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Solid biofuels — Safety of solid biofuel pellets — Safe handling and storage of wood pellets in residential and other small-scale applications

Biocombustibles solides — Sécurité des granulés de biocombustible solide — Manutention et stockage en toute sécurité des granulés de bois dans des applications résidentielles et autres applications à petite échelle



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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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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 238, *Solid biofuels*.

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.

Introduction

There is a continuous global growth in production, storage, handling, bulk transport and use of solid biofuels especially in the form of pelletized biofuels.

The specific physical and chemical characteristics of solid biofuels, their handling and storage can lead to a risk of fire and/or explosion, as well as health risks such as intoxication due to exposure to carbon-monoxide, asphyxiation due to oxygen depletion or allergic reactions.

There is a risk of injury or death associated with pellet storage, so safety measures shall be implemented. The possibility of fire and explosion incidents is a clear indicator that safety needs to be prioritized, first of all for human safety but also because interruptions in energy supply can have significant consequences. The market confidence in solid biofuels as a secure energy source may be jeopardized and financial losses due to business interruptions could occur. Difficulty to obtain insurance coverage will also increase.

As part of the determination and the assessment of risks for solid biofuels, defined test methods and standards are established or need to be developed. However, the ageing and degradation due to handling and storage of solid biofuels in particular environments will affect the characteristics. The consequence of this change of characteristics is that safety margins need to be established in relation to the actual analysis results.

For small scale applications and handling of small quantities of pellets up to 100 t, requirements of this standard support end-users not educated in safety aspects or requirements of solid biofuel handling. Health risks are associated with the quality of the fuel and therefore controlling the fuel quality reduces the risks, particularly of dust emissions. Logistics and the handling of the pellets play a major part in maintaining quality and are therefore also addressed in this standard.

Generally, facilities at end users with a storage capacity <100 t are covered by this document and larger stores will be covered by ISO 20024¹⁾. However, storage capacity alone is not a good enough parameter on which to decide which standard to apply. A trader or larger end user might have a number of small storage facilities but may have a greater throughput of pellets during the entire year but with frequent filling and reclaiming or packaging. Depending on the characteristics of a specific facility, all of the principles covered in this document should be considered but all or only some parts of the systems/equipment described in ISO 20024 will be relevant.

A competent assessor should have knowledge and experience commensurate with the complexity of the facility (knowledge of solid biofuels is required) before selecting which standard and which clauses are applicable to the facility being considered.

1) Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication ISO/CD 20024:2018.