



IEC 60332-3-24

Edition 2.0 2018-07  
REDLINE VERSION

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION

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**Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions –  
Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or  
cables – Category C**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

ICS 13.220.40; 29.060.20

ISBN 978-2-8322-5891-0

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**IEC 60332-3-24**  
Edition 2.0 2018-07

**TESTS ON ELECTRIC AND OPTICAL  
FIBRE CABLES UNDER FIRE CONDITIONS –**

**Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted  
bunched wires or cables – Category C**

**INTERPRETATION SHEET 1**

This interpretation sheet has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

The text of this interpretation sheet is based on the following documents:

| DISH         | Report on voting |
|--------------|------------------|
| 20/1853/DISH | 20/1864/RVDISH   |

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- 2) The retest samples shall be of exactly the same construction (same number of cores, same conductor cross section, same design) as of the first test sample (that failed).
- 3) The retest samples should be taken from the same cable length as of the first test sample, but WG18 finds it acceptable that, in case sufficient length is not available anymore, the retest samples are taken from another production length/order (of the same construction).

In case the cable design is changed, it is no longer considered a retest sample, but a different/new test sample.

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### TESTS ON ELECTRIC AND OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES UNDER FIRE CONDITIONS –

#### Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C

#### FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
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- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

**This redline version of the official IEC Standard allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous edition. A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text.**

International Standard IEC 60332-3-24 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 20: Electric cables.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2000 and Amendment 1:2008. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) adjustments have been made to the title, and elsewhere, to emphasise the standard is applicable to optical fibre cables as well as metallic conductor types;
- b) details of the way in which cables are mounted on the ladder have been better defined in order to improve repeatability and reproducibility.

It has the status of a group safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

| FDIS         | Report on voting |
|--------------|------------------|
| 20/1801/FDIS | 20/1818/RVD      |

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60332 series, published under the general title *Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions*, can be found on the IEC website.

Future standards in this series will carry the new general title as cited above. Titles of existing standards in this series will be updated at the time of the next edition.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

The contents of the interpretation sheet 1 of January 2019 have been included in this copy.

**IMPORTANT – The “colour inside” logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this publication using a colour printer.**

## INTRODUCTION

IEC 60332-3-24 is part of a series of publications dealing with tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions.

The IEC 60332-1 and IEC 60332-2 series specify methods of test for flame spread characteristics for a single vertical insulated wire or cable. It cannot be assumed that, because a cable or wire meets the requirements of the IEC 60332-1 and IEC 60332-2 series, a vertical bunch of similar cables or wires will behave in a similar manner. This is because flame spread along a vertical bunch of cables depends on a number of features, such as

- a) the volume of combustible material exposed to the fire and to any flame 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, for example armoured or unarmoured, multi- or single core.

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

The IEC 60332-3 series gives details of a test where a number of cables are bunched together to form various test sample installations. For easier use and differentiation of the various test categories, the parts are designated as follows:

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Part 3-10: | Apparatus      |
| Part 3-21: | Category A F/R |
| Part 3-22: | Category A     |
| Part 3-23: | Category B     |
| Part 3-24: | Category C     |
| Part 3-25: | Category D     |

Parts from 3-21 onwards define the various categories and the relevant procedures. The categories are distinguished by test duration, the volume of non-metallic material of the test sample and the method of mounting the sample for the test. In all categories, cables having at least one conductor of cross-sectional area greater than 35 mm<sup>2</sup> are tested in a spaced configuration, whereas cables of conductor cross-sectional area of 35 mm<sup>2</sup> or smaller and optical fibre cables are tested in a touching configuration.

The categories are not necessarily related to different safety levels in actual cable installations. The actual installed configuration of the cables may be a major determinant in the level of flame spread occurring in an actual fire.

The method of mounting described as category A F/R (Part 3-21) is intended for special cable designs used in particular installations.

Categories A, B, C and D (Part 3-22 to Part 3-25 respectively) are for general use where different non-metallic volumes are applicable.

~~Additional categories, especially to cover the use of small diameter communication cables in closely bunched configurations, will be further considered when more data are available.~~

## TESTS ON ELECTRIC AND OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES UNDER FIRE CONDITIONS –

### Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60332 covers category C for methods of test for the assessment of vertical flame spread of vertically mounted bunched wires or cables, electrical or optical, under defined conditions.

This document relates to cables installed on the test ladder to achieve a nominal total volume of non-metallic material of 1,5 l/m of test sample. The flame application time is 20 min. The method of mounting uses the front of the standard ladder. The category is intended for general use where low volumes of non-metallic material are required to be evaluated.

The test is intended for type approval testing. The requirements for the selection of cables for testing are given in Annex A. The flame spread is measured as the extent of damage of the cable sample. This procedure ~~may~~ can be used to demonstrate the cable's ability to limit flame spread.

A recommended performance requirement is given in Annex B.

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

#### 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.

IEC 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 60695-4: Fire hazard testing – Part 4: Terminology concerning fire tests~~

~~IEC 60811-1-3: Insulating and sheathing materials of electric cables – Common test methods – Part 1: General application – Section 3: Methods for determining the density – Water absorption tests – Shrinkage test~~

IEC 60811-606, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 606: Physical tests – Methods for determining the density*

~~IEC Guide 104: The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications~~

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

GROUP SAFETY PUBLICATION  
PUBLICATION GROUPEE DE SÉCURITÉ

**Tests on electric and optical fibre cables under fire conditions –  
Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or  
cables – Category C**

**Essais des câbles électriques et des câbles à fibres optiques soumis au feu –  
Partie 3-24: Essai de propagation verticale de la flamme des fils ou câbles  
montés en nappes en position verticale – Catégorie C**

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**IEC 60332-3-24**  
Edition 2.0 2018-07

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**TESTS ON ELECTRIC AND OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES  
UNDER FIRE CONDITIONS –****Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of  
vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C**

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- a) the volume of combustible material exposed to the fire and to any flame 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;
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All of the foregoing assume that the cables are able to be ignited when involved in an external fire.

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- Part 3-21: Category A F/R
- Part 3-22: Category A
- Part 3-23: Category B
- Part 3-24: Category C
- Part 3-25: Category D

Parts from 3-21 onwards define the various categories and the relevant procedures. The categories are distinguished by test duration, the volume of non-metallic material of the test sample and the method of mounting the sample for the test. In all categories, cables having at least one conductor of cross-sectional area greater than 35 mm<sup>2</sup> are tested in a spaced configuration, whereas cables of conductor cross-sectional area of 35 mm<sup>2</sup> or smaller and optical fibre cables are tested in a touching configuration.

The categories are not necessarily related to different safety levels in actual cable installations. The actual installed configuration of the cables may be a major determinant in the level of flame spread occurring in an actual fire.

The method of mounting described as category A F/R (Part 3-21) is intended for special cable designs used in particular installations.

Categories A, B, C and D (Part 3-22 to Part 3-25 respectively) are for general use where different non-metallic volumes are applicable.

## TESTS ON ELECTRIC AND OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES UNDER FIRE CONDITIONS –

### Part 3-24: Test for vertical flame spread of vertically-mounted bunched wires or cables – Category C

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60332 covers category C for methods of test for the assessment of vertical flame spread of vertically mounted bunched wires or cables, electrical or optical, under defined conditions.

This document relates to cables installed on the test ladder to achieve a nominal total volume of non-metallic material of 1,5 l/m of test sample. The flame application time is 20 min. The method of mounting uses the front of the standard ladder. The category is intended for general use where low volumes of non-metallic material are required to be evaluated.

The test is intended for type approval testing. The requirements for the selection of cables for testing are given in Annex A. The flame spread is measured as the extent of damage of the cable sample. This procedure can be used to demonstrate the cable's ability to limit flame spread.

A recommended performance requirement is given in Annex B.

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

#### 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.

IEC 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 60811-606, *Electric and optical fibre cables – Test methods for non-metallic materials – Part 606: Physical tests – Methods for determining the density*

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## COMMISSION ÉLECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

**ESSAIS DES CÂBLES ÉLECTRIQUES ET DES CÂBLES  
À FIBRES OPTIQUES SOUMIS AU FEU –****Partie 3-24: Essai de propagation verticale de la flamme des fils  
ou câbles montés en nappes en position verticale – Catégorie C**

## AVANT-PROPOS

- 1) La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est une organisation mondiale de normalisation composée de l'ensemble des comités électrotechniques nationaux (Comités nationaux de l'IEC). L'IEC a pour objet de favoriser la coopération internationale pour toutes les questions de normalisation dans les domaines de l'électricité et de l'électronique. A cet effet, l'IEC – entre autres activités – publie des Normes internationales, des Spécifications techniques, des Rapports techniques, des Spécifications accessibles au public (PAS) et des Guides (ci-après dénommés "Publication(s)" de l'IEC). Leur élaboration est confiée à des comités d'études, aux travaux desquels tout Comité national intéressé par le sujet traité peut participer. Les organisations internationales, gouvernementales et non gouvernementales, en liaison avec l'IEC, participent également aux travaux. L'IEC collabore étroitement avec l'Organisation Internationale de Normalisation (ISO), selon des conditions fixées par accord entre les deux organisations.
- 2) Les décisions ou accords officiels de l'IEC concernant les questions techniques représentent, dans la mesure du possible, un accord international sur les sujets étudiés, étant donné que les Comités nationaux de l'IEC intéressés sont représentés dans chaque comité d'études.
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La Norme internationale IEC 60332-3-24 a été préparée par le comité d'études 20 de l'IEC: Câbles électriques.

Cette deuxième édition annule et remplace la première édition parue en 2000 et l'Amendement 1:2008. Cette édition constitue une révision technique.

Cette édition inclut les modifications techniques majeures suivantes par rapport à l'édition précédente:

- a) des ajustements ont été apportés au titre, et ailleurs, afin de souligner que la Norme s'applique aux câbles à fibre optique, ainsi qu'aux types de conducteurs métalliques;

- b) les détails sur la manière dont les câbles sont montés sur l'échelle ont été mieux définis afin d'améliorer la répétabilité et la reproductibilités.

Elle a le statut d'une publication groupée de sécurité conformément au Guide IEC 104.

Le texte de cette Norme internationale est issu des documents suivants:

| FDIS         | Rapport de vote |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 20/1801/FDIS | 20/1818/RVD     |

Le rapport de vote indiqué dans le tableau ci-dessus donne toute information sur le vote ayant abouti à l'approbation de cette Norme internationale.

Ce document a été rédigé selon les Directives ISO/IEC, Partie 2.

Une liste de toutes les parties de la série IEC 60332, publiées sous le titre général *Essais des câbles électriques et des câbles à fibres optiques soumis au feu*, peut être consultée sur le site web de l'IEC.

Les futures normes de cette série porteront dorénavant le nouveau titre général cité ci-dessus. Le titre des normes existant déjà dans cette série sera mis à jour lors de la prochaine édition.

Le comité a décidé que le contenu de ce document ne sera pas modifié avant la date de stabilité indiquée sur le site web de l'IEC sous "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" dans les données relatives au document recherché. A cette date, le document sera

- reconduit,
- supprimé,
- remplacé par une édition révisée, ou
- amendé.

Le contenu de la feuille d'interprétation 1 de janvier 2019 a été pris en considération dans cet exemplaire.

## INTRODUCTION

L'IEC 60332-3-24 fait partie d'une série de publications traitant des essais des câbles électriques et des câbles à fibres optiques soumis au feu.

Les séries IEC 60332-1 et IEC 60332-2 spécifient des méthodes d'essai pour caractériser la propagation de la flamme sur un fil isolé ou un câble seul en position verticale. On ne peut pas présumer que lorsqu'un fil ou câble satisfait aux exigences des séries IEC 60332-1 et IEC 60332-2, des fils ou câbles similaires disposés en nappe en position verticale se comporteront de la même façon. Cela est dû au fait que la propagation de la flamme le long d'une nappe de câbles en position verticale dépend d'un certain nombre de paramètres, tels que

- a) le volume des matériaux combustibles exposés au feu et aux flammes qui peuvent être produites par la combustion des câbles;
- b) la configuration géométrique des câbles et leur situation par rapport à leur environnement;
- c) la température à laquelle il est possible d'enflammer les gaz émis par les câbles;
- d) la quantité de gaz combustible émis par les câbles pour une température donnée;
- e) le volume d'air passant à travers l'installation des câbles;
- f) la construction des câbles, par exemple armés ou non armés, mono ou multiconducteurs.

Tout ce qui précède présume que les câbles peuvent être enflammés lorsqu'ils sont impliqués dans un incendie externe.

La série IEC 60332-3 donne les détails d'un essai où un certain nombre de câbles sont disposés en nappes pour former différentes installations des échantillons. Pour être d'un usage plus facile et pour différencier les différentes catégories d'essais, les parties sont désignées comme suit:

- Partie 3-10: Appareillage
- Partie 3-21: Catégorie A F/R
- Partie 3-22: Catégorie A
- Partie 3-23: Catégorie B
- Partie 3-24: Catégorie C
- Partie 3-25: Catégorie D

Les Parties 3-21 et au-delà définissent les différentes catégories et les procédures qui s'y rapportent. Les catégories sont distinguées par la durée de l'essai, le volume de matériaux non métalliques de l'échantillon d'essai et la méthode de montage de l'échantillon pour l'essai. Dans toutes les catégories, les câbles dont au moins un conducteur est de section supérieure à 35 mm<sup>2</sup> sont soumis à l'essai dans une configuration espacée, tandis que les câbles dont les conducteurs de section égale ou inférieure à 35 mm<sup>2</sup> et les câbles à fibres optiques sont soumis à l'essai dans une configuration jointive.

Les catégories ne sont pas nécessairement liées à différents niveaux de sécurité dans les installations de câbles réelles. La configuration réelle des câbles installés peut être un élément déterminant majeur dans le niveau de propagation de la flamme survenant dans un incendie réel.

La méthode de montage décrite dans la catégorie A F/R (Partie 3-21) est destinée aux câbles spéciaux utilisés dans des installations particulières.

Les catégories A, B, C et D (Parties 3-22 à 3-25 respectivement) sont pour un usage général là où des volumes de matériaux non métalliques différents sont impliqués.

## **ESSAIS DES CÂBLES ÉLECTRIQUES ET DES CÂBLES À FIBRES OPTIQUES SOUMIS AU FEU –**

### **Partie 3-24: Essai de propagation verticale de la flamme des fils ou câbles montés en nappes en position verticale – Catégorie C**

#### **1 Domaine d'application**

La présente partie de l'IEC 60332 couvre la catégorie C pour les méthodes d'essai pour l'évaluation de la propagation verticale de la flamme des fils ou câbles électriques ou optiques, disposés en nappes en position verticale, dans des conditions définies.

Le présent document concerne les câbles montés sur l'échelle d'essai afin d'obtenir un volume total nominal de matériau non métallique de 1,5 l/m d'échantillon d'essai. La durée d'application de la flamme est de 20 min. La méthode de montage utilise la face avant de l'échelle standard. Cette catégorie est prévue pour une utilisation générale lorsqu'il est requis d'évaluer le comportement de volumes faibles de matériau non métallique.

L'essai est prévu pour les essais d'acceptation de type. Les exigences pour la sélection des câbles pour l'acceptation de type sont données à l'Annexe A. La propagation de la flamme est mesurée comme étant l'étendue de la partie endommagée de l'échantillon de câble. Cette procédure peut être utilisée pour démontrer l'aptitude du câble à limiter la propagation de la flamme.

L'Annexe B donne une recommandation pour l'exigence de performance.

NOTE Pour les besoins du présent document, le terme «fils ou câbles électriques» couvre tous les câbles isolés à conducteur métallique utilisés pour le transport d'énergie ou de signaux.

#### **2 Références normatives**

Les documents suivants cités dans le texte constituent, pour tout ou partie de leur contenu, des exigences du présent document. Pour les références datées, seule l'édition citée s'applique. Pour les références non datées, la dernière édition du document de référence s'applique (y compris les éventuels amendements).

IEC 60332-3-10, *Essais des câbles électriques et des câbles à fibres optiques soumis au feu – Partie 3-10: Essai de propagation verticale de la flamme des fils ou câbles montés en nappes en position verticale – Appareillage*

IEC 60811-606, *Câbles électriques et à fibres optiques – Méthodes d'essai pour les matériaux non-métalliques – Partie 606: Essais physiques – Méthodes de détermination de la masse volumique*