

ICS 13.220.20; 13.320

English Version

**Fire detection and fire alarm systems - Part 32: Planning, design,
installation, commissioning, use and maintenance of voice alarm
systems**

Systèmes de détection et d'alarme incendie - Partie 32 :
Planification, conception, installation, mise en service,
utilisation et maintenance des systèmes d'alarme vocale

Brandemeldanlagen - Teil 32: Projektierung, Montage,
Inbetriebnahme, Betrieb und Instandhaltung von
Sprachalarmsystemen

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 14 March 2015 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

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EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 54-32:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 72 "Fire detection and fire alarm systems", the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this Technical Specification: 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, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

Guidelines covering sound systems for use during an emergency are published by different organizations within Europe. The intention of this Technical Specification is to draw together these documents and provide up-to-date guidelines for planning, design, installation, commissioning, use, maintenance and modification of emergency sound systems throughout Europe.

Sound systems for use in emergency, whether automatically triggered, manually triggered, or both, are commonly called voice alarm systems.

It is not intended that this Technical Specification should override existing local, regional or national regulations. It is expected for a considerable (and as yet unspecified) period that these guidelines will coexist with other codes. However, it is hoped that the availability of a common set of guidelines will assist in the harmonization of practice and standards for voice alarm systems throughout Europe.

This document gives recommendations. These recommendations can be made mandatory by being specified within other document(s). For example, an authority having jurisdiction empowered under local, regional or national legislation can require compliance with this document. Equally a contract between a purchaser and a supplier can specify compliance that may then become mandatory under contract law.

The purpose of a voice alarm system is to provide intelligible warning to person(s) within, or in the vicinity of, a building in which an emergency has occurred and to enable such person(s) to take appropriate measures according to an emergency management plan.

Voice alarm systems are often used instead of alarm sounders (see EN 54-3) because the meaning of an alarm signal may not be clear to untrained building occupants and so time may be spent deciding what it means and then further time may be spent deciding what to do.

This document contains specific recommendations for the design, installation, commissioning, use, and maintenance of voice alarm systems and is based on the format used in CEN/TS 54-14.

The main principles on which the guidelines are based are given in the body of this Technical Specification. Detailed recommendations by which these principles may be satisfied are given in annexes.

1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides guidelines for the planning, design, installation, commissioning, use, maintenance and modification of voice alarm systems in and around buildings that broadcast information for the protection of lives in a fire emergency. See EN 54-1:2011, Figure 1, item C and item M.

These guidelines cover voice alarm systems that are triggered automatically by a fire detection and fire alarm system or that are manually triggered, or both.

This Technical Specification does not apply to fire detection and fire alarm systems that only use voice sounders, bells or sounders or a combination of these.

NOTE 1 CEN/TS 54-14 provides guidelines for these systems.

This Technical Specification does not exclude the use of voice alarm systems for emergency purposes other than fire emergency.

NOTE 2 When used for emergencies other than those due to fire, it might be appropriate to modify the guidance in this Technical Specification.

This Technical Specification does not exclude the use of voice alarm systems for non-emergency purposes.

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 54-1:2011, *Fire detection and fire alarm systems - Part 1: Introduction*

3 Terms and definitions, symbols and abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the definitions, symbols and abbreviations given in EN 54-1:2011 and the following apply.

3.1 Terms and definitions

3.1.1

acceptance

decision that the installed system meets the requirements of a previously agreed specification

3.1.2

acoustically different area

ADA

subdivision of a voice alarm zone, which may be an enclosed or otherwise physically defined space, characterized by an individual reverberation time and/or ambient noise level

Note 1 to entry: ADA is also known as an acoustically distinguishable area.

3.1.3

alarm signal

visual, audible or tactile indication of a fire or other emergency

EXAMPLES Fire, bomb alert, industrial accident, civil commotion, terrorist attack.