BS ISO 19706:2011

BSI Standards Publication

Guidelines for assessing the fire threat to people

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 19706:2011. It supersedes BS ISO 19706:2007 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee FSH/16, Hazards to life from fire.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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ISBN 978 0 580 72072 7

ICS 13.220.01

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 April 2012.

Amendments issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 19706

Second edition
2011-09-01

Guidelines for assessing the fire threat to people

Lignes directrices pour l'évaluation des dangers du feu pour les personnes

Reference number
ISO 19706:2011(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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

ISO 19706 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 92, *Fire safety*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Fire threat to people and environment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 19706:2007), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

All fires produce toxic gases, smoke and heat. Whether the fire occurs in a residence, a commercial building, or a transportation vehicle, exposure to this effluent can have serious consequences for the occupants, responding fire safety personnel, and for larger fires, people in the environment surrounding the structure.

It is necessary to anticipate the effects of a possible fire on the safety of the occupants when considering both the design and construction of the enclosure, and also the burning behaviour of the contents. Building codes and similar documents for transportation vehicles generally provide for the egress or refuge of occupants: it is necessary that the time available for escape exceed the time required for escape. Underestimating the effects of fire effluent on the former can result in not providing the intended degree of safety or in overestimating the impact of fire-mitigation tactics, whereas overestimating the threat can inappropriately limit the use of construction, finish and furnishing materials and products, as well as constrain occupancy design options and escalate costs.

Thus, it is important in the fire safety engineering of facilities to include the effects of fire effluent and to include them accurately and in full awareness of available knowledge. From a complementary perspective, it is necessary that information on fire effluent toxic potency be combined with additional consideration of design fire scenarios, the combined effects of ignitability, heat release and mass loss rate, smoke density, the occupancy and the occupants themselves in a fire hazard or risk assessment, rather than selecting, banning or demeaning a construction or furnishing material or product based on its smoke production and toxic potency alone.

All measurements, calculations and assumptions are characterized by a degree of uncertainty. The utility of the outcome of a fire hazard or risk assessment, or the evaluation of the toxic potency of the fire effluent from products and materials, depends on knowing the uncertainties in the assessment methodology and the uncertainties in the input data. This International Standard addresses the uncertainty in the characterization of fire effluent, the measurement of effluent effects and the accuracy of the measurements.

The purpose of this International Standard is to provide general guidelines for estimating the fire threat to people and to the development of quantitative information on effluent potency for use in fire hazard and risk assessment and for the determination of the toxic potency of the fire effluent from burning products and materials.

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