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**Building environment design —  
Embedded radiant heating and cooling  
systems —**

**Part 1:  
Definitions, symbols, and comfort  
criteria**

*Conception de l'environnement des bâtiments — Systèmes intégrés de  
chauffage et de refroidissement par rayonnement —*

*Partie 1: Définitions, symboles et critères de confort*

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# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Symbols and abbreviated terms</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>5 Comfort criteria</b> .....	<b>16</b>
5.1 General.....	16
5.2 General thermal comfort.....	16
5.2.1 Operative temperature.....	17
5.2.2 PMV (predicted mean vote) and PPD (predicted percentage of dissatisfied).....	17
5.3 Local thermal discomfort.....	18
5.3.1 Surface temperature limit.....	18
5.3.2 Radiant temperature asymmetry.....	19
5.3.3 Vertical air temperature difference.....	19
5.4 Acoustical comfort.....	20
5.4.1 Water velocity and noise.....	20
5.4.2 Acoustical comfort in water-based heating and cooling systems.....	20
5.4.3 Acoustical comfort in thermally active building systems (TABS).....	21
<b>Annex A (informative) Floor surface temperature for thermal comfort</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Draught</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>26</b>

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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](http://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](http://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 of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 205, *Building environment design*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 228, *Heating systems and water based cooling systems in buildings*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 11855-1:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- only references cited normatively were kept in [Clause 2](#), the others were moved to Bibliography;
- in [Clause 3](#), self-explanatory terms were removed, two similar terms representing the same concept were unified into one term, and one term explaining two concepts were divided into two terms each having one concept;
- editorial changes were performed.

A list of all parts in the ISO 11855 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The radiant heating and cooling system consists of heat emitting/absorbing, heat supply, distribution, and control systems. The ISO 11855 series deals with the embedded surface heating and cooling system that directly controls heat exchange within the space. It does not include the system equipment itself, such as heat source, distribution system and controller.

The ISO 11855 series addresses an embedded system that is integrated with the building structure. Therefore, the panel system with open air gap, which is not integrated with the building structure, is not covered by this series.

The ISO 11855 series is applicable to water-based embedded surface heating and cooling systems in buildings. The ISO 11855 series is applied to systems using not only water but also other fluids or electricity as a heating or cooling medium. The ISO 11855 series is not applicable for testing of systems. The methods do not apply to heated or chilled ceiling panels or beams.

The object of the ISO 11855 series is to provide criteria to effectively design embedded systems. To do this, it presents comfort criteria for the space served by embedded systems, heat output calculation, dimensioning, dynamic analysis, installation, control method of embedded systems, and input parameters for the energy calculations.

The ISO 11855 series consists of the following parts, under the general title *Building environment design — Embedded radiant heating and cooling systems*:

- Part 1: *Definitions, symbols, and comfort criteria*
- Part 2: *Determination of the design heating and cooling capacity*
- Part 3: *Design and dimensioning*
- Part 4: *Dimensioning and calculation of the dynamic heating and cooling capacity of Thermo Active Building Systems (TABS)*
- Part 5: *Installation*
- Part 6: *Control*
- Part 7: *Input parameters for the energy calculation*

ISO 11855-1, this document, specifies the comfort criteria which should be considered in designing embedded radiant heating and cooling systems, since the main objective of the radiant heating and cooling system is to satisfy thermal comfort of the occupants. ISO 11855-2 provides steady-state calculation methods for determination of the heating and cooling capacity. ISO 11855-3 specifies design and dimensioning methods of radiant heating and cooling systems to ensure the heating and cooling capacity. ISO 11855-4 provides a dimensioning and calculation method to design Thermo Active Building Systems (TABS) for energy saving purposes, since radiant heating and cooling systems can reduce energy consumption and heat source size by using renewable energy. ISO 11855-5 addresses the installation process for the system to operate as intended. ISO 11855-6 shows a proper control method of the radiant heating and cooling systems to ensure the maximum performance which was intended in the design stage when the system is actually being operated in a building. ISO 11855-7 presents a calculation method for input parameters to ISO 52031.



# Building environment design — Embedded radiant heating and cooling systems —

## Part 1: Definitions, symbols, and comfort criteria

### 1 Scope

This document specifies the basic definitions, symbols, and comfort criteria for embedded radiant heating and cooling systems.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 11855-5:2021, *Building environment design — Embedded radiant heating and cooling systems — Part 5: Installation*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1

##### **additional thermal resistance**

thermal resistance representing layers added to the building structure and acting mostly as thermal resistances because of their own low thermal inertia

EXAMPLE Carpets, moquette, and suspended ceilings.

#### 3.2

##### **average specific thermal capacity of the internal walls**

thermal capacity related to one square metre of the internal walls

Note 1 to entry: Since internal walls are shared with other rooms, then just half of the total specific thermal capacity of the wall shall be taken into account, since the second half is influenced by the opposite rooms that are considered to be at the same thermal conditions as the one under consideration.

#### 3.3

##### **average surface temperature**

$\theta_{s,m}$

average value of all surface temperatures in the occupied or *peripheral area* (3.62)

**3.4  
basic characteristic curve**

curve reflecting the relationship between the *heat flux* (3.31) and the *mean surface temperature difference* (3.47)

Note 1 to entry: This depends on the heating or cooling and the surface (floor, wall or ceiling) but not on the type of embedded system.

**3.5  
calculation time step**

length of time considered for the calculation

Note 1 to entry: This is typically assumed to equal 3 600 s.

**3.6  
circuit**

section of system connected to a *distributor* (3.25) which can be independently switched and controlled

**3.7  
circuit total thermal resistance**

thermal resistance representing the *circuit* (3.6) as a whole, determining a straight connection between the water inlet temperature and the mean temperature at the *pipe level* (3.63)

Note 1 to entry: It includes the *water flow thermal resistance* (3.92), the *convection thermal resistance at the pipe inner side* (3.10), the *pipe thickness thermal resistance* (3.66), and the *pipe level thermal resistance* (3.64).

**3.8  
clothing insulation**

resistance of a uniform layer of insulation covering the entire body that has the same effect on sensible heat flow as the actual clothing under standardized (static, wind-still) conditions

Note 1 to entry: The definition of clothing insulation also includes the uncovered parts of the body, e.g. the head. It is specified as the intrinsic insulation from the skin to the clothing surface, not including the resistance provided by the air layer around the clothed body, and is expressed in the clo unit or in m<sup>2</sup>K/W; 1 clo = 0,155 m<sup>2</sup>K/W.

**3.9  
conductive region of the slab**

region of the *slab* (3.75) that includes the pipes with thermal conductivities of the layers higher than 0,8 W/(m·K)

Note 1 to entry: Due to the subdivision of the slab into an upper slab and a lower slab, the conductive region is also subdivided into an upper conductive region and a lower conductive region.

**3.10  
convection thermal resistance at the pipe inner side**

thermal resistance associated to the convection heat transfer taking place between the water flowing in the pipe and the pipe inner side, thus connecting the mean water temperature along the *circuit* (3.6) with the mean temperature of the pipe inner side

**3.11  
convective heating and cooling system**

system that directly conditions the air in the room for the purpose of heating and cooling

**3.12  
convective peak load**

maximum cooling load to be extracted by a virtual convective system used to keep comfort conditions in the room

**3.13  
design cooling capacity**

$Q_{H,c}$   
thermal output by a cooling surface at design conditions



### 3.14 design cooling load

$Q_{N,c}$   
required thermal output necessary to achieve the specified design conditions in outside summer design conditions

### 3.15 design sensible cooling load

required sensible thermal output necessary to achieve the specified design conditions in outside summer design conditions

### 3.16 design supply temperature of heating medium

$\theta_{V,des}$   
value of flow water temperature with the thermal resistance of the chosen floor covering, at maximum value of heat flux  $q_{max}$

Note 1 to entry: The flow and the supply temperature are the same throughout the EN 1264 series.

Note 2 to entry: For the radiant cooling system, the design supply temperature of cooling medium applies instead of design supply temperature of heating medium.

### 3.17 design heat flux

$q_{des}$   
heat flow divided by the heating or cooling surface, taking into account the surface temperature required to reach the design thermal capacity of a surface heated or cooled space,  $Q_H$ , reduced by the thermal capacity of any supplementary heating or cooling equipment, if applicable

### 3.18 design heating capacity

$Q_{H,h}$   
thermal output from a *heating surface* (3.33) at design conditions

### 3.19 design heating load

$Q_{N,h}$   
required thermal output necessary to achieve the specified design conditions in outside winter design conditions

Note 1 to entry: When calculating the value of the design heat load, the heat flow from embedded heating systems into neighbouring rooms is not taken into account.

### 3.20 design heating medium differential temperature

$\Delta\theta_{H,des}$   
temperature difference of heating medium at *design heat flux* (3.17)

### 3.21 design cooling medium differential temperature

$\Delta\theta_{C,des}$   
temperature difference of cooling medium at *design heat flux* (3.17)

### 3.22 design heating medium differential supply temperature

$\Delta\theta_{V,des}$   
temperature difference between the design supply medium temperature and indoor temperature at *design heat flux* (3.17)

**3.23**  
**design heating medium flow rate**

$m_H$   
mass flow rate in a *circuit* (3.6) which is needed to achieve the *design heat flux* (3.17)

Note 1 to entry: The design cooling medium flow rate is similar with the only difference being that it has an embedded radiant cooling system.

**3.24**  
**design indoor temperature**

$\theta_i$   
*operative temperature* (3.58) at the centre of the conditioned space used for calculation of the design load and capacity

Note 1 to entry: The operative temperature is considered relevant for thermal comfort assessment and heat loss calculations. This value of internal temperature is used for the calculation method.

**3.25**  
**distributor**

common connection point for several *circuits* (3.6)

**3.26**  
**draught**

unwanted local cooling of a body caused by movement of air and related to temperature

**3.27**  
**electric heating system**

several panel systems that convert electrical energy to heat, raising the temperature of conditioned indoor surfaces and the indoor air

Note 1 to entry: The electric heating system can be applied to floor, walls and ceiling.

**3.28**  
**embedded surface heating and cooling system**

system consisting of *circuits* (3.6) of pipes embedded in floor, wall or ceiling construction, *distributors* (3.25) and control equipment

**3.29**  
**equivalent heat transmission coefficient**

$K_H$   
coefficient describing the relationship between the *heat flux* (3.31) from the surface and the *heating medium differential temperature* (3.36)

Note 1 to entry: For the radiant cooling system, the cooling medium differential temperature applies instead of heating medium differential temperature.

**3.30**  
**family of characteristic curves**

curves denoting the system-specific relationship between the *heat flux* ( $q$ ) (3.31) and the required *heating medium differential temperature* ( $\Delta\theta_H$ ) (3.36) for conduction resistance of various floor coverings

**3.31**  
**heat flux**

$q$   
heat flow between the space and surface divided by the heated or cooled surface

Note 1 to entry: For heating it is a positive value and for cooling it is a negative value.

**3.32****heat transfer coefficient** $h_t$ 

combined convective and radiative heat transfer coefficient between the heated or cooled surface and the space *operative temperature* (3.58) [*design indoor temperature* (3.24)]

**3.33****heating surface**

surface (floor, wall, ceiling) covered by the embedded surface heating system between the pipes at the outer edges of the system with the addition of a strip at each edge of width equal to half the *pipe spacing* (3.65), but not exceeding 0,15 m

Note 1 to entry: The cooling surface is similar with the only difference being that it has an embedded surface cooling system.

**3.34****heating surface area** $A_F$ 

area of surface (floor, wall, ceiling) covered by the embedded surface heating system between the pipes at the outer edges of the system with the addition of a strip at each edge of width equal to half the *pipe spacing* (3.65), but not exceeding 0,15 m

Note 1 to entry: The same concept of cooling surface area applies to the embedded cooling system.

**3.35****heating capacity for circuit** $Q_{HC}$ 

heat exchange between a pipe *circuit* (3.6) and the conditioned room

Note 1 to entry: The same concept of cooling capacity for circuit applies to the embedded cooling system.

**3.36****heating medium differential temperature** $\Delta\theta_H$ 

logarithmically determined average difference between the *temperature of the heating medium* (3.83) and the *design indoor temperature* (3.24)

Note 1 to entry: The same concept of cooling medium differential temperature applies to the embedded cooling system.

**3.37****internal convective heat gain**

convective contributions by internal heat gains acting in the room

Note 1 to entry: Mainly due to people or electrical equipment.

**3.38****internal radiant heat gain**

radiant contributions by internal heat gains acting in the room

Note 1 to entry: This is mainly due to people or electrical equipment.

**3.39****internal thermal resistance of the slab conductive region**

total thermal resistance connecting the *pipe level* (3.63) with the middle points of the upper conductive region and lower *conductive region of the slab* (3.9)

**3.40****limit curve**

curve in the field of characteristic curves showing the pattern of the *limit heat flux* (3.41) depending on the *heating medium differential temperature* (3.36) and the floor covering