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EGOLF POSITION PAPER 001-2012

Subject of Position Paper (max. 60 characters)	Revision of non-combustibility test method
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Problem

The non-combustibility test method is an old and internationally highly recognized test method with a widespread use. The method is used for classifying products in A1 and A2 according to EN 13501-1. During 2010 and 2011 EGOLF performed a round robin exercise on the EN ISO 1182 non-combustibility test where 28 laboratories participated. The tested materials were calcium silicate and mineral wool.

The results from the round robin show that both repeatability and reproducibility for the temperature measurements in this test method are rather poor. The repeatability and reproducibility are, however, roughly at the same level as for round robin data presented in the standard for the different measured parameters. 89 % of the results on calcium silicate and 86 % of the results from the mineral wool resulted in an A1 classification, while the rest were classified as A2 or ended as unclassified (results from the other test methods required for classification - EN ISO 1716 and EN 13823 - are not regarded here).

The participants in the round robin are considered to have performed the tests satisfactorily, following the standard and with results within acceptable limits. The problem seems to lie in the test itself. There are many factors that may affect the thermal conditions in the test furnace significantly that are difficult to control, i.e. positioning of thermocouples during calibration and testing, the influence of the specimen on thermal conditions and temperature measurements etc.

Proposal

EGOLF will therefore recommend that CEN/TC 127 assesses the possibility to revise and improve the test method, to obtain a better repeatability and reproducibility of the test results.