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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT  
OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the  
Transport of Dangerous Goods**  
(Eighteenth session, 3-14 July 2000,  
agenda item 6 (c))

**GLOBAL HARMONIZATION OF SYSTEMS OF CLASSIFICATION  
AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS**

**Physical hazards**

**Proposal from the Chemical Specialities Manufacturers Association (CSMA)  
and the Federation of European Aerosol Associations (FEA)**

FEA and CSMA, representing the European and the United States Aerosol Industry respectively, are pleased to enclose as annexes 1, 2 and 3 Test Methods (Enclosed Space Ignition Test, Determination of the Ignition Distance of the Spray Jet, and Aerosol Foam Flammability Test) that can be used as background to the discussion on the global harmonization of flammability criteria for aerosols.

## **Annex 1**

### **Proposal for enclosed space ignition test**

#### **OBJECTIVE & SCOPE**

This test standard describes the method to assess the flammability of products emerging from aerosol dispensers due to their propensity to ignite in an enclosed or confined space.

#### **PRINCIPLE**

The contents of an aerosol dispenser are sprayed into a cylindrical test vessel containing a burning candle. If an observable ignition occurs, the elapsed time and amount discharged is noted.

#### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Before testing, each aerosol dispenser should be conditioned and then primed by discharging for approximately 1 second. The purpose of this action is to remove non-homogeneous material from the diptube.

Follow strictly the instructions of use. When shaking is required, shake immediately before testing.

The tests should be carried out in a draught-free environment capable of ventilation, with the temperature controlled at  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and relative humidity in the range 30 - 80%.

#### **EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • Chronometer (stopwatch)                       | accurate to $\pm 0.2$ s             |
| • Water bath maintained at $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| • Calibrated laboratory scales (balance)        | accurate to $\pm 0.1$ g             |
| • Thermometer                                   | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| • Hygrometer                                    | accurate to $\pm 5\%$               |
| • Pressure gauge                                | accurate to $\pm 0.1$ Bar           |
| • Cylindrical test vessel                       | as detailed below                   |

#### **Preparation of Test Apparatus**

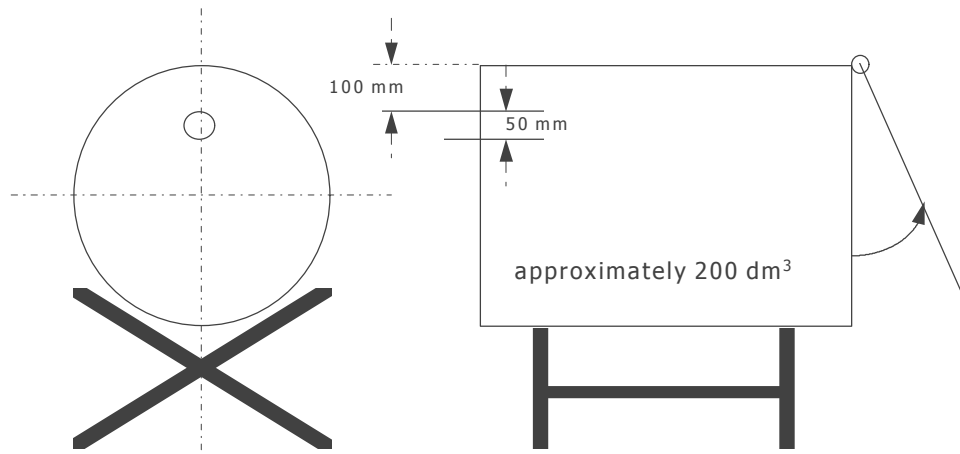
A cylindrical vessel approximately  $200\text{ dm}^3$  (55 gallons) volume, approximately 600 mm in diameter and approximately 720 mm long and open at one end should be modified as follows:

- A closure system consisting of a hinged cover should be matched to the open end of the receptacle, or:
- A plastic film 0.01 to 0.02 mm thick may be used as a closure system. If the test is carried out with a plastic film this must be used as described below:

## Annex 1

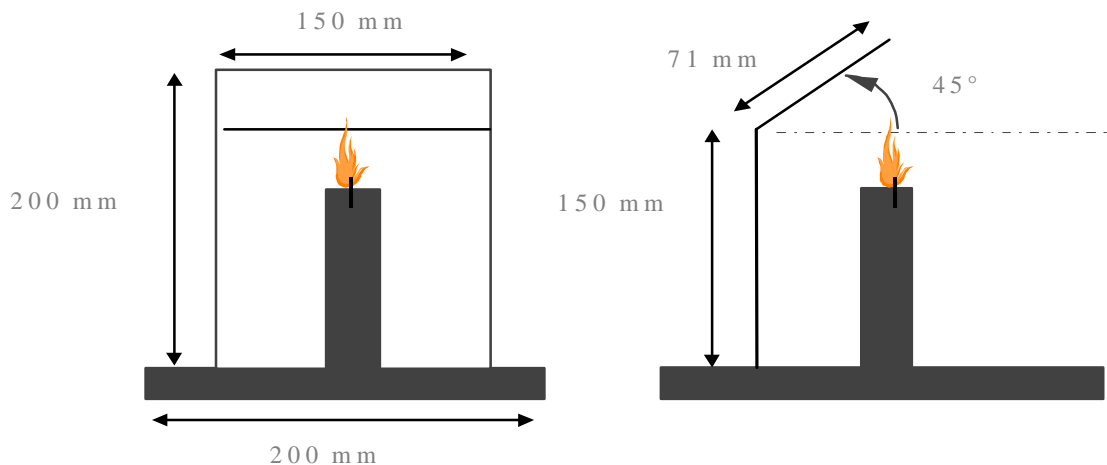
Stretch the film over the open end of the drum and hold it in place with an elastic band. The strength of the band should be such that when placed around the drum resting on its side, it stretches by only 25 mm when a weight of 0.45 kg is attached to its lowest point. Cut a 25 mm slit in the film, starting 50 mm from the edge of the drum. Ensure that the film is taut.

At the other end of the drum, drill a 50 mm diameter hole 100 mm from the edge in such a way that the orifice is uppermost when the receptacle is laid down and ready for the test (Figure 1).



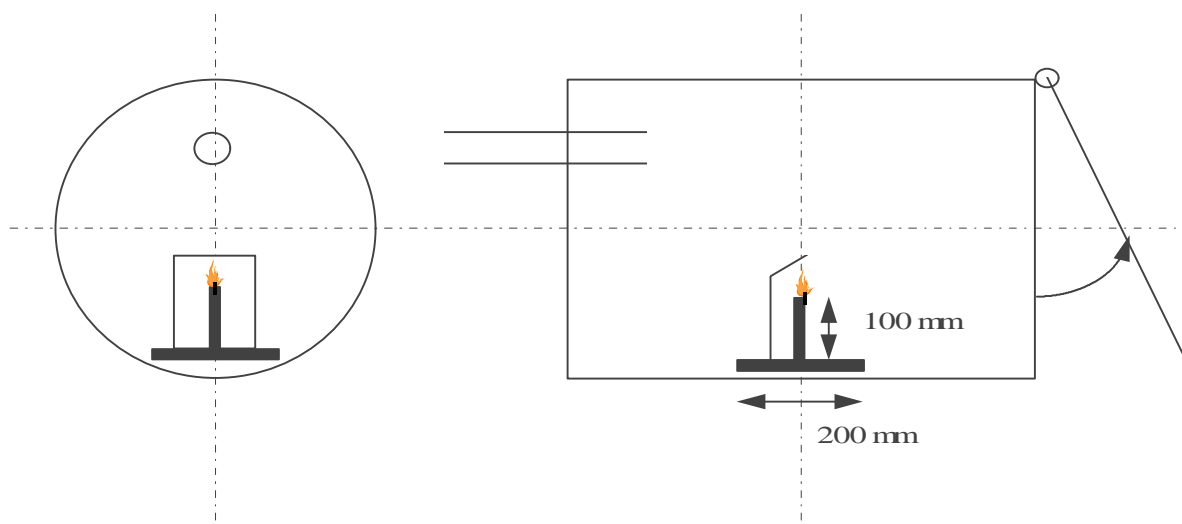
**Figure 1**

On a 200 x 200 mm metal support place a paraffin wax candle 20 to 40 mm in diameter and 100 mm high. The candle shall be replaced when having a height of less than 80 mm. The candle's flame is protected from the action of the spray by a 150 mm wide, 200 mm high deflector. This includes the plane inclined at 45° produced 150 mm from the base of the deflector (Figure 2).



**Figure 2**

The candle placed on the metal support should be positioned midway between the two ends of the drum (Figure 3).

**Figure 3**

The drum is laid on the ground or on a support at a spot where the temperature is between 15°C and 25°C. The product to be tested will be sprayed within the drum of roughly 200 cubic dm in which there will be a source of ignition

Usually, the product leaves the aerosol can at an angle of 90° relevant to the vertical axis of the can. The layout and procedure described refers to this kind of aerosol product. In the case of unusually operating aerosols (e.g. vertical-spray aerosol dispensers) it will be necessary to record changes to equipment and procedures in accordance with GLP, such as ISO/IEC 17025:1999 (General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories).

## TEST PROCEDURE

1. A minimum of 3 full aerosol dispensers per product shall be conditioned to  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a water bath with at least 95% of the dispenser immersed in the water for at least 30 minutes (If the aerosol is fully immersed, 30 mins conditioning is sufficient).
2. Measure or calculate the actual volume of the drum in  $\text{dm}^3$ .
3. Comply with General Requirements. Record the temperature and relative humidity of the environment.

4. Determine the internal pressure and initial discharge rate at  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  (to eliminate faulty or partly filled aerosol dispensers).
5. Weigh one of the aerosol dispensers and note its weight
6. Light the candle and apply the closure system (cover or plastic film).
7. Place the aerosol dispenser actuator orifice 35 mm, or closer for a wide spray product, from the centre of the entrance hole in the drum. Start the chronometer (stopwatch) and following the instructions for use of the product, direct the spray towards the centre of the opposite extremity (cover or plastic film).
8. Spray until ignition occurs. Stop the chronometer and note the time elapsed. Re-weigh the aerosol dispenser and note its weight.
9. Ventilate and clean the drum removing any residue likely to affect subsequent tests. Allow the drum to cool if necessary.
10. Repeat the test procedure steps 4 to 9 for another two aerosol dispensers of the same product (3 in total, note: each dispenser is only tested once).

## REMARKS

The test report must include the following information:

- The product tested and its references
- The internal pressure and discharge rate of the aerosol dispenser
- The temperature and relative air humidity of the room
- For each test, the discharge time (seconds) needed to achieve ignition (If the product does not ignite, state this)
- The mass of the product sprayed during each test, expressed in g
- The actual volume of the drum (expressed in  $\text{dm}^3$ )

The time equivalent ( $t_{\text{eq}}$ ) needed to achieve ignition in one cubic metre can be calculated where:

$$t_{\text{eq}} = \frac{1000 \times \text{discharge time (s)}}{\text{Actual volume of drum (dm}^3\text{)}}$$

The deflagration density ( $D_{\text{def}}$ ) needed to achieve ignition during the test may also be calculated where

$$D_{\text{def}} = \frac{1000 \times \text{Amount of product dispensed (g)}}{\text{Actual volume of drum (dm}^3\text{)}}$$

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Annex 2**

### **Determination of the ignition distance OF THE SPRAY JET**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

This Test Standard describes the method to determine the ignition distance of an aerosol spray in order to assess the associated flame risk

#### **PRINCIPLE**

An aerosol is sprayed in the direction of an ignition source at intervals of 15cm to observe if ignition and sustained combustion of the spray takes place.

Ignition and sustained combustion is defined as when a stable flame is maintained for 5 seconds.

The ignition source is defined as a gas burner with a blue, non-luminous flame 4-5 cm in height.

#### **SCOPE**

This test is applicable to aerosol products with a spray distance of 15 cm or more. Aerosol products with a spray distance of less than 15cm such as: dispensing foams, mousses and gels or fitted with a metering valve are excluded from this test. Aerosol products that dispense foams, mousses or gels are subject to testing under the Aerosol Foam Flammability Test.

#### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Before testing, each aerosol dispenser should be conditioned and then primed by discharging for approximately 1 second. The purpose of this action is to remove non-homogeneous material from the diptube.

Follow strictly the instructions of use. When shaking is required, shake immediately before testing.

The tests should be carried out in a draught-free environment capable of ventilation, with the temperature controlled at  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and relative humidity in the range 30 - 80%.

#### **EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Water bath maintained at $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . |
| • Calibrated laboratory scales (balance)        | accurate to $\pm 0.1\text{g}$         |
| • Chronometer (stopwatch)                       | accurate to $\pm 0.2\text{s}$         |
| • Graduated scale, support and clamp            | graduations in cm                     |
| • Gas burner with support and clamp.            |                                       |
| • Thermometer                                   | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$   |

- Hygrometer accurate to  $\pm 5\%$
- Pressure gauge accurate to  $\pm 0.1$  Bar

## TESTING

Each aerosol dispenser is to be tested:

- when full according to the complete procedure, with the gas burner in the range of 15 – 90 cm distance from the actuator of the aerosol can
- when 10 -12% full nominal (% by weight) only one test, either at 15 cm distance from the actuator when the spray from a full can did not ignite at all, or at the Flame Ignition Distance of the spray of a full can plus 15 cm

Can position during the test to be as per label instructions. The ignition source will be positioned accordingly.

The following procedure requires testing the spray at intervals of 15 cm between the burner flame and the aerosol actuator, in the range of 15 – 90 cm. It is efficient to start at 60 cm distance between burner flame and aerosol actuator. The distance between burner flame and aerosol actuator should be increased by 15 cm in the case of an ignition of the spray at 60 cm distance. The distance should be decreased by 15 cm in the case of no ignition at 60 cm distance between burner flame and aerosol actuator. The aim of the procedure is to determine the maximum distance between aerosol actuator and burner flame that leads to sustained combustion of the spray or to determine that ignition could not be obtained at 15 cm distance between the burner flame and the aerosol s actuator.

## TEST PROCEDURE

1. A minimum of 3 full aerosol dispensers per product shall be conditioned to  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  with at least 95% of the dispenser immersed in the water for at least 30 minutes before each test (If the aerosol is fully immersed, 30 mins conditioning is sufficient).
2. Comply with General Requirements. Record the temperature and relative humidity of the environment.
3. Weigh an aerosol dispenser and note its weight.
4. Determine the internal pressure and initial discharge rate at  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  (to eliminate faulty or partly filled aerosol dispensers).
5. Support the gas burner on a flat horizontal surface or fix the burner to a support by means of a clamp.
6. Ignite the gas burner; the flame shall be non-luminous and approximately 4-5 cm high.
7. Place the actuator's exit orifice at the required distance from the flame.

8. Level the actuator's orifice and burner flame, ensuring that the orifice is properly directed towards and aligned with the flame (see Figure 1). The spray shall be expelled through the top half of the flame.
9. Comply with the general requirements regarding shaking of the dispenser.
10. Actuate the valve of the aerosol dispenser, to discharge its contents for 5 seconds, unless ignition occurs. If ignition occurs, continue discharging and time the duration of the flame for 5 seconds, from the start of ignition.
11. Note the ignition results for the distance between the gas burner and the aerosol dispenser in the table provided.
12. Repeat steps 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 twice more (a total of 3) for the same can at the same distance between the gas burner and the aerosol actuator.
13. Repeat the test procedure for another two aerosol cans of the same product at the same distance between gas burner and aerosol actuator.
14. Repeat steps 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the test procedure at a distance between 15 and 90 cm between the actuator of the aerosol can and the burner flame depending on the outcome of each test (*see also the paragraph on TESTING*).
15. If no ignition occurs at 15 cm, the procedure is finished for initially full cans. The procedure is also finished when ignition and sustained combustion is obtained at a distance of 90 cm. If ignition could not be obtained at 15 cm distance, record that ignition did not occur. The maximum distance between burner flame and the aerosol's actuator for which an ignition and sustained combustion was observed is noted as the Ignition Distance, in all other circumstances.
16. One test should also be conducted on 3 cans of 10 - 12% nominal fill level. These cans should be tested at a distance between the aerosol's actuator and the burner flame of "the Flame Ignition Distance of full cans + 15 cm".
17. Discharge an aerosol can to a 10 - 12% nominal fill level (by weight) in bursts of 30 seconds maximum. Observe a 300 seconds minimum time period between bursts. During this interim period dispensers should be placed in the water bath for conditioning.
18. Repeat steps 7 to 13 for 10 - 12% nominal fill aerosol cans, omitting step 12.
19. Record all results in the Table 1 as shown below.

## REMARKS

Perform all experiments in a fume hood in a room that may be well-ventilated. Ventilation of the fume hood and room can be applied for at least 3 minutes after each test. Take all necessary safety precautions to prevent the inhalation of combustion products.

The cans with a 10-12% nominal fill level are tested only once. The result tables needs only 1 result per can indicated.



Table 1

Date		Temperature °C									
		Relative Humidity %									
Name of Product											
Net Volume			Can 1			Can 2			Can 3		
Initial Level of filling			%			%			%		
Dispenser Distance		Test	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
15 cm		Ignition? Y or N									
30 cm		Ignition? Y or N									
45 cm		Ignition? Y or N									
60 cm		Ignition? Y or N									
75 cm		Ignition? Y or N									
90 cm		Ignition? Y or N									
Observations											

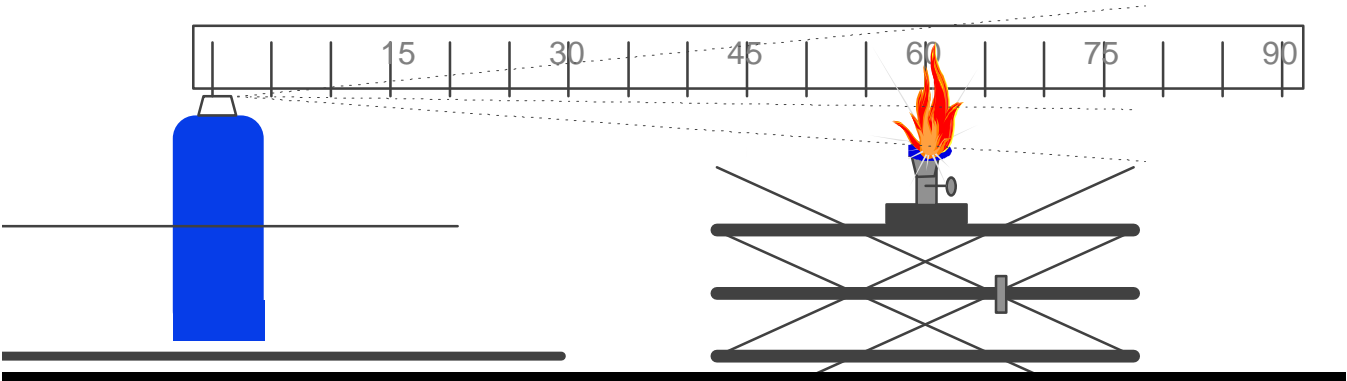


Figure 1

## **Annex 3**

# **Aerosol foam flammability test**

## **OBJECTIVE**

This test standard describes the method to determine the flammability of an aerosol spray emitted in the form of a foam, mousse, gel or paste.

## **PRINCIPLE**

An aerosol which emits a foam, mousse, gel or paste is sprayed (approx. 5 grams) on a watchglass and an ignition source (candle, wax taper, match or lighter) is placed at the base of the watchglass to observe ignition and sustained combustion of the foam, mousse, gel or paste.

Ignition is defined as a stable flame maintained for  $\geq 2$  seconds.

## **SCOPE**

This method can be used for aerosols which are emitted in the form of a foam, mousse, gel or paste.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Before testing, each aerosol dispenser should be conditioned and then primed by discharging for approximately 1 second. The purpose of this action is to remove non-homogeneous material from the diptube.

Follow strictly the instructions of use. When shaking is required, shake immediately before testing.

The tests must be carried out in a draught-free environment capable of ventilation, with the temperature controlled at  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and relative humidity in the range of 30 – 80%.

## **EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS**

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| • Graduated scale, support and clamp                   | gradations in cm        |
| • Fire-resistant watchglass roughly 150 mm in diameter |                         |
| • Chronometer (stopwatch)                              | accurate to $\pm 0.2$ s |
| • Candle, wax taper, match or lighter                  |                         |
| • Calibrated laboratory scales (balance)               | accurate to $\pm 0.1$ g |

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Water bath maintained at 20° C | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| • Thermometer                    | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| • Hygrometer                     | accurate to $\pm 5\%$               |
| • Pressure gauge                 | accurate to $\pm 0.1$ Bar           |

The watchglass is placed on a fire-resistant surface within a draught-free area that may be ventilated after each test. The graduated scale is positioned exactly behind the watchglass and held vertically by means of a support and clamp.

The scale is positioned in such a way that its origin is on a level with the watchglass base in a horizontal plane.

## TEST PROCEDURE

1. A minimum of four full aerosol dispensers per product shall be conditioned to  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  with at least 95% of the dispenser immersed in the water for at least 30 minutes before each test (If the aerosol is fully immersed, 30 mins conditioning is sufficient).
2. Comply with General Requirements. Record the temperature and relative humidity of the environment.
3. Determine the internal pressure at  $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  (to eliminate faulty or partly filled aerosol dispensers).
4. Measure the discharge or flow rate of the aerosol product to be examined, so that the amount of test product dispensed can be more accurately gauged.
5. Weigh one of the aerosol dispensers and note its weight.
6. On the basis of the measured discharge or flow rate, and following the manufacturer's instructions, release approximately 5 g of the product onto the center of the clean watchglass with the aim of producing a mound no higher than 25mm.
7. Within 5 seconds of completion of discharge, apply the source of ignition to the edge of the sample at its base and at the same time start the chronometer (stopwatch).
8. If ignition occurs note the following points:
  - The maximum height of the flame in cm above the base of the watchglass
  - The flame duration in seconds
  - Dry and re-weigh the aerosol dispenser and calculate the mass of the released product
9. Ventilate the test area immediately after each test.
10. If ignition is not obtained and the released product remains in the form of a foam or paste throughout its period of use, Steps 5 to 9 should be repeated after 30 sec, 1 min, 2 min and 4 min.

11. Repeat the test procedure steps 5 to 10 twice more (a total of 3) for the same can.
12. Repeat the test procedure steps 5 to 11 for another two aerosol cans (3 cans in total) of the same product.

## REMARKS

The test report should include the following information:

- whether the product ignites
  - maximum flame height in cm;
  - duration of flame in seconds;
  - the mass of the product tested.
-