

Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for  
design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of  
objects - Part 1: General requirements

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

## NATIONAL FOREWORD

<p>See Eesti standard EVS-EN 15999-1:2025 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN 15999-1:2025 ingliskeelset teksti.</p> <p>Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas.</p> <p>Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonid on teinud Euroopa standardi rahvuslikele liikmetele kättesaadavaks 25.06.2025.</p> <p>Standard on kättesaadav Eesti Standardimis- ja Akrediteerimiskeskusest.</p>	<p>This Estonian standard EVS-EN 15999-1:2025 consists of the English text of the European standard EN 15999-1:2025.</p> <p>This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.</p> <p>Date of Availability of the European standard is 25.06.2025.</p> <p>The standard is available from the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.</p>
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English Version

## Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects - Part 1: General requirements

Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Lignes directrices pour la conception de vitrines destinées à exposer et préserver des biens culturels culturels - Partie 1 : Exigences générales

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Leitfaden für die Konstruktion von Schauvittrinen zur Ausstellung und Erhaltung von Objekten - Teil 1: Allgemeine Anforderungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 21 April 2025.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
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EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

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## European foreword

This document (EN 15999-1:2025) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 “Conservation of cultural heritage”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2025.

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 supersedes EN 15999-1:2014.

EN 15999-1:2025 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 15999-1:2014:

- added Clause 5: The showcase role in the preventive conservation risk management plan
- added Clause 6: Showcase practical design
- added Clause 7: Project planning

EN 15999 consists of the following parts, under the general title “*Conservation of cultural heritage — Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects*”:

- *Part 1: General requirements*
- *Part 2: Technical aspects.*

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

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

## Introduction

A key objective of a showcase is to display objects of cultural heritage while acceptably reducing their conservation risks. Conservation risks include total loss, physical damage, chemical and biological deterioration (e.g. by accidents, theft, vandalism, natural disasters, humidity, temperature, dust, pollutants, light, pests).

As an important tool for preserving and protecting cultural heritage objects, many complex and interrelated factors can be addressed using showcases. They can support the preventive conservation strategy of a heritage institution. The type of showcase, and its properties, should be selected to address those factors deemed to pose significant risks. A poorly constructed or unsuitable showcase can under some circumstances damage objects.

Because of the complexity of the role of the showcase for preventive conservation but also for the exhibition design, this document is addressed to everyone involved in the process of the procurement, e.g. curators, conservators, scientists, architects, graphic designers, lighting designers, manufacturers and other decision makers.

## 1 Scope

This document specifies general requirements for showcases for safe and secure display of cultural heritage objects complying with the requirements for preventive conservation. This document focuses on so-called passive showcases, those with unpowered climate conditioning systems. The role a showcase plays in preventive conservation is determinable via a site-specific risk assessment of relevant factors, which are mentioned in this document.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 15898:2019, *Conservation of cultural heritage — Main general terms and definitions*

EN 16163, *Conservation of cultural heritage — Guidelines and procedures for choosing appropriate lighting for indoor exhibitions*

EN 15999-2:2025, *Conservation of cultural heritage — Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects — Part 2: Technical aspects*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 15898:2019 and in EN 15999-2:2025 and the following apply.

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

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

### 3.1

#### **active showcase**

*showcase* (3.15) using physical means and processes (e.g. airtightness, sorption) and using electric devices for controlling climate conditions and/or pollution inside of the *showcase* (3.15)

### 3.2

#### **air exchange**

exchange due to an airflow through gaps and openings, or molecular diffusion through permeable materials

### 3.3

#### **air exchange rate**

volume of showcase air exchanged per unit time divided by the total showcase volume

Note 1 to entry: Unit: 1/t 1/day or d<sup>-1</sup> is frequently used for showcases.