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Standards

Irish Standard Recommendation
S.R. CEN/TR 17309:2019

Test methods for environmental characterization of solid matrices - Guide to flash point testing

S.R. CEN/TR 17309:2019

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National Foreword

S.R. CEN/TR 17309:2019 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document CEN/TR 17309:2019, Test methods for environmental characterization of solid matrices - Guide to flash point testing

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TECHNICAL REPORT

CEN/TR 17309

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English Version

Test methods for environmental characterization of solid matrices - Guide to flash point testing

Caractérisation des déchets - Lignes directrices pour la détermination du point d'éclair

Prüfverfahren für die umweltbezogene Charakterisierung fester Matrices - Anleitung zur Prüfung des Flammpunkts

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 19 November 2018. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 444.

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Contents		Page
European foreword.....		4
Introduction		5
1	Scope	6
2	Normative references.....	6
3	Terms and definitions	6
4	Outline.....	6
5	Brief history	6
6	Flash point, and sustained combustion and burning.....	7
7	The need of flash point tests	7
8	Selection of flash point method.....	7
8.1	First considerations	7
8.2	Open or closed cup.....	8
8.3	Non-equilibrium, equilibrium and rapid equilibrium tests	8
8.4	Flash point automation	9
8.5	Correlation between methods.....	9
8.6	Valid temperature ranges	9
9	Testing environment	10
10	Safety	10
11	Calibration and verification	10
11.1	General.....	10
11.2	Calibration	10
11.3	Verification.....	10
12	Test samples	11
12.1	Sample handling	11
12.2	Samples containing volatile components.....	11
12.3	Viscous, semi-solid and solid samples.....	11
13	Apparatus.....	12
13.1	Ignition sources	12
13.2	Flash detection	12
13.3	Stirring.....	12
13.4	Temperature measurement.....	13
13.5	Care of the instrument	13
13.6	Sub ambient testing.....	13
14	Flash point testing effects	13
15	Test results	14
15.1	Barometric pressure correction	14
15.2	Expression and reporting of results.....	14
15.3	Precision.....	15
Annex A (normative) Major test methods used in specifications and regulations.....		16
Annex B (informative) Verification of apparatus		17

B.1	General	17
B.2	Verification check standards.....	17
B.3	Procedure	17
B.4	Evaluation of the test result.....	18
B.4.1	General	18
B.4.2	Single test	18
B.4.3	Multiple tests.....	19
	Bibliography	20

CEN/TR 17309:2019 (E)

European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 17309:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 444 “Test methods for environmental characterization of solid matrices”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

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Introduction

Flash point values are used in transporting, storage, handling and safety regulations, as a classification property to define “flammable” and “combustible” materials. Precise definition of the classes is given in each particular regulation.

A flash point value can indicate the presence of highly volatile material(s) in a relatively non-volatile or non-flammable material and flash point testing can be a preliminary step to other investigations into the composition of unknown materials. For products material safety data sheets provide further information also for flash point, but e. g. material safety data sheets for waste do not exist.

It is not appropriate for flash point determinations to be carried out on potentially unstable, decomposable, or explosive materials, unless it has been previously established that heating the specified quantity of such material in contact with the metallic components of the flash point apparatus, within the temperature range required for the method, does not induce decomposition, explosion or other adverse effects.

Flash point values are not a constant physical-chemical property of material tested. They are a function of the apparatus design, the condition of apparatus used, and no general valid correlation can be guaranteed between results obtained by different test methods or with test apparatus different from that specified.

CEN/TR 17309:2019 (E)

1 Scope

The flash point test can be summarised as a procedure where a test portion is introduced into a temperature controlled test cup and an ignition source is applied to the vapours produced by the test portion to determine if the vapour / air mixture is flammable or at what temperature the vapour / air mixture is flammable.

This document is not intended to be a comprehensive manual on flash point tests and the interpretation of test results, however it covers the key aspects on these subjects.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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>

4 Outline

There are many, slightly different, definitions of flash point, however the following definition is widely used in standard test methods:

The flash point is the lowest temperature of the test portion, corrected to a barometric pressure of 101,3 kPa, at which the application of an ignition source causes the vapour of the test portion to ignite momentarily and the flame to propagate across the surface of the liquid under the specified test conditions.

It is important to realise that the value of the flash point is not a physical constant but it is the result of a flash point test and is dependent on the apparatus and procedure used. This fact is so important that a general statement similar to the following will be incorporated into all the main flash point methods:

Flash point values are not a constant physical-chemical property of materials tested. They are a function of the apparatus design, the condition of the apparatus used, and the operational procedure carried out. Flash point can therefore only be defined in terms of a standard test method, and no general valid correlation can be guaranteed between results obtained by different test methods or with test apparatus different from that specified.

Due to the importance of flash point test results for both safety and regulatory purposes, the test method identification should always be included with the test result.

In general specific products specifications indicate which standard test method should be employed.

5 Brief history

The discovery of petroleum and the increased use of flammable distillates in the 19th century, for lighting and heating in place of animal and vegetable oils, led to a large number of explosions and other fire related accidents.

Legislation, such as the UK Petroleum Act in 1862 and the German Petroleum Regulations in 1882, quickly spread around the world and led to the development of many types of test instruments. The

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