

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



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## Fire hazard testing –

### Part 1-14: Guidance on the different levels of power and energy related to the probability of ignition and fire in low voltage electrotechnical products

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references .....	7
3 Terms and definitions .....	8
4 Electrical energy as a cause of ignition.....	9
5 Empirical safety values of electrical power and energy .....	10
5.1 Different levels of power and electrical energy sources .....	10
5.2 Electrical power and energy source that is unlikely to cause ignition (Class 1).....	10
5.3 Electrical power and energy source that may cause ignition (Class 2).....	11
5.4 Electrical power and energy source that is likely to cause ignition (Class 3).....	12
5.5 Graphical overview of the classification.....	13
Bibliography.....	15
Figure 1 – Illustration of power/time limits related to fire and ignition .....	13
Figure 2 – Illustration of energy limits related to fire and ignition.....	14

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

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## FOREWORD

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The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. In exceptional circumstances, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical specification when

- the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts, or
- the subject is still under technical development or where, for any other reason, there is the future but no immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard.

Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 60695-1-14, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 89: Fire hazard testing.

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
89/1334/DTS	89/1363/RVDTS

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

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

This publication is to be used in conjunction with IEC 60695-1-10 and IEC 60695-1-11.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 60695 series, under the general title *Fire hazard testing*, can be found on the IEC website.

Part 1 consists of the following parts:

- Part 1-10: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – General guidelines
- Part 1-11: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire hazard assessment
- Part 1-12: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire safety engineering
- Part 1-14: Guidance on the different levels of power and energy related to the probability of ignition and fire in low voltage electrotechnical products (this document)
- Part 1-20: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Ignitability – General guidance
- Part 1-21: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Ignitability – Summary and relevance of test methods
- Part 1-30: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Preselection testing process – General guidelines
- Part 1-40: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Insulating liquids

In this standard, the following print types or formats are used:

- requirements proper and normative annexes: in roman type;
- compliance statements and test specifications: *italic type*;
- notes/explanatory matter: in smaller roman type;
- normative conditions within tables: in smaller roman type;
- terms defined in Clause 3: **bold type**.

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

- transformed into an International standard,
- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

**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 document using a colour printer.**

## INTRODUCTION

In the design of any electrotechnical product the risk of fire and the potential hazards associated with fire need to be considered. In this respect the objective of component, circuit and equipment design, as well as the choice of materials, is to reduce the risk of fire to a tolerable level even in the event of reasonably foreseeable (mis)use, malfunction or failure.

IEC 60695-1-10, IEC 60695-1-11 and IEC 60695-1-12 provide guidance on how this is to be accomplished.

Fires involving electrotechnical products can be initiated from external non-electrical sources. Considerations of this nature are dealt with in an overall **fire hazard** assessment.

The aim of the IEC 60695 series of standards is to save lives and property by reducing the number of fires or reducing the consequences of the fire. This can be accomplished by trying to:

- prevent **ignition** caused by an electrically energised component part and, in the event of **ignition**, to confine any resulting fire within the bounds of the enclosure of the electrotechnical product;
- minimise flame spread beyond the product's enclosure and to minimise the harmful effects of fire effluents including heat, smoke, and toxic or corrosive combustion products.

This technical specification provides guidance to Product Committees on the power levels and amounts of energy that are likely to cause **ignition** and fire. It also provides guidance to Product Committees on the **fire hazard safeguards** that might be necessary to protect against the probability of **ignition**.

The probability of fire is highly dependent on the specific fire scenario within the electrotechnical product itself. Therefore, product committees are ultimately responsible for deciding what **fire hazard safeguards** are appropriate for their products.

This document was created due to a need (IEC technical committee 66) for guidance on electrical energy levels in relation to **ignition** and fire. The preparation of this TS is based on based on electrical energy 141 levels developed by TC 108, responsible for safety of audio, video and ICT equipment.

## FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

### **Part 1-14: Guidance on the different levels of power and energy related to the probability of ignition and fire in low voltage electrotechnical products**

#### **1 Scope**

This part of IEC 60695, which is a technical specification, provides guidance about the levels of power and energy that could cause **ignition** and fire in a low voltage electrotechnical product. It can be used by Product Committees to determine what **fire hazard safeguards** might be used, based on the electrical energy that could be dissipated as heat.

This document deals with products used in normal atmospheres commonly available in the home and does not deal with special locations such as those in explosive atmospheres. It is intended as guidance to IEC committees, and is intended to be used with respect to their individual applications.

This basic safety publication is intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. The requirements, test methods or test conditions of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant publications.

#### **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 60695-1-10, *Fire hazard testing - Part 1-10: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products - General guidelines*

IEC 60695-1-11, *Fire hazard testing - Part 1-11: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products - Fire hazard assessment*

IEC 60695-4:2012, *Fire hazard testing - Part 4: Terminology concerning fire tests for electrotechnical products*

IEC 62368-1:2014, *Audio/video, information and communication technology equipment - Part 1: Safety requirements*

IEC GUIDE 104, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications*

ISO/IEC Guide 51, *Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*

ISO 13943:2008, *Fire safety – Vocabulary*