

TULEOHTLIKE GAASIDE JA AURUDE
PLAHVATUSPIIRIDE NING HAPNIKU
PIIRKONTSENTRATSIOONI (LOC)
KINDLAKSMÄÄRAMINE

Determination of the explosion limits and the limiting oxygen concentration (LOC) for flammable gases and vapours

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

See Eesti standard EVS-EN 1839:2017 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN 1839:2017 ingliskeelset teksti.	This Estonian standard EVS-EN 1839:2017 consists of the English text of the European standard EN 1839:2017.
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English Version

**Determination of the explosion limits and the limiting
oxygen concentration(LOC) for flammable gases and
vapours**

Détermination des limites d'explosivité des gaz et
vapeurs et détermination de la concentration limite en
oxygène (CLO) des gaz et des vapeurs inflammables

Bestimmung der Explosionsgrenzen und der
Sauerstoffgrenzkonzentration (SGK) für brennbare
Gase und Dämpfen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 7 November 2016.

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Contents

Page

European foreword.....	5
Introduction	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references.....	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Test methods	9
4.1 General.....	9
4.2 Method T ("tube" method).....	10
4.2.1 Detailed method.....	10
4.2.2 Reagents and materials.....	10
4.2.3 Apparatus.....	11
Table 1 — Maximum permissible uncertainty of measurement for the amount of test substance in the test mixture.....	12
Figure 1 — Scheme of the 'tube' apparatus for determining the explosion limits resp. Limiting oxygen concentration	12
4.2.4 Preparation of the test mixture	13
4.2.5 Procedure.....	13
4.3 Method B ("bomb" method).....	14
4.3.1 Principle	14
4.3.2 Reagents and materials.....	14
4.3.3 Apparatus.....	14
4.3.4 Preparation of the test mixture	16
4.3.5 Procedure.....	17
4.3.6 Determination of explosion limits.....	17
4.3.7 Determination of the limiting oxygen concentration	18
4.4 Determination of the limiting oxygen concentration	18
4.4.1 Metering devices and additional equipment	18
4.4.2 Procedure.....	19
Figure 2 — Short procedure scheme for the determination of the LAC	20
Figure 3 — Extended procedure scheme for the determination of the LAC.....	21
4.5 Recording of results	22
4.5.1 General.....	22
4.5.2 Determination of explosion limits.....	22
4.5.3 Determination of the limiting oxygen concentration	23
5 Verification.....	23
6 Test report.....	23
Annex A (normative) Method for determination of the explosion limits and limiting oxygen concentration of substances that are difficult to ignite	25
A.1 Background	25
A.2 Explanation	25
A.2.1 Explosion criterion — flame detachment.....	25

A.2.2	Degree of halogenation.....	25
A.3	Apparatus	25
A.3.1	Test vessel	25
A.3.2	Reagents and materials	26
A.3.3	Ignition source.....	26
A.3.4	Equipment for preparing the test mixture	26
A.4	Safety equipment.....	26
A.5	Preparation of the test mixture.....	26
A.6	Procedure	27
A.6.1	Determination of LEL and UEL.....	27
A.6.2	Determination of LOC.....	27
Annex B (informative)	Conversion of the values for the explosion limits	28
B.1	Abbreviations and symbols.....	28
B.2	Substance characteristics of air.....	28
B.3	Definitions.....	29
B.4	Mixture preparation	29
B.5	Conversion	30
Table B.1	Formulas for the conversion.....	31
Annex C (informative)	Examples to describe flame detachment	32
Annex D (informative)	Example of recommended evaporator equipment.....	33
Figure D.1	Evaporator equipment for producing test mixtures from liquid flammable substances	33
Annex E (normative)	Safety measures	35
E.1	General	35
E.2	General safety measures	35
E.3	Additional safety measures concerning the tube method	35
Annex F (informative)	Examples of the determination of the LOC	36
F.1	Example 1: determination of the <i>LOC</i> – short procedure	36
Figure F.1	Determination of the <i>LAC</i> of a ternary system of n-hexane, air and nitrogen at 100 °C and ambient pressure	36
F.2	Example 2: determination of the <i>LOC</i> – extended procedure	36
Figure F.2	Determination of the <i>LAC</i> of a ternary system of hydrogen, air and nitrogen at 20 °C and ambient pressure.....	37
Annex G (normative)	Verification.....	38
Table G.1	Data for verification of the apparatus with respect to the lower explosion limit	38
Table G.2	Data for verification of the apparatus with respect to the upper explosion limit.....	38
Annex H (informative)	Example of a form expressing the results	40

**Annex I (informative) Significant Changes between this European Standard and
EN 1839:2012 and EN 14756:2006..... 42**

Table I.1 — The significant changes with respect to EN 1839:2012 and EN 14756:2006..... 42

**Annex ZA (informative) Relationship between this European Standard and the essential
requirements of Directive 2014/34/EU aimed to be covered..... 43**

**Table ZA.1 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Annex II of Directive
2014/34/EU 43**

Bibliography..... 44

European foreword

This document (EN 1839:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 305 “Potentially explosive atmospheres - Explosion prevention and protection”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This document supersedes EN 14756:2006, and EN 1839:2012.

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 July 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2018.

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 has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

For relationship with EU Directives, see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

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, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

The hazard of an explosion can be avoided by preventing the formation of explosive mixtures of gases and/or vapours with air. To do so, the explosion limits (also known as “flammability limits”) or the limiting oxygen concentration of the flammable substance need to be known. These limits depend mainly on:

- the properties of the flammable substance;
- temperature and pressure;
- size and shape of the test vessel;
- ignition source (type, energy);
- the criterion for self-propagating combustion;
- the inert gas (in case of the limiting oxygen concentration).

To obtain reliable and comparable results it is necessary to standardize the conditions for determining the explosion limits resp. the limiting oxygen concentration (i.e. apparatus and procedure). However, it is not possible to provide one single method that is suitable for all types of substances. For practical reasons, it is preferable to use apparatus that can also be used for the determination of other explosion characteristics. This European Standard, therefore, details two methods, namely, the tube method (method T) and the bomb method (method B). In general, the tube method gives a wider explosion range. Differences in the explosion limits and limiting oxygen concentration determined by the two methods can vary by up to 10 % relative.

For substances which are difficult to ignite, only a modified tube method is suitable. This is described in Annex A.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies two test methods (method T and method B) to determine the explosion limits of gases, vapours and their mixtures, mixed with air or an air / inert gas mixture (volume fraction of the oxygen < 21 %) and the limiting oxygen concentration. This European Standard applies to gases, vapours and their mixtures at atmospheric pressure for temperatures up to 200 °C.

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.

EN 13237:2012, *Potentially explosive atmospheres - Terms and definitions for equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

flammable substance

substance in the form of gas, vapour or mixtures of these, able to undergo an exothermic reaction with air or air / inert gas mixture when ignited

[SOURCE: EN 13237:2012, 3.37, modified]

3.2

explosion range

range of the concentration of a flammable substance or mixture of substances in air, within which an explosion can occur, respectively range of the concentration of a flammable substance or mixture of substances in mixture with air / inert gas, within which an explosion can occur, determined under specified test conditions

[SOURCE: EN 13237:2012, 3.22, modified]

Note 1 to entry: The explosion limits are not part of the explosion range

3.3

lower explosion limit

LEL

lowest concentration of the explosion range

[SOURCE: EN 13237:2012, 3.19.1, modified]

Note 1 to entry: Those concentrations are given at which an explosion just fails during the tests.