause 13: Test report (now Clause 11).

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

FDIS	Report on voting
89/1017/FDIS	89/1034/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.

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

Part 2 consists of the following parts:

- Part 2-10: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire apparatus and common test procedure
- Part 2-11: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability test method for end-products
- Part 2-12: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability index (GWFI) test method for materials
- Part 2-13: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire ignition temperature (GWIT) test method for materials

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site 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

In the design of any 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 product design, as well as the choice of materials, is to reduce to acceptable levels the potential risks of fire during normal operating conditions, reasonable foreseeable abnormal use, malfunction and/or failure. IEC/TC 89 has developed IEC 60695-1-10, together with its companion, IEC 60695-1-11, to provide guidance on how this is to be accomplished.

The primary aims of IEC 60695-1-10 and IEC 60695-1-11 are to provide guidance on how:

- a) to prevent ignition caused by an electrically energized component part, and
- b) to confine any resulting fire within the bounds of the enclosure of the electrotechnical product in the event of ignition.

Secondary aims of IEC 60695-1-10 and IEC 60695-1-11 include the minimization of any flame spread beyond the product's enclosure and the minimization of the harmful effects of fire effluents such as heat, smoke, toxicity and/or corrosivity.

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

In electrotechnical equipment, overheated metal parts can act as ignition sources. In glow-wire tests a red-hot glowing wire is used to simulate such an ignition source.

IEC 60695-2-10 describes a glow-wire test apparatus and common test procedure, IEC 60695-2-11 describes a glow-wire flammability test for end products, and IEC 60695-2-13 describes a glow-wire ignition temperature test method for materials.

This part of IEC 60695 describes a glow-wire flammability index test for materials. It should be used to measure, describe, and rank the properties of materials in response to heat caused by contact with an electrically heated wire under controlled laboratory conditions. This may be useful for the evaluation of materials for use in products that may be exposed to excess thermal stress such as a fault current flowing through a wire, overloading of components, and/or bad connections. It should not be used to solely describe or appraise the fire hazard or fire risk of materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions. However, results of this test may be used as elements of a fire risk assessment which takes into account all of the factors pertinent to a fire hazard assessment of a particular end use.

This International Standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. It does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

## FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

### Part 2-12: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability index (GWFI) test method for materials

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60695 specifies the details of the glow-wire test to be applied to test specimens of solid electrical insulating materials or other solid materials for flammability testing to determine the glow-wire flammability index (GWFI).

GWFI is the highest temperature, determined during this standardized procedure, at which the tested material

- a) does not ignite or, if it does, extinguishes within 30 s after removal of the glow-wire and is not totally consumed,  
and
- b) molten drips, if they occur, do not ignite the wrapping tissue.

This test method is a materials test carried out on a series of standard test specimens. The data obtained, along with data from the glow-wire ignition temperature (GWIT) test method for materials, IEC 60695-2-13, can then be used in a preselection process in accordance with IEC 60695-1-30 to judge the ability of materials to meet the requirements of IEC 60695-2-11.

NOTE As an outcome of conducting a fire hazard assessment, an appropriate series of preselection flammability and ignition tests may allow a reduction of end product testing.

This basic safety publication is intended for use by technical committees in the 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, wherever 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 referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 60695-1-30:2008, *Fire hazard testing – Part 1-30: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Preselection testing process – General guidelines*

IEC 60695-2-10:2000, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-10: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire apparatus and common test procedure*

IEC 60695-2-11:2000, *Fire hazard testing – Part 2-11: Glowing/hot-wire based test methods – Glow-wire flammability test method for end-products*

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*



IEC Guide 104:1997, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for inclusion in standards*

ISO/IEC 13943:2008, *Fire safety – Vocabulary*

ISO 291:2008, *Plastics – Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 293:2004, *Plastics – Compression moulding of test specimens of thermoplastic materials*

ISO 294 (all parts), *Plastics – Injection moulding of test specimens of thermoplastic materials*

ISO 295:2004, *Plastics – Compression moulding of test specimens of thermosetting materials*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 13943, some of which are reproduced below for the user's convenience, as well as the following apply.

#### 3.1

##### **combustion**

exothermic reaction of a substance with an oxidizing agent

NOTE Combustion generally emits fire effluent accompanied by flames and/or glowing.

[ISO/IEC 13943:2008, definition 4.46]

#### 3.2

##### **flame**, noun

rapid, self-sustaining, sub-sonic propagation of combustion in a gaseous medium, usually with emission of light

[ISO/IEC 13943:2008, definition 4.133]

#### 3.3

##### **flammability**

ability of a material or product to burn with a flame under specific conditions

[ISO/IEC 13943:2008, definition 4.151]

#### 3.4

##### **glowing**, noun

luminosity caused by heat

[ISO/IEC 13943:2008, definition 4.168]

#### 3.5

##### **glowing combustion**

combustion of a material in the solid phase without flame but with emission of light from the combustion zone

[ISO/IEC 13943:2008, definition 4.169]

#### 3.6

##### **ignition**

sustained ignition (deprecated)

<general> initiation of combustion