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## Fire safety — Vocabulary

*Sécurité au feu — Vocabulaire*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 92, *Fire safety*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 13943:2008), which has been technically revised.

## Introduction

Over the last two decades, there has been a significant growth in the field of fire safety. There has been a considerable development of fire safety engineering design, especially as it relates to construction projects, as well as the development of concepts related to performance-based design. With this continuing evolution, there is an increasing need for agreement on a common language in the broad and expanding area of fire safety, beyond what traditionally has been limited to the field of fire testing.

The first edition of this vocabulary, ISO 13943:2000, contained definitions of about 180 terms. However, the areas of technology that are related to fire safety have continued to evolve rapidly and this edition contains many new terms and their definitions, as well as revised definitions of some of the terms that were in earlier editions.

This document defines general terms to establish a vocabulary applicable to fire safety, including fire safety in buildings and civil engineering works and other elements within the built environment. It will be updated as terms and definitions for further concepts in the field of fire safety are agreed upon and developed.

It is important to note that, it is possible that, when used for regulation, some fire safety terms may have a somewhat different interpretation than the one used in this document and, in that case, the definition given in this document may not apply.

The terms in this document are

- fundamental concepts,
- more specific concepts, such as those used specifically in fire testing or in fire safety engineering and may be used in ISO or IEC fire standards, and
- related concepts, as exemplified by terms used in building and civil engineering.

Annex A provides an index of deprecated terms.

The layout is designed according to ISO 10241-1, unless otherwise specified. The terms are presented in English alphabetical order and are in **bold type** except for deprecated terms, which are in normal type.

### Use of the term “item”

For the purposes of this document, in the English version, the term “item” (and in French “objet”) is used in a general meaning to represent any single object or assembly of objects, and may cover, for example, material, product, assembly, structure or building, as required in the context of any individual definition.

If the “item” under consideration is a test specimen, then the term “test specimen” is used.

The German version uses terminology such as material, product, kit, assembly and/or building to clarify the meaning of each definition.



# Fire safety — Vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This document defines terminology relating to fire safety as used in ISO and IEC fire standards.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

### 3.1

#### **abnormal heat**

<electrotechnical> heat that is additional to that resulting from use under normal conditions, up to and including that which causes a *fire* (3.114)

### 3.2

#### **absorptivity**

ratio of the absorbed *radiant heat flux* (3.319) to the incident *radiative heat flux* (3.321)

Note 1 to entry: The absorptivity is dimensionless.

### 3.3

#### **acceptance criteria**

criteria that form the basis for assessing the acceptability of the safety of a design of a *built environment* (3.32)

Note 1 to entry: The criteria can be qualitative, quantitative or a combination of both.

### 3.4

#### **accuracy**

closeness of the agreement between the result of a measurement and the true value of the measurand

[SOURCE: ASTM E176:2015]

### 3.5

#### **activation time**

time interval from response by a sensing device until the *suppression system* (3.375), *smoke* (3.347) control system, alarm system or other fire safety system is fully operational

### 3.6

#### **active fire protection**

method(s) used to reduce or prevent the spread and effects of *fire* (3.114), heat or *smoke* (3.347) by virtue of detection and/or suppression of the fire and which require a certain amount of motion and/or response to be activated

EXAMPLE The application of agents (e.g. halon gas or water spray) to the fire or the control of ventilation and/or smoke.