

AS/NZS 60695.11.10:2001
(Incorporating Amendment 1)

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Fire Hazard Testing -

Part 11.10: Test flames – 50 W
horizontal and vertical flame test
methods
(IEC 60695-11-10:1999, IDT)

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical EL-002- Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances and Small Power Transformers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 21 May 2001 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 12 May 2001. It was published on 11 June 2001.

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Originated in Australia and New Zealand as part of AS/NZS 4695.707:1996

Jointly revised and redesignated AS/NZS 60695.11.10:2001

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EL-002- Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances and Small Power Transformers, to supersede the FH and FV test methods contained in AS/NZS 4695.707, two years from publication.

A1 | This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (May 2004). The changes introduced by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

The objective of this Standard is to provide a small-scale laboratory screening procedure that allows manufacturers and designers to pre-select materials based on the relative burning behaviour of specimens made from non-metallic materials using a small flame ignition source of 50 W nominal power.

This Standard forms the first edition of AS/NZS 60695.11.10, *Fire hazard testing - Part 11.10: Test flames – 50 W horizontal and vertical flame test methods*.

A1 | This Standard is identical to and is reproduced from IEC 60695-11-10:1999, *Fire hazard testing - Part 11-10: Test flames - 50 W horizontal and vertical flame test methods* including its amendment 1 (2003-06).

Annex A and Annex B are for information only.

Clause 2 has been reformatted to indicate the Australia/New Zealand standard that is equivalent to the IEC standard or ISO standard to which normative reference is made.

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CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Clause	
1 Scope	3
2 Normative references	3
3 Definitions	4
4 Principle	4
5 Significance of test	5
6 Apparatus	5
6.1 Laboratory fumehood/chamber	5
6.2 Laboratory burner	6
6.3 Ring stand	6
6.4 Timing device	6
6.5 Measuring scale	6
6.6 Wire gauze	6
6.7 Conditioning chamber	6
6.8 Micrometer	6
6.9 Support fixture	6
6.10 Desiccator chamber	6
6.11 Air-circulating oven	6
6.12 Cotton pad	6
7 Test Specimens.....	7
7.1 End product testing.....	7
7.2 Material testing.....	7
7.3 Bar test specimens	7
8 Test method A – Horizontal burning test.....	8
8.1 Conditioning	8
8.2 Procedure	8
8.3 Calculation	9
8.4 Classification.....	9
8.5 Test report	10
9 Test method B – Vertical burning test.....	10
9.1 Conditioning	10
9.2 Procedure	10
9.3 Calculation	12
9.4 Classification.....	12
9.5 Test report	13
Annex A (informative) Precision of test method A	20
Annex B (informative) Precision of test method B	21
Bibliography	22

	Figure 1 – Horizontal burning test apparatus	14
	Figure 2 – Flexible specimen support fixture – method A	15
	Figure 3 – Vertical burning test apparatus – method B	16
	Figure 4 – Bar specimen	17
	Figure 5 – Optional clearance gauge	18
A1	Figure 6 – Burner / Operator / Test specimen orientation	19
	Table 1 – Vertical burning categories	12
	Table A.1 – Rate of burning	20
	Table B.1 – Afterflame and afterflame plus afterglow times	21

INTRODUCTION

When considering the use of the tests in this International Standard it is important to distinguish the term "end-product test", meaning a fire hazard assessment test on a completed product, piece part, component or subassembly, from the term "pre-selection test", meaning a combustion characteristic test made on a material (piece part, component or subassembly).

Pre-selection tests on materials normally use test pieces that have a standardized (simplistic) shapes, such as a rectangular bar or sheet, and are frequently prepared using standardized moulding procedures.

It is emphasized that data using the pre-selection tests given in this standard need careful consideration to ensure their relevance to the intended application, and to avoid misuse and erroneous interpretation. The actual fire performance of a part or product is affected by its surroundings, design variables such as shape and size, fabrication techniques, heat transfer effects, the type of potential ignition source and the length of exposure to it. It is important to bear in mind that these properties may also be affected by foreseeable use, abuse and environmental exposure.

The advantages of a pre-selection procedure are listed below.

- a) A material which reacts more favourably than another, when tested as a standard test specimen, will usually also react more favourably when used as a finished part in the product, provided that possible synergistic effects are avoided.
- b) Data concerning relevant combustion characteristics can aid the selection of materials, components and subassemblies during the design stage.
- c) The precision of pre-selection tests is usually higher, and their sensitivity may be superior when compared with end-product tests.
- d) Pre-selection tests may be used in a decision-making process directed to minimize fire hazard. Where applicable for the purpose of fire hazard assessment, they may lead to a reduction in the number of end-product tests, with a consequent reduction in the total testing effort.
- e) When fire hazard requirements need to be upgraded quickly, it may be possible to do this by upgrading the requirements of a pre-selection test before modifying the end-product test.
- f) The grading and classification obtained from the pre-selection test results may be used to specify a basic minimum performance of materials used in product specifications.

It should be noted that, when pre-selection testing is used to replace some of the end-product testing, it is necessary to fix an increased margin of safety in an attempt to ensure satisfactory performance of the end-product. End-product testing may avoid restrictions in innovative design and in economic material selection imposed by a pre-selection procedure. Consequently, following a pre-selection procedure, it may be necessary to implement a value analysis on the end-product, in order not to overspecify the product beyond what is strictly needed.

For electrotechnical products, IEC 60695-1-1 indicates that the risk of fire is present in any electrical circuit, which is energized. With regard to this risk, the objective of component circuit and equipment design, and of the choice of material, is to reduce the likelihood of fire, even in the event of foreseeable abnormal use, malfunction or failure. The practical aim is to prevent ignition due to the electrically energized part but, if ignition and fire occur, to control the fire, preferably within the bounds of the enclosure of the electrotechnical product.

The best method for testing electrotechnical products with regard to fire hazards is to duplicate exactly the conditions occurring in practice. In most instances this is not possible. Accordingly, for practical reasons, the testing of electrotechnical products with regard to fire

hazard is best conducted by simulating as closely as possible the actual effects occurring in practice.

IEC 60695-1-3 provides that pre-selection may be made on the basis of specified tests, and by the use of specifications of the necessary resistance to fire and related combustion characteristics. It also outlines guidance that is intended to relate the specific function of the electrotechnical product, its subassemblies and its parts to the tested properties of materials, and to demonstrate the significance and the limitations of such a pre-selection procedure.

ISO/TR 10840 summarizes specific problems associated with the fire testing of plastics, which should be taken into account when assessing and interpreting test results.

AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

FIRE HAZARD TESTING –

Part 11-10: Test flames – 50 W horizontal and vertical flame test methods

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60695 specifies a small-scale laboratory screening procedure for comparing the relative burning behaviour of vertically or horizontally oriented specimens made from plastic and other non-metallic materials, exposed to a small-flame ignition source of 50 W nominal power.

These test methods determine the linear burning rate and the afterflame/afterglow times, as well as the damaged length of specimens. They are applicable to solid and cellular materials that have an apparent density of not less than 250 kg/m³, determined in accordance with ISO 845. They do not apply to materials that shrink away from the applied flame without igniting; ISO 9773 should be used for thin flexible materials.

The test methods described provide classification systems (see 8.4 and 9.4), which may be used for quality assurance, or the pre-selection of component materials of products.

The methods may be used for the pre-selection of a material, providing positive results are obtained at a thickness equal to the smallest thickness used in the application.

NOTE – Test results are influenced by material components, e.g. pigments, fillers and fire-retardants, and properties such as the direction of anisotropy and the molecular mass.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of IEC 60695. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of IEC 60695 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

<u>IEC or ISO standard</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>AU/NZ standard</u>	<u>Year</u>
IEC 60695-2-2	1991	<i>Test methods – Section 2: Needle-flame test</i>	AS/NZS 4695.2.2	1996
IEC 60695-11-4	2000	<i>Fire hazard testing – Part 11-4: Test flames – 50 W flames – Apparatus and confirmational test methods</i>		
IEC 60695-11-20	1999	<i>Fire hazard testing – Part 11-20: Test flames – 500 W flame test methods</i>	AS/NZS 60695.11.20	2001