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Gaseous fire-extinguishing systems — Physical properties and system design —

Part 14: IG-55 extinguishant

Systèmes d'extinction d'incendie utilisant des agents gazeux — Propriétés physiques et conception des systèmes — Partie 14: Agent extincteur IG-55

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: Foreword — Supplementary information.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 21, *Equipment for fire protection and fire fighting*, Subcommittee SC 8, *Gaseous media firefighting systems using gas*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 14520-14:2005), has been technically revised.

ISO 14520 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Gaseous fire-extinguishing systems — Physical properties and system design*:

— *Part 1: General requirements*

— *Part 2: CF_3I extinguishant*

— *Part 5: FK-5-1-12 extinguishant*

— *Part 6: HCFC Blend A extinguishant*

— *Part 8: HFC 125 extinguishant*

— *Part 9: HFC 227ea extinguishant*

— *Part 10: HFC 23 extinguishant*

— *Part 11: HFC 236fa extinguishant*

— *Part 12: IG-01 extinguishant*

— *Part 13: IG-100 extinguishant*

— *Part 14: IG-55 extinguishant*

— *Part 15: IG-541 extinguishant*

Parts 3, 4, and 7, which dealt with FC-2-1-8, FC-3-1-10, and HCFC 124 extinguishants, respectively, have been withdrawn, as these types are no longer manufactured.

Gaseous fire-extinguishing systems — Physical properties and system design —

Part 14: IG-55 extinguishant

1 Scope

This part of ISO 14520 contains specific requirements for gaseous fire-extinguishing systems, with respect to the IG-55 extinguishant. It includes details of physical properties, specification, usage and safety aspects.

This part of ISO 14520 covers systems operating at nominal pressures of 150 bar at 15 °C, 200 bar at 15 °C, and 300 bar at 15 °C. This does not preclude the use of other systems, although design data for other pressures are not available at this time.

2 Normative reference

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 14520-1:2006, *Gaseous fire-extinguishing systems — Physical properties and system design — Part 1: General requirements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 14520-1 apply.

4 Characteristics and uses

4.1 General

IG-55 is a colourless, odourless, electrically non-conductive gas with a density approximately the same as that of air.

It is an inert gas mixture consisting nominally of 50 % argon and 50 % nitrogen. The mixture specification for IG-55 is as follows:

a) argon percentage range (50 ± 5) %

b) nitrogen percentage range (50 ± 5) %

Extinguishant IG-55 shall comply with the specification shown in Table 1. The physical properties are shown in Table 2. IG-55 extinguishes fires by reduction of the oxygen concentration in the atmosphere of the hazard enclosure.

Table 1 — Specification for IG-55

Component	Argon	Nitrogen
Purity	> 99,9 %	> 99,9 %
Moisture	$< 15 \times 10^{-6}$	$< 10 \times 10^{-6}$
NOTE Only principal contaminants are shown. Other measurements can include hydrocarbons, CO, NO, NO_2, CO_2, O_2, etc. Most are < 20 × 10–6.		

Table 2 — Physical properties of IG-55

Property	Units	Value
Molecular mass	—	33,98
Boiling point at 1,013 bar (absolute)	°C	—
Freezing point	°C	—
Critical temperature	°C	—
Critical pressure	bar abs	—
Critical volume	cm^3/mol	—
Critical density	kg/m^3	—
Vapour pressure 20 °C	bar abs	—
Liquid density 20 °C	kg/m^3	—
Saturated vapour density 20 °C	kg/m^3	—
Specific volume of superheated vapour at 1,013 bar and 20 °C	m^3/kg	0,708
Components	N_2 50 % by volume Ar 50 % by volume	
NOTE IG-55 is a mixture of two gases. For further details on its physical properties, refer to ISO standards for the individual gases.		

4.2 Use of IG-55 systems

IG-55 total flooding systems can be used for extinguishing fires of all classes within the limits specified in ISO 14520-1:2006, Clause 4.

The extinguishing concentrations and design concentrations for heptane and surface class A hazards are shown in Table 4. Concentrations for other fuels are shown in Table 5.

The extinguishant requirements per volume of protected space are shown in Table 3 for various levels of concentration. These are based on methods shown in ISO 14520-1:2006, 7.6.

Table 3 — IG-55 total flooding quantity

Temperature *T* °C	**Specific vapour volume** *S*	**IG-55 volume requirements per unit volume of protected space**, *V*/*V* (m^3/m^3)							
		Design concentration (by volume)							
	m^3/kg	34 %	38 %	42 %	46 %	50 %	54 %	58 %	62 %
−40	0,5632	0,524	0,603	0,687	0,778	0,875	0,980	1,095	1,221
−35	0,5752	0,513	0,591	0,673	0,761	0,856	0,959	1,072	1,195
−30	0,5873	0,503	0,578	0,659	0,746	0,839	0,940	1,050	1,171
−25	0,5994	0,493	0,567	0,646	0,731	0,822	0,921	1,029	1,147
−20	0,6115	0,483	0,556	0,633	0,716	0,806	0,902	1,008	1,125
−15	0,6236	0,474	0,545	0,621	0,702	0,790	0,885	0,989	1,103
−10	0,6356	0,465	0,534	0,609	0,689	0,775	0,868	0,970	1,082
−5	0,6477	0,456	0,524	0,598	0,676	0,761	0,852	0,952	1,062
0	0,6598	0,448	0,515	0,587	0,664	0,747	0,836	0,934	1,042
5	0,6719	0,440	0,506	0,576	0,652	0,733	0,821	0,918	1,023
10	0,6840	0,432	0,497	0,566	0,640	0,720	0,807	0,901	1,005
15	0,6960	0,424	0,488	0,556	0,629	0,708	0,793	0,886	0,988
20	0,7081	0,417	0,480	0,547	0,618	0,696	0,779	0,871	0,971
25	0,7202	0,410	0,472	0,538	0,608	0,684	0,766	0,856	0,955
30	0,7323	0,403	0,464	0,529	0,598	0,673	0,754	0,842	0,939
35	0,7444	0,397	0,456	0,520	0,588	0,662	0,741	0,828	0,924
40	0,7564	0,390	0,449	0,512	0,579	0,651	0,730	0,815	0,909
45	0,7685	0,384	0,442	0,504	0,570	0,641	0,718	0,802	0,895
50	0,7806	0,378	0,435	0,496	0,561	0,631	0,707	0,790	0,881
55	0,7927	0,373	0,429	0,488	0,552	0,621	0,696	0,778	0,867
60	0,8048	0,367	0,422	0,481	0,544	0,612	0,686	0,766	0,854
65	0,8168	0,362	0,416	0,474	0,536	0,603	0,676	0,755	0,842
70	0,8289	0,356	0,410	0,467	0,528	0,594	0,666	0,744	0,830
75	0,8410	0,351	0,404	0,460	0,521	0,586	0,656	0,733	0,818
80	0,8531	0,346	0,398	0,454	0,513	0,577	0,647	0,723	0,806
85	0,8652	0,341	0,393	0,447	0,506	0,569	0,638	0,713	0,795
90	0,8772	0,337	0,387	0,441	0,499	0,562	0,629	0,703	0,784
95	0,8893	0,332	0,382	0,435	0,492	0,554	0,621	0,693	0,773
100	0,9014	0,328	0,377	0,429	0,486	0,546	0,612	0,684	0,763

NOTE This information refers only to the product IG-55, and does not represent any other products containing argon as a component.

Symbols:

V/*V* is the agent volume requirements (m^3/m^3); i.e. the quantity Q_R(m^3) of agent required at a reference temperature of 20 °C and a pressure of 1,013 bar per cubic metre of protected volume to produce the indicated concentration at the temperature specified:

Table 3 *(continued)*

$$Q_R = m \cdot S_R$$

where

S_R is the specific reference volume (m^3/kg); i.e. the specific vapour volume at the filling reference temperature for superheated IG-55vapour at a pressure of 1,013 bar which can be approximated by the formula:

$$S_R = k1 + k2 \cdot T_R ;$$

where

k_1 = 0,659 8

k_2 = 0,002 416

T_R is the reference temperature (°C); i.e. filling temperature (20 °C in the table).

$$m = \frac{V}{S} \cdot \ln\left(\frac{100}{100 - c}\right)$$

V is the net volume of hazard (m^3); i.e. the enclosed volume minus the fixed structures impervious to extinguishant;

T is the temperature (°C); i.e. the design temperature of the protected area;

S is the specific volume (m^3/kg); the specific volume of superheated IG-55 vapour at a pressure of 1,013 bar can be approximated by the formula:

$$S = k_1 + k_2 \cdot T$$

where

c is the concentration (%); i.e. the volumetric concentration of IG-55 in air at the temperature indicated, and a pressure of 1,013 bar absolute.

Table 4 — IG-55 reference extinguishing and design concentrations

Fuel	Extinguishment % by volume	Minimum design % by volume
Class B		
Heptane (cup burner)	36,5	47,5
Heptane (room test)	30,2	
Surface class A		
Wood Crib	28,7	
PMMA	30,7	40,3
PP	29,3	
ABS	31,0	
Higher Hazard Class A	See Note 4	45,1

NOTE 1 The extinguishment values for the Class B and the Surface Class A fuels are determined by testing in accordance with ISO 14520-1:2006, Annexes B and C.

NOTE 2 The minimum design concentration for the Class B fuel is the higher value of the heptane cup burner or room test heptane extinguishment concentration multiplied by 1,3.

Table 4 *(continued)*

NOTE 3 The minimum design concentration for Surface Class A fuel is the highest value of the wood crib, PMMA, PP, or ABS extinguishment concentrations multiplied by 1,3. In the absence of any of the 4 extinguishment values, the minimum design concentration for Surface Class A shall be that of Higher Hazard Class A.

NOTE 4 Higher-Hazard Class A hazards are those having the characteristics described in the CAUTION statement of ISO 14520-1:2006, 7.5.1.3. The minimum design concentration for Higher Hazard Class A fuels shall be the higher of the Surface Class A or 95 % of the Class B minimum design concentration.

NOTE 5 See ISO 14520-1:2006, 7.5.1.3 for guidance on Class A fuels.

NOTE 6 The extinguishing and design concentrations for room-scale test fires are for informational purposes only. Lower and higher extinguishing concentrations than those shown for room-scale test fires can be achieved and allowed when validated by test reports from internationally recognized laboratories.

Table 5 — IG-55 extinguishing and design concentrations for other fuels

Fuel	Extinguishment % by volume	Minimum design % by volume
Ethanol	38,9	50,6
n-Hexane	37,0	48,0
Isooctane	36,5	47,5
Methyl ethyl ketone	38,0	49,4
Methanol	45,4	59,0
i-Propanol	36,5	47,5
Toluene	36,5	47,5

NOTE 1 Extinguishing concentrations for all Class B fuels listed were derived in accordance with ISO 14520-1:2006, Annex B.

NOTE 2 Minimum design values have been increased to the minimum design concentration established for heptane in accordance with ISO 14520-1:2006, 7.5.1.

5 Safety of personnel

Any hazard to personnel created by the discharge of IG-55 shall be considered in the design of the system.

Potential hazards can arise from the following:

a) the extinguishant itself, by reduction in oxygen; and

b) the combustion products of the fire.

For minimum safety requirements, see ISO 14520-1:2006, Clause 5.

Physiological information for IG-55 is shown in Table 6.

Table 6 — Physiological information for IG-55

Property	Value % by volume
No observed adverse effect level (NOAEL)	43
Lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL)	52

NOTE These values are based on the physiological effects on human subjects of hypoxic atmospheres. These values are the functional equivalents of NOAEL and LOAEL values, and correspond to 12 % minimum oxygen for the no-effect level and 10 % minimum oxygen for the low-effect level.

