PD IEC/TR 63061:2017

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Adjusted volume calculation for refrigerating appliances

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CPL/59/13, Performance of refrigeration.

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

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2017

ISBN 978 0 580 95493 1

ICS 97.040.30

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This Published Document was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 August 2017.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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IEC TR 63061

Edition 1.0 2017-05

TECHNICAL REPORT

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Adjusted volume calculation for refrigerating appliances

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 97.040.30

ISBN 978-2-8322-4330-5

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ADJUSTED VOLUME CALCULATION FOR REFRIGERATING APPLIANCES

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IEC TR 63061, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by subcommittee 59M: Performance of electrical household and similar cooling and freezing appliances, of IEC technical committee 59: Performance of household and similar electrical appliances.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
59M/71/DTR	59M/79/RVC

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

A recent international review of energy efficiency standards and energy labelling programs around the world found that refrigerators and freezers were covered by programs in some 75 countries, which included some 185 separate program measures. The report[1] found that household refrigerators and freezers were the most frequently covered products around the world in terms of programs to improve energy efficiency.

Despite being the most commonly covered products in energy efficiency programs, there are a range of different approaches used in different countries to define energy efficiency for refrigerators and freezers.

Besides specifying methods of energy measurement, IEC 62552-3 defines a clear and accurate method for the measurement and determination of compartment volume of household refrigerators and freezers. It is hoped that this international test method will be adopted by all countries in their local energy efficiency programs. However, a uniform approach to volume measurement is not always sufficient for energy efficiency policies, as this fails to take into account the impact of compartments that operate at different temperatures.

One of the most common approaches used to define the energy efficiency of refrigerators and freezers is the concept of adjusted volume. This approach was developed in the 1980s and essentially weights the volume of each compartment in proportion to the temperature difference between the compartment temperature and the ambient temperature outside of the appliance. This provides a method that takes into account, at least to some extent, the effect of variations in the relative size of different temperature compartments between different models. While there is a range of other possible approaches that can be used, adjusted volume is one method that is widely used around the world.

While the concept of adjusted volume is widely used and well accepted, it appears that there are some variations and differences in how this parameter is calculated and applied in different countries. This creates anomalies in how energy efficiency parameters are calculated between countries. While the exact approach used to define adjusted volume is ultimately a matter for individual countries, it is hoped that this document will provide a clear explanation of the approach and will provide a sound basis for how this can be applied in different conditions, as dictated by local policies. The purpose of this document is therefore to encourage alignment in national approaches to the definition and application of adjusted volume.

IEC 62552-3 defines two ambient temperatures for energy consumption measurement. Many countries, especially those with more temperate climates, will want to use this additional data to more accurately reflect the likely energy consumption of refrigeration appliances during normal use. This document assumes that the adjusted volume is calculated using the ambient air temperature expected during normal use of the refrigerating appliance. It is hoped that this will further encourage alignment of approaches across countries.

Ultimately, it is hoped that this document will foster dialogue and cooperation between countries and encourage the use of more uniform approaches to the calculation and application of adjusted volume, where this is used in energy efficiency policies and programs. This will further encourage trade, development of more uniform efficiency benchmarks and overall improvements in energy efficiency globally.

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1 Energy Standards and Labelling Programs Throughout The World In 2013, see http://www.iea-4e.org/publications or http://www.iea-4e.org/document/343/energy-standards-labelling-programs-throughout-the-world-in-2013

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