

## **Fire safety engineering—Design of [Evacuation](#) [Experimentsevacuation experiments](#)**

*Ingénierie de la sécurité incendie—Conception des [exercicesexpériences](#) d'évacuation*

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## Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 92, *Fire safety*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Fire Safety Engineering*.

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).

*This document is dedicated to  
the memory of Guylène PROULX  
for her research on human behaviour in fire*

## Introduction

Performance-based engineering requires analyses of building designthat. Such analyses require a great deal of data about occupant response, movement and behaviour. Data is also collected for the development and validation of model calculations. Empirical data sets are rare and those that exist can be difficult to use in combination.

This document provides guidance in the conduct of evacuation experiments and the collection and coding of data, so that users can understand the context under which the data was collected, and in order to facilitate the use of data setscould more likely be used in combination with each other. Although the development of a repository of data is not part of the scope of this document, the use of a consistent process effor collecting and distilling peer-reviewed reaction, response and movement data will allow the development of such a repository.

This document specifies the techniques used in the collection of evacuation data. It also provides guidance infor documenting the experimentexperiments, so as to provide context and background for the use of the data, andas well as a methodology for the coding of thatthose data.

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# ~~Fire safety engineering~~ — Design of Evacuation Experiments

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification specifies a methodology for the design of experiments conducted in the built environment to collect data on evacuation:

- For use in fire safety engineering
- To compare different evacuation experiments realised in different jurisdictions and conditions
- To study one or more variables
- To have on general overview of an evacuation or to test one or more parameters
- To design safety procedures and training
- To contribute to assessing evacuation plan(s)
- To contribute to reduce uncertainty on the results
- To verify the relevance of preventive measures put in place before and after building design
- To refine software input parameters and make them more realistic
- To compare the results obtained with different software
- To contribute to verifying and validating evacuation models (for example ISO 16730-1)

This document provides guidance in several main areas: initial planning, preparation, the evacuation experiment itself, coding the collected data, data analysis and interpretation and documentation of results.

This document sets out the considerations for an evacuation experiment, including geometry of the space, lighting and environmental conditions, occupant characteristics, cue or alarm used, instrumentation and safety considerations. It discusses performance measurements for the evacuation experiment. The results of any experiment depend on all these factors and their interactions, if any. It does not define a standard evacuation experiment.

The main criterion suggested in this document for evaluating an evacuation is total evacuation time – a parameter of Escape "escape" time as defined in ISO/TR 16738.<sup>[1]</sup> Evacuation time includes pre-travel activity time (often called "pre-movement time")<sup>[2]</sup> and travel time. Escape time depends upon a range of qualitative and quantitative parameters (see ISO/TR 16738). Other possible performance measurands are include walking speeds on horizontal surfaces, stairs and ramps, occupant densities, flows through openings, delays before and during evacuation, exit choice, affiliation, altruism, scepticism, courtesy range, herding behaviour, space occupancy, risk perception, etc. Information on the influence of these parameters on total evacuation time and on understanding human behaviours areis available in ISO/TR 16738, ISO/TS 29761, and SFPE Guide [1].[1].

Instrumentation for measuring walking speeds, densities, delays, etc., is discussed in this document, along with suggested locations for instrumentation. A minimum level of instrumentation is also suggested.

The safety of participants is strongly emphasized in this document.

The evacuation experiments carried out in accordance with this Technical Specification document will allow the comparison of the results of other experiments also realized also with this Technical Specification document and thus, will contribute to increased epistemological knowledge. This would aid in  
will be useful for the development or modification of building regulatory requirements and could provide useful information for assisting in the development or testing of evacuation models.

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