SLOVENSKI STANDARD
oSIST prEN ISO 13943:2026

01-december-2026

Požarna varnost - Slovar (ISO/DIS 13943:2026)

Fire safety - Vocabulary (ISO/DIS 13943:2026)

Brandschutz - Vokabular (ISO/DIS 13943:2026)

Sécurité au feu - Vocabulaire (ISO/DIS 13943:2026)

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ICS:

01.040.13	Okolje. Varovanje zdravja. Varnost (Slovarji)	Environment. Health protection. Safety (Vocabularies)
13.220.01	Varstvo pred požarom na splošno	Protection against fire in general

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DRAFT International Standard

ISO/DIS 13943

Fire safety — Vocabulary

Sécurité au feu — Vocabulaire

ICS: 13.220.01; 01.040.13

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ISO/TC **92**

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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).

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 92, *Fire safety*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 127, *Fire safety in buildings*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

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This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 13943:2023), which has been technically revised.

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

— 55 terms have been added, and several term definitions have been revised.

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Introduction

0.1 General

Over the last two decades, there has been a significant growth in the field of fire safety. There has been a considerable development of fire safety engineering design, especially as it relates to construction projects, as well as the development of concepts related to performance-based design. With this continuing evolution, there is an increasing need for agreement on a common language in the broad and expanding area of fire safety, beyond what has traditionally been limited to the field of fire testing.

The first edition of this document, ISO 13943:2000, contained definitions of about 180 terms. However, the areas of technology that are related to fire safety have continued to evolve rapidly and this edition contains many new terms and their definitions, as well as revised definitions of some of the terms that were in earlier editions.

This document defines general terms in order to establish a vocabulary applicable to fire safety, including fire safety in buildings and civil engineering works and other elements within the built environment. It will be updated as terms and definitions for further concepts in the field of fire safety are agreed upon and developed.

It is important to note that it is possible that some fire safety terms may have a somewhat different interpretation than the one used in this document when used for regulations. In that case, the definition given in this document may not apply.

The terms in this document concern:

— fundamental concepts;

— more specific concepts, such as those used specifically in fire testing or in fire safety engineering and potentially in ISO or IEC International Standards relating to fire; and

— related concepts, such as terms used in building and civil engineering.

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The layout is designed according to ISO 10241-1:2011. The terms are presented in English alphabetical order, and preferred terms are written in bold type, with admitted and deprecated terms listed below in normal type.

0.2 Use of the term “item”

For the purposes of this document, the term “item” (in French “objet”) is used to represent any single object or assembly of objects. It may cover, for example, material, product, assembly, structure or building, as required in the context of any individual definition.

If the “item” under consideration is a test specimen, then the term “test specimen” is used.

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Fire safety — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document defines terminology relating to fire safety as used in ISO and IEC International Standards.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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
abnormal heat
<electrotechnical> heat that is additional to that resulting from use under normal conditions, up to and including that which causes a fire (3.146, 3.147, 3.148, 3.138)

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3.2
absorptivity
ratio of the absorbed radiant heat flux (3.358) to the incident radiative heat flux (3.361)

Note 1 to entry: The absorptivity is dimensionless.

3.3
acceptance criteria
criteria that form the basis for assessing the acceptability of the safety of a design of a built environment (3.36)

Note 1 to entry: The criteria can be qualitative, quantitative or a combination of both.

3.4
accuracy
closeness of the agreement between the result of a measurement and the true value of the measurand

[SOURCE: ASTM E176-2024]

3.5
activation time
time interval from response by a sensing device until the suppression system (3.418), smoke (3.389) control system, alarm system or other fire safety system is fully operational

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3.6
active fire protection
method(s) used to reduce or prevent the spread and effects of fire (3.146, 3.147, 3.148), heat or smoke (3.389) by virtue of detection and/or suppression of the fire and which require a certain amount of motion and/or response to be activated

EXAMPLE The application of agents (e.g. halon gas or water spray) to the *fire* (3.146) or the control of ventilation and/or smoke.

Note 1 to entry: Compare with the terms passive fire protection (3.328) and suppression systems (3.418).

3.7
actual delivered density
ADD
rate at which water is deposited from an operating sprinkler onto the top horizontal surface of a simulated burning combustible array

Note 1 to entry: ADD is typically determined relative to a specific *heat release rate* (3.245) of a *fire* (3.146).

Note 2 to entry: The typical unit is $mm \cdot min^{-1}$.

[SOURCE: ISO 6182-1:2021; 4.1.1]

3.8
acute effect
sharp or severe effect

Note 1 to entry: Compare with the term chronic effect (3.57).

Note 2 to entry: Generally used in reference to human health effects.

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3.9
acute toxicity
toxicity (3.450) that causes rapidly occurring toxic (3.458) effects

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Note 1 to entry: Compare with the term toxic potency (3.447).

3.10
aerosol
suspension of droplets (3.94) and/or solid particles in a gas phase which are generated by *fire* (3.146)

Note 1 to entry: The size of the droplets or particles typically ranges from under 10 nm to over 10 µm.

Note 2 to entry: Compare with the term droplets.

3.11
aerosol particles
individual piece of solid material that is part of the dispersed phase in an *aerosol* (3.10)

Note 1 to entry: There are two categories of *fire* (3.146) aerosol particles: unburned or partially burned particles containing a high proportion of carbon (i.e. "soot"; 3.397), and relatively completely combusted, small particle sized *"ashes"* (3.24). Soot particles of small diameter, (i.e. about 1 µm), typically consist of small elementary spheres of between 10 nm and 50 nm in diameter. Formation of soot particles is dependent on many parameters including nucleation, agglomeration and surface growth. Oxidation (3.324) of soot particles, i.e. further combustion (3.62), is also possible.

3.12
afterflame
flame (3.186) that persists after the ignition source (3.244) has been removed

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3.13
afterflame time
length of time for which an *afterflame* (3.12) persists under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: Compare with the term duration of flaming (3.95).

3.14
afterglow
persistence of glowing combustion (3.221) after both removal of the ignition source (3.244) and the cessation of any flaming combustion (3.197)

3.15
afterglow time
length of time for which an *afterglow* (3.14) persists under specified conditions

3.16
agent-based model
computational model for simulating the actions and interactions of autonomous agents using a set of rules

[SOURCE: ISO 20414:2020, 3.4]

3.17
agent outlet
orifice of a piping system by means of which an extinguishing fluid can be applied towards the source of a *fire* (3.146)

3.18
alarm time
time interval between ignition (3.242) of a *fire* (3.148) and activation of an alarm

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Note 1 to entry: The time of ignition can be known, for example, in the case of a fire model (3.160) or a *fire test* (3.192), or it can be assumed, for example, it can be based on an estimate working back from the time of detection. The basis on which the time of ignition is determined is always stated when the alarm time is specified.

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3.19
alight
lit, adj. CA, US
lighted
undergoing combustion (3.62)

3.20
analyte
substance that is identified or quantified in a specimen (3.400) during an analysis

3.21
arc resistance
<electrotechnical> ability of an electrically insulating material to resist the influence of an electric arc, under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: The arc resistance is identified by the length of the arc, the absence or presence of a conducting path, and the burning or damage of the test *specimen* (3.444).

3.22
area burning rate
DEPRECATED: burning rate
DEPRECATED: rate of burning
area of material burned (3.38) per unit time under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: The typical unit is $m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$.

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3.23
arson
crime of setting a *fire* (3.148), usually with intent to cause damage

3.24
ash
ashes
mineral residue resulting from complete combustion (3.66)

3.25
asphyxiant
toxicant (3.449) that causes hypoxia, which can result in central nervous system depression or cardiovascular effects

3.26
atmospheric transmissivity
ratio of the transmitted radiation (3.359) intensity after passing through unit length of a participating medium (carbon dioxide, water vapour, dust and fog) to the radiation intensity that would have passed the same distance through clean air

[SOURCE: ISO 24678-7:2019, 3.8]

3.27
attended control room
control room (attended) (3.74)

3.28
auto-ignition
spontaneous ignition
self-ignition
unpiloted ignition
DEPRECATED: spontaneous combustion
ignition (3.242) caused by an internal exothermic reaction

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Note 1 to entry: The ignition can be caused either by self-heating (3.383) or, in the case of unpiloted ignition, by heating from an external source, as long as the external source does not include an open flame (3.186).

Note 2 to entry: In North America, “spontaneous ignition” is the preferred term used to designate ignition caused by self-heating.

Note 3 to entry: Compare with the terms piloted ignition (3.334) and spontaneous ignition temperature (3.406).

3.29
auto-ignition temperature
DEPRECATED: self-ignition temperature
minimum temperature at which *auto-ignition* (3.28) is obtained in a *fire test* (3.192)

Note 1 to entry: The typical unit is °C.

Note 2 to entry: Compare with the term spontaneous ignition temperature (3.406).

3.30
available safe escape time
ASET
time available for escape
calculated time interval between the time of ignition (3.242) and the time at which conditions become such that the occupant (3.321) is estimated to be incapacitated, i.e. unable to take effective action to escape (3.114) to a safe refuge (3.376) or place of safety (3.335)

Note 1 to entry: The time of ignition can be known, for example, in the case of a fire model (3.160) or a *fire test* (3.192), or it can be assumed, for example, it can be based on an estimate working back from the time of detection. The basis on which the time of ignition is determined needs to be stated.

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Note 2 to entry: This definition equates incapacitation (3.250) with failure to escape. Other criteria for ASET are possible. If an alternate criterion is selected, it needs to be stated.

Note 3 to entry: Each occupant may have a different value of ASET, depending on that occupant's personal characteristics.

3.31
backdraft
rapid flaming combustion (3.197) caused by the sudden introduction of air into a confined oxygen-deficient space that contains hot products of incomplete combustion (3.62)

Note 1 to entry: In some cases, these conditions may result in an explosion (3.122).

3.32
behavioural scenario
description of the behaviour of occupants (3.321) during the course of a *fire* (3.148)

3.33
behavioural uncertainty
uncertainty (3.459) in evacuation (3.115) scenarios associated with the impact of human behaviour in fire (3.235) during evacuation

[SOURCE: ISO 20414:2020, 3.7]

3.34
black body
form that completely absorbs any electromagnetic radiation (3.359) falling upon it

3.35
black body radiation source
ideal thermal radiation (3.437) source which completely absorbs all incident heat radiation (3.359), whatever wavelength and direction

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Note 1 to entry: The emissivity (3.103) of a black body radiation source is unity.

Note 2 to entry: A *black body* (3.34) can also be an ideal radiator of energy.

[SOURCE: ISO 14934-1:2010, 3.1.7, modified — original Notes 1 and 2 to entry have been removed. New Notes 1 and 2 to entry have been added.]

3.36
building element
integral part of a *built environment* (3.37)

Note 1 to entry: This includes floors, walls, beams, columns, doors and penetrations, but does not include contents.

Note 2 to entry: This definition is wider in its scope than that given in ISO 6707-1.

3.37
built environment
building or other structure

EXAMPLE Off-shore platforms, civil engineering works such as tunnels, bridges and mines, and means of transportation such as motor vehicles and marine vessels.

Note 1 to entry: ISO 6707-1 contains a number of terms and definitions for concepts related to the built environment.

3.38
buoyant plume
convective updraft of fluid above a heat source

Note 1 to entry: Compare with the term fire plume (3.162).

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3.39
burn, intransitive verb
undergo combustion (3.62)

3.40
burn, transitive verb
cause combustion (3.62)

3.41
burned area
that part of the damaged area (3.79) of a material that has been destroyed by combustion (3.62) or pyrolysis (3.355), under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: The typical unit is m2.

3.42
burned length
maximum extent in a specified direction of the *burned area* (3.41)

Note 1 to entry: The typical unit is m.

Note 2 to entry: Compare with the term damaged length (3.80).

3.43
burning behaviour
response of a test *specimen* (3.444), when it burns (3.38) under specified conditions, to examination of reaction to fire (3.364) or fire resistance (3.165)

Note 1 to entry: In the US the burning behaviour in a *fire test* (3.192) is designated as fire-test-response characteristic while the burning behaviour in an accidental *fire* (3.148) is designated as fire performance.

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3.44
burning debris
burning material which has detached from a burning item or test *specimen* (3.444) during a fire (3.146, 3.147, 3.148) or *fire test* (3.192) and continues to *burn* (3.39) on the floor

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Note 1 to entry: See *flaming debris* (3.212).

Note 2 to entry: Compare with the terms *dropping droplet* (3.45), *flaming debris* (3.212) and *flaming droplet* (3.213).

3.45
dropping droplet
flaming (3.210) molten or flaming liquefied drop which falls from a test *specimen* (3.444) during a *fire test* (3.192) and continues to *burn* (3.39) on the floor

Note 1 to entry: See *flaming droplet* (3.213).

Note 2 to entry: Compare with the terms *flaming debris* (3.212) and *burning debris* (3.44).

3.46
bursting
violent rupture of an object due to an overpressure within it or upon it

3.47
bushfire
unplanned *fire* (3.148) in a vegetated area

Note 1 to entry: This term is used primarily, but not exclusively, in Australia, New Zealand, and Africa.

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 24188:2022, 3.1.1, modified — "as opposed to an urban area" and Notes 2 and 3 to entry have been removed.]

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3.48
calibration
<fire models> process of adjusting modelling parameters in a computational fire model (3.160) for the purpose of improving agreement with experimental data

3.49
calibration related to fire modelling
process of adjusting modelling parameters in a computational model for the purpose of improving agreement with experimental data

3.50
calorimeter
apparatus that measures heat

Note 1 to entry: Compare with the terms heat release rate calorimeter (3.231) and mass calorimeter (3.286).

3.51
carboxyhaemoglobin
compound formed when CO combines with haemoglobin

Note 1 to entry: Haemoglobin has an affinity for binding to CO that is approximately 245 times higher than that for binding to oxygen. Therefore, the ability of haemoglobin to carry oxygen is seriously compromised during CO poisoning.

3.52
carboxyhaemoglobin saturation
percentage of blood haemoglobin converted to *carboxyhaemoglobin* (3.51) from the reversible reaction with inhaled carbon monoxide

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3.53
ceiling jet
gas motion in a hot gas layer near a ceiling that is generated by the buoyancy of a fire plume (3.162) that is impinging upon the ceiling

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3.54
char, noun
carbonaceous residue resulting from pyrolysis (3.355) or incomplete combustion (3.62)

3.55
char, verb
form *char* (3.54)

3.56
char length
length of charred area

Note 1 to entry: Compare with the terms burned length (3.41) and damaged length (3.80).

Note 2 to entry: In some standards, char length is defined by a specific test method.

3.57
chimney effect
upward movement of hot *fire effluent* (3.158) caused by *convection* (3.76) currents confined within an essentially vertical *enclosure* (3.112)

Note 1 to entry: This usually draws more air into the *fire* (3.146).

3.58
chronic effect
continuing over a long time period or recurring at low levels frequently

Note 1 to entry: Compare with the term *acute effect* (3.8).

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