

**Common test methods for cables under fire conditions -
Heat release and smoke production measurement on
cables during flame spread test - Test apparatus,
procedures, results**

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

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**Common test methods for cables under fire conditions -
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spread test -
Test apparatus, procedures, results**

Méthodes d'essai communes aux câbles
soumis au feu -
Mesure de la chaleur et de la fumée
dégagées par les câbles au cours de
l'essai de propagation de la flamme -
Appareillage d'essai, procédure et
résultats

Allgemeine Prüfverfahren für das
Verhalten von Kabeln und isolierten
Leitungen im Brandfall -
Messung der Wärmefreisetzung und
Raucherzeugung während der Prüfung
der Flammenausbreitung -
Prüfeinrichtung, Prüfverfahren und
Prüfergebnis

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CENELEC

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

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Foreword

This European Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee CENELEC TC 20, Electric cables.

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Introduction

EN 50399 specifies the test apparatus and test procedures for the assessment of the reaction to fire performance of cables to enable classification under the Construction Products Directive [1] to be achieved.

The test method describes an intermediate scale fire test of multiple cables mounted on a vertical cable ladder and is carried out with a specified ignition source to evaluate the burning behaviour of such cables and enable a direct declaration of performance. The test provides data for the early stages of a cable fire from ignition of cables. It addresses the hazard of propagation of flames along the cable, the potential, by the measurement of the heat release rate, for the fire to affect areas adjacent to the compartment of origin, and the hazard, by the measurement of production of light obstructing smoke, of reduced visibility in the room of origin and surrounding enclosures.

The following parameters may be determined under defined conditions during the test:

- a) flame spread;
- b) heat release rate;
- c) total heat release;
- d) smoke production rate;
- e) total smoke production;
- f) fire growth rate index;
- g) occurrence of flaming droplets/particles .

The apparatus is based upon that of EN 60332-3-10 but with additional instrumentation to measure heat release and smoke production during the test. It has been demonstrated [3] that the utilisation of these additional measurement techniques, proven for other standard tests, e.g. for building products, are appropriate for assessing the reaction to fire performance of electric cables. These techniques include heat release and smoke production measurements. Compared with existing test methods described in EN 60332-3-10, they enable a more comprehensive assessment system, which is both more precise and sensitive, and enables a wider range of fire performance levels.

Care should be exercised in relating the parameters measured to different safety levels in actual cable installations as the actual installed configuration of the cables may be a major determinant in the level of flame spread, heat release and smoke production occurring in an actual fire. These parameters depend upon a number of features, such as

- a) the volume of combustible material exposed to the fire and to any flaming or heat which may be produced by the combustion of the cables;
- b) the geometrical configuration of the cables and their relationship to an enclosure;
- c) the temperature at which it is possible to ignite the gases emitted from the cables;
- d) the quantity of combustible gas released from the cables for a given temperature rise;
- e) the volume of air passing through the cable installation;
- f) the construction of the cable, e.g. armoured or unarmoured, multi or single core.

All of the foregoing assumes that the cables are able to be ignited when involved in an external fire.

The conditions of cable mounting, including volume of material exposed and geometrical configuration of the cables on the test ladder, and volume of airflow through the chamber have been chosen to be in accordance with that required by the Commission Decision 2006/751/EC [2]. CENELEC has not been involved in the definition of these parameters. These standardised conditions provide the basis for classification but do not necessarily correspond to conditions found in a particular cable installation.

NOTE Further information on the use of standardised conditions for classification with respect to product end-use application may be found in European Commission Guidance Paper G [4].

EN 50399 gives details of the apparatus to be used in conjunction with the equipment described in EN 60332-3-10 in order to carry out the measurement of heat release and smoke production during the test. Details of the test procedures are also given.

1 Scope

EN 50399 specifies the apparatus and methods of test for the assessment of vertical flame spread, heat release, smoke production and occurrence of flaming droplets/particles of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables, electrical or optical, under defined conditions.

NOTE For the purpose of this standard the term "electric wire or cable" covers all insulated metallic conductor cables used for the conveyance of energy or signals.

EN 50399 details the apparatus and the arrangement and calibration of the instrumentation to be installed in order to measure the heat release and the smoke production during the test. The combustion gases are collected in a hood above the test chamber and conveyed through an exhaust system, which allows the measurement of heat release rate and smoke production. Test procedures to be used for type approval testing for classification of cables in Euroclasses B1_{ca}, B2_{ca}, C_{ca} and D_{ca} are given. Cable installation on the test ladder and the volume of air passing through the chamber are in accordance with the Commission Decision 2006/751/EC [2] which is reflected in the requirements of this standard.

The apparatus described in this standard shall be used in conjunction with that described in EN 60332-3-10.

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.

EN 60332-3-10, *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions – Part 3-10: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Apparatus* (IEC 60332-3-10)

EN 60584-1, *Thermocouples – Part 1: Reference tables* (IEC 60584-1)

EN ISO 13943:2010, *-Fire safety – Vocabulary* (ISO 13943:2008)

ISO 3966, *Measurement of fluid flow in closed conduits – Velocity area method using Pitot static tubes*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN ISO 13943:2010 and the following apply.

3.1

heat release rate

HRR

thermal energy released per unit time by an item during combustion under specified conditions

3.2

total heat release

THR

integrated value of the heat release rate over a defined period

3.3

smoke production rate

SPR

smoke production per unit time