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Classification of environmental conditions - Part 2: Environmental conditions appearing in nature - Fauna and flora (IEC 60721-2-7:2018)

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EN IEC 60721-2-7:2018 (E)

European foreword

The text of document 104/741/CDV, future edition 2 of IEC 60721-2-7, prepared by IEC/TC 104 "Environmental conditions, classification and methods of test" was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN IEC 60721-2-7:2018.

The following dates are fixed:

•	latest date by which the document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement	(dop)	2019-01-23
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In the official version, for Bibliography, the following notes have to be added for the standards indicated:

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Classification of environmental conditions – PREVIEW Part 2-7: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Fauna and flora

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS -

Part 2-7: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Fauna and flora

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60721-2-7 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 104: Environmental conditions, classification and methods of test.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1987. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) This edition has been entirely rewritten.

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The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting	
104/741/CDV	104/792/RVC	

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard 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.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60721 series, published under the general title *Classification of environmental conditions,* can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

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CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS -

Part 2-7: Environmental conditions appearing in nature – Fauna and flora

1 Scope

2

This document addresses the occurrence of fauna and flora, including its main effects on electrotechnical products. Exposure and damage from the effects of fauna and flora can occur at almost any time in a product's life cycle. Moreover, there are many agents of attack with various actions.

This document addresses the occurrence and damage arising from fauna and flora in all locations a product can be stored, transported or used. Generally, fauna can be present and cause damage to products in both the natural environments experienced in open-air locations as well as in artificially created environments, such as in a warehouse or building. However, flora will predominantly be present and cause damage to products only in open-air locations. Fungus and bacteria can be present in both open-air locations as well as in warehouses or buildings.

Normative references STANDARD PREVIEW

(standards.iteh.ai)

There are no normative references in this document.

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3 Terms and definitionsds.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/86bb2b76-3b5e-407c-941ea4d3c96ca5f6/sist-en-iec-60721-2-7-2018

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

4 General

The main attacking agents considered in this document are micro-organisms including fungi, bacteria, as well as insects, rodents, algae and marine organisms. Hazards due to other agents are considered to be of lesser importance and have been omitted. These include the corrosive action of juices secreted by some plants, the mechanical action due to the growth of the larger trees, which may be sufficiently great to destroy the foundations of a building or to break cables, and the damage caused by animals such as monkeys and elephants. Birds in flight can be a hazard to aircraft, and in the region of bird colonies, widespread droppings can create corrosion problems. In addition, some agents which are mentioned have other modes of action which have not been included; for example both rodents and insects are occasionally responsible for chemical corrosion or soiling.

The frequency of occurrence of fauna and flora with a possibility of damaging products very much depends on conditions of temperature and humidity. In geographical areas with warm damp climates, fauna and flora, especially insects and micro-organisms such as mould and bacteria, will find favourable conditions of life. Moreover, humid or wet rooms in buildings, or rooms for processes producing humidity, are suitable living spaces for rodents, insects and micro-organisms.

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Fauna and flora can affect products in various ways, the most important of which are given in the following examples.

- a) Deterioration by physical attack: The functioning of products may be affected by physical attacks of fauna and flora. The materials of a product may be attacked by fauna, particularly by rodents and insects, by the actions of feeding from material, gnawing at material, eating into material, chewing material or cutting holes into material. The severe damage arising from the physical attack by termites is especially emphasized in this respect. Among materials susceptible to attack are natural materials such as wood, paper, leather, textiles, but also plastic materials, including elastomers and even some metals such as tin and lead.
- b) Deterioration by deposits: The functioning of products may be affected by deposits originating from fauna and flora. These surface deposits affect the products by chemical and mechanical reactions. Deposits from fauna, especially from insects, rodents, birds, etc., may consist of elements such as the presence of the animal itself, the building of nests or settlements, feed stock as well as the metabolic products such as excrements, enzymes. Deposits from all kinds of flora may consist of material such as detached parts of plants (leaves, blossom, seeds, fruits, etc.), growth layers of cultures of moulds or bacteria and effects of their metabolic products.

5 Occurrence of fauna and flora

5.1 Fungi

5.1.1 Background iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW

The name fungus is used to denote members of a large heterogeneous group of organisms, of which there are about a hundred thousand known species. Most fungi are so small that they can be observed only with the aid of a microscope. The terms 'mould' and 'mildew', although not exactly defined in the biological sense, lare used by both biologists and laymen to refer to small non-parasitic fungitasuch as those which do not live on other living organisms. a4d3c96ca5f6/sist-en-iec-60721-2-7-2018

A fungus can, in general, be divided into two parts: the vegetative and the reproductive. The vegetative part, known as the hypha, is essentially a threadlike filament normally having a diameter between 2 μ m and 20 μ m and may be several centimetres long. In the simplest fungi the hyphae are merely continuous tubes of living matter; in others they are divided by cell walls, called septa, into separate cells. Collectively the hyphae are referred to as the mycelium. The mycelium, together with the reproductive spores, is commonly observed on mouldy bread, shoes, oranges, etc.

In the vast majority of cases the unit of reproduction is the spore. Normally it is unicellular and microscopic, though occasionally, giants 500 µm in length occur. They may be produced directly via the hyphae or from a structure created for this specific purpose, as in the mushroom. From a functional viewpoint spores may be divided into two classes each of which may be produced by the same organism: those which can be produced rapidly and in large numbers but have little resistance to adverse environmental factors, and those which are comparatively few in number but much more resistant to adverse conditions. The former enable the fungus to spread rapidly during good growing conditions and the latter enable it to survive hard times such as winter or drought and have been known to survive for many years in a dry condition.

5.1.2 Growth and survival factors

In order to adapt themselves to changes in their environment or food supply, most species of fungi can slightly change their characteristics and needs over several generations. This may be a very short time; in many cases the whole cycle from spore to spore can be completed in a few days. In addition, it should be noted that the conditions required for the production and dispersal of spores are generally more exacting than those for growth and survival.

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The precise minimum, maximum and optimum temperatures for growth appear to be a matter of debate between the various authorities. This may be because these values vary from one species to another. However, in general, the minimum is 2 °C to 5 °C, the maximum 40 °C to 50 °C and the optimum 22 °C to 27 °C. In addition, there are a few fungi that can grow at and below 0 °C, and one species has been reported growing at a maximum of 62 °C. They are, of course, capable of surviving even greater extremes in a quiescent state.

The optimum humidity for the growth of nearly all moulds is a relative humidity of 95 % to 100 %. If submerged in water, however, most fungi will not grow. Any reduction from this optimum will mean a reduced growth rate and few species will grow in a relative humidity of less than 70 %. Optimum growth conditions also occur in still air.

A suitable source of carbon that can be absorbed as food is essential to fungi for their growth. Almost all naturally occurring carbon containing compounds, together with many synthetic organic compounds of a similar structure can be used by fungi as a source of food. All fungi can utilize an organic supply of nitrogen and a few can also use an inorganic source such as ammonia. Nitrogen, other than as a gas, is essential for the growth of fungi.

Most fungi are strictly aerobic, that is they cannot grow in complete absence of free oxygen. In the small number of cases where fungi grow in water, they always do so in a few centimetres near the surface.

Other elements required for the growth of fungi include sulfur (as sulfate), potassium, phosphorus (as phosphate) and magnesium. In some cases minute traces of iron, zinc, manganese, molybdenum or calcium are required, though in such small quantities that only in a few fungi is there a clear picture of these requirements. Some fungi also require a supply of certain vitamins for growth. (standards.tten.al)

Ultra-violet is known to inhibit the <u>growth of most fungi</u>, although daylight normally has no effect. In a very few instances daylight can influence growth and indeed can cause it to increase. However, the production and dispersal of spores is dependent upon the presence of light for many species.

Most fungi grow best in a slightly acid medium within the range pH 5 to pH 6,5. This varies from one species to another, but few will grow at all below pH 3 or above pH 9.

5.1.3 Habitat and geographical distribution

Since fungi can survive adverse growth conditions in a quiescent state and can gradually evolve to survive more extreme conditions, and since new species are still being identified, it is not possible to define exactly the geographical areas in which fungi will grow. There are, however, certain tendencies which are relevant.

Fungi of one sort or another are found in the soil, water and air over a large part of the earth's surface, whilst others live on or upon both living and dead animals and plants. Those found in the air do not grow there, but are in the form of spores. Most live in the soil and only about 2 % live in water; in both cases they grow in the few centimetres just below the surface.

The best conditions for most types of mould growth are in humid tropical areas, although deterioration due to mould is not confined to the tropics. Equally serious damage can occur in temperate regions, though not so rapidly, and at least one species of mould is often found in the form of spores in the air over arctic regions.

Conditions favourable for mould growth may easily be created artificially inside a building or equipment. Those which are parasitic upon particular animals or plants are among the few which are restricted to geographical regions.