



NSAI
Standards

Irish Standard
I.S. EN 15759-1:2011

Conservation of cultural property - Indoor climate - Part 1: Guidelines for heating churches, chapels and other places of worship

I.S. EN 15759-1:2011

Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:

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I.S. xxx: Irish Standard – national specification based on the consensus of an expert panel and subject to public consultation.

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SWIFT xxx: A rapidly developed recommendatory document based on the consensus of the participants of an NSAI workshop.

This document replaces:

This document is based on:
EN 15759-1:2011

Published:
28 November, 2011

This document was published under the authority of the NSAI and comes into effect on:
28 November, 2011

ICS number:

97.195

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Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann

ICS 97.195

English Version

Conservation of cultural property - Indoor climate - Part 1: Guidelines for heating churches, chapels and other places of worship

Conservation des biens culturels - Environnement intérieur
- Partie 1 : Recommandations pour le chauffage des
églises, chapelles et autres édifices cultuels

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Raumklima - Teil 1:
Leitfäden für die Beheizung von Andachtsstätten

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 8 October 2011.

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Foreword

This document (EN 15759-1:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 "Conservation of cultural property", 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2012, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2012.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations 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, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

Churches, chapels and other places of worship such as mosques and synagogues (referred to collectively in the text of this standard as “places of worship”) are an important part of European cultural heritage. The buildings and their interiors, containing cultural heritage objects, are documents of our heritage that society agrees need to be preserved for present and future generations. The indoor climate is a critical factor in conserving the fabric of buildings and the objects they house.

This European Standard is motivated by the need to reflect the special characteristics of places of worship, conditions which are not addressed in standards for the heating of other kinds of buildings. The defining characteristics of these buildings are their construction (often early building techniques); the fact that they were not designed as living or working spaces; their intermittent use; and the vulnerability of their surface decoration and contents. Originally, most historic places of worship had little or no heating. Nowadays, buildings in cold climate regions may be heated in order to:

- a) provide thermal comfort for worshippers, staff and visitors (referred collectively in this text as “users”);
- b) improve the indoor climate conditions for the conservation of the building and its contents;
- c) achieve a combination of (a) and (b) in buildings where both conservation and thermal comfort have to be considered.

The conventional climate requirements for thermal comfort can sometimes be in conflict with the requirements for conservation and may therefore call for compromise.

A decision on changing or replacing the heating system in a place of worship generally depends on a variety of factors: the pattern of use of the building (e.g. frequency, numbers of users, opening hours for visitors), its liturgical uses, the significance, condition, and vulnerability of the building and its often valuable contents, thermal comfort of the users, costs (installation, operation and maintenance), energy efficiency and sustainability, visual and audible impact, aesthetics, impact on the building structure, safety, and national laws and regulations.

This standard provides guidelines in order to facilitate the best possible decision on behalf of the end users. The standard is divided into the following steps:

- a) assessment of the building, its interior and contents;
- b) determine an indoor climate specification with respect to conservation and thermal comfort;
- c) determine an appropriate heating strategy;
- d) select and design an appropriate heating system;
- e) implement the proposed changes;
- f) evaluate the effectiveness of the heating system with respect to the specification.

This is the first standard in a series of standards on indoor climate and climate control in cultural heritage buildings. The air exchange of a building has a fundamental influence on its indoor climate and climate control; general considerations are given in Clause 5. Ventilation will be dealt with fully in the second part of the series of standards on indoor climate in cultural heritage buildings, prEN 15759-2, *Conservation of cultural property — Indoor climate — Part 2: Ventilation*.

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