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BSI Standards Publication

Thermal solar systems and components — Factory made systems

Part 1: General requirements

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 12976-1:2021. It supersedes BS EN 12976-1:2017, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee RHE/25, Solar Heating.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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English Version

Thermal solar systems and components - Factory made systems - Part 1: General requirements

Installations solaires thermiques et leurs composants -
Installations préfabriquées en usine - Partie 1 :
Exigences générales

Thermische Solaranlagen und ihre Bauteile -
Vorgefertigte Anlagen - Teil 1: Allgemeine
Anforderungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 14 January 2019.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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European foreword

This document (EN 12976-1:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 312 "Thermal solar systems and components", the secretariat of which is held by ELOT.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2022.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 12976-1:2017.

The first edition of the EN 12976 series was published in 2000. The standard series provided an important basis for the assessment of the performance as well as the reliability and durability of Factory made solar thermal systems. In the past 15 years or so, several important technological developments and changes of the framework conditions, such as e.g. the aspect of requiring "Energy Labelling", the EN 12976 series underwent several important changes.

The following modifications are the most important ones that have been implemented in this new edition of EN 12976-1:

- Electrical safety: If the system contains any electrical devices, these shall conform to EN 60335-1 and EN 60335-2 (relevant parts) thus providing the scope due to different sub standards for pumps (EN 60335-2-41 / EN 60335-2-51), heat pumps (EN 60335-2-40, maybe relevant for the future) and maybe other devices in the future.
- safety valves: new requirement that safety valves shall conform with EN 1489;
- resistance to external influences: consideration that the solar components can impact on the performance and durability of essential building elements, e.g. roofs and facades;
- labelling: harmonization with Energy-Related Products Directive (ErP Directive 2009/125/EC);
- Annex C (new): definition of system families; possible range of variations within one system type.

EN 12976, *Thermal solar systems and components — Factory made systems*, is currently composed with the following parts:

- *Part 1: General requirements;*
- *Part 2: Test methods.*

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of

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North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

Drinking water quality:

In respect of potential adverse effects on the quality of water intended for human consumption, caused by the product covered by this standard:

- a) this standard provides no information as to whether the product may be used without restriction in any of the Member States of the EU or EFTA;
- b) it should be noted that, while awaiting the adoption of verifiable European criteria, existing national regulations concerning the use and/or the characteristics of this product remain in force.

Factory Made and Custom Built solar heating systems:

The standards EN 12976-1, EN 12976-2, EN 12977-1, EN 12977-2, EN 12977-3, EN 12977-4 and EN 12977-5 distinguish two categories of solar heating systems: **Factory Made** solar heating systems and **Custom Built** solar heating systems. The classification of a system as Factory Made or Custom Built is a choice of the final supplier, in accordance with the following definitions.

Factory Made solar heating systems are batch products with one trade name, sold as complete and ready to install kits, with fixed configurations. Systems of this category are considered as a single product and assessed as a whole.

If a Factory Made Solar Heating System is modified by changing its configuration or by changing one or more of its components, the modified system is considered as a new system for which a new test report is necessary. Requirements and test methods for Factory Made solar heating systems are given in EN 12976-1 and EN 12976-2.

Custom Built solar heating systems are either uniquely built, or assembled by choosing from an assortment of components. Systems of this category are regarded as a set of components. The components are separately tested and test results are integrated to an assessment of the whole system. Requirements for Custom Built solar heating systems are given in EN 12977-1; test methods are specified in EN 12977-2, EN 12977-3, EN 12977-4 and EN 12977-5. Custom Built solar heating systems are subdivided into two categories:

- **Large Custom Built systems** are uniquely designed for a specific situation. In general HVAC engineers, manufacturers or other experts design them.
- **Small Custom Built systems** offered by a company are described in a so-called assortment file, in which all components and possible system configurations, marketed by the company, are specified. Each possible combination of a system configuration with components from the assortment is considered as **one** Custom Built system.

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Table 1 shows the division for different system types:

Table 1 — Division for factory made and custom built solar heating systems

Factory Made Solar Heating Systems (EN 12976-1 and EN 12976-2)	Custom Built Solar Heating Systems (EN 12977-1, EN 12977-2, EN 12977-3, EN 12977-4 and EN 12977-5)
Integrated collector storage systems for domestic hot water preparation	Forced-circulation systems for hot water preparation and/or space heating, assembled using components and configurations described in an assortment file (mostly small systems)
Thermosiphon systems for domestic hot water preparation	
Forced-circulation systems as batch product with fixed configuration for domestic hot water preparation	Uniquely designed and assembled systems for hot water preparation and/or space heating (mostly large systems)

NOTE Forced circulation systems can be classified either as Factory Made or as Custom Built, depending on the market approach chosen by the final supplier.

Both Factory Made and Custom Built systems are performance tested under the same set of reference conditions as specified in EN 12976-2:2019, Annex B, and in EN 12977-2:2012, Annex A. In practice, the installation conditions may differ from these reference conditions.

A Factory Made system for domestic hot water preparation may have an option for space heating, however this option should not be used or considered during testing as a Factory Made system.

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1 Scope

This document specifies requirements on durability, reliability and safety for factory made solar heating systems. The document also includes provisions for evaluation of conformity to these requirements (see Annex A). The concept of system families is included as well, in Annex C.

The requirements in this document apply to factory made solar systems as products. The installation of these systems including their integration with roofs or facades is not considered, but requirements are given for the documentation for the installer and the user to be delivered with the system (see also 4.6).

External auxiliary water heating devices that are placed in series with the factory made system are not considered to be part of the system. Cold water piping from the cold water grid to the system as well as piping from the system to an external auxiliary heater or to draw-off points is not considered to be part of the system. Piping between components of the factory made system is considered to be part of the system. Any integrated heat exchanger or piping for space heating option (see Introduction, last paragraph) is not considered to be part of the system.

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.

EN 806-1, *Specifications for installations inside buildings conveying water for human consumption - Part 1: General*

EN 806-2, *Specification for installations inside buildings conveying water for human consumption - Part 2: Design*

EN 809, *Pumps and pump units for liquids - Common safety requirements*

EN 1489, *Building valves - Pressure safety valves - Tests and requirements*

EN 1490, *Building valves - Combined temperature and pressure relief valves - Tests and requirements*

EN 1991-1-1, *Eurocode 1: Actions on structures - Part 1-1: General actions - Densities, self-weight, imposed loads for buildings*

EN 1991-1-3:2003,¹ *Eurocode 1 - Actions on structures - Part 1-3: General actions - Snow loads*

EN 1991-1-4, *Eurocode 1: Actions on structures - Part 1-4: General actions - Wind actions*

EN 1993-1-1, *Eurocode 3: Design of steel structures - Part 1-1: General rules and rules for buildings*

EN 1999-1-1, *Eurocode 9: Design of aluminium structures - Part 1-1: General structural rules*

EN 12897, *Water supply - Specification for indirectly heated unvented (closed) storage water heaters*

EN 12975-1:2006+A1:2010, *Thermal solar systems and components - Solar collectors - Part 1: General requirements*

EN 12976-2:2019, *Thermal solar systems and components - Factory made systems - Part 2: Test methods*

¹ As impacted by EN 1991-1-3:2003/AC:2009 and EN 1991-1-3:2003/A1:2015 .