

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods**

**(Nineteenth session,
2-6 July 2001, agenda item 11 (c))**

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

**United Nations/ILO Working Group on the Harmonisation of the
Classification Criteria for Physical Hazards (aerosols)**

Test Methods to be used with the Classification Criteria

Transmitted by the European Aerosol Federation (FEA)

For the eighteenth session of the Sub-Committee of Experts (Geneva, 3-14 July 2000), the European Aerosol Federation (FEA) and the then United States Chemical Specialities Manufacturers Association (now the CSPA) submitted a proposal for the text for test procedures to support the test regime for the flammability of aerosols (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2000/34).

During the eighteenth session, these test procedures were discussed and a number of modifications suggested. It was agreed that Aerosols should be classified as "Flammable" if any of these tests give a positive result (ST/SG/AC.10C.3/36, Annex 4).

During the twenty-first session of the Committee of Experts (Geneva 4-13 December 2000), the relevance of these procedures was confirmed again and it was agreed that "the second orientation test is relevant to the ignition distance test only" (ST/SG/AC.10/27 Annex 5 point 7).

In order to assist the Working Group and the Secretariat, FEA has attempted to slightly revise the text of the original submission to reflect the outcome of the discussions and decisions of the above sessions. As the revisions are of a relatively minor nature, it is hoped that the amended test procedures can be formally agreed during the forthcoming Working Group meeting.

The revised texts for the test procedures are appended to this proposal and the modifications from the original submissions are highlighted in italics.

ENCLOSED SPACE IGNITION TEST

UN GLOBAL HARMONISATION

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, *including whether the dispenser is intended to be used in the upright or inverted position*. 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 ± 0.2 s |
| • Water bath maintained at 20°C | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| • Calibrated laboratory scales (balance) | accurate to ± 0.1 g |
| • Thermometer | accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| • Hygrometer | accurate to $\pm 5\%$ |
| • Pressure gauge | accurate to ± 0.1 Bar |
| • Cylindrical test vessel | as detailed below |

Preparation of Test Apparatus

A cylindrical vessel approximately 200 dm^3 (55 gallons) volume, approximately 600mm in diameter and approximately 720mm 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:

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 25mm when a weight of 0.45kg is attached to its lowest point. Cut a 25mm slit in the film, starting 50mm from the edge of the drum. Ensure that the film is taut.

At the other end of the drum drill a 50mm diameter hole 100mm 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).

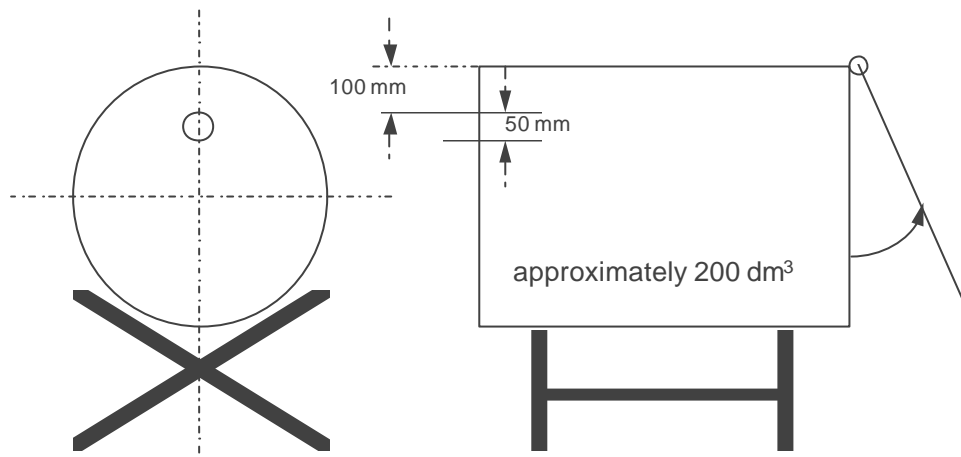


Figure 1

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

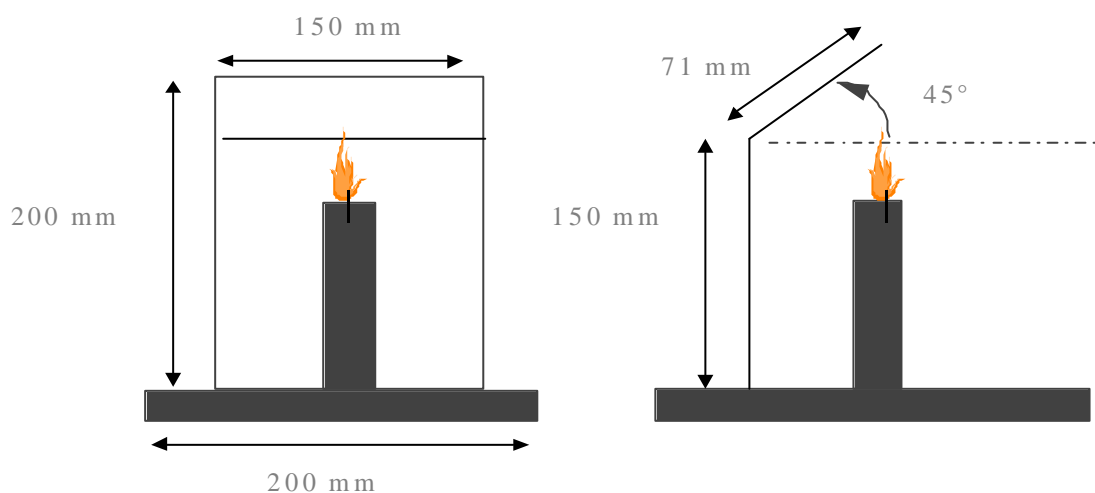


Figure 2

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

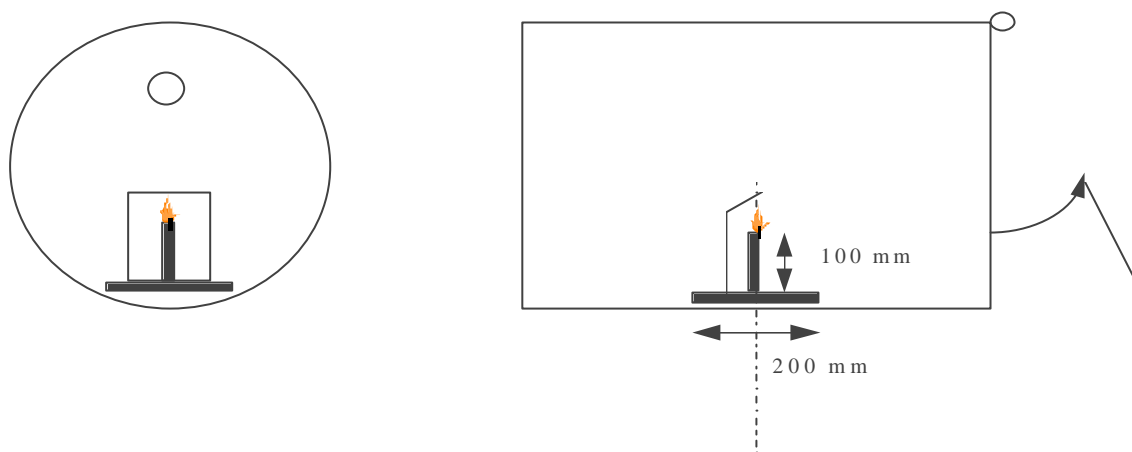


Figure 3

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 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°C ± 1°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 35mm 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). *Note: the aerosol should be tested in the position it is designed to be used in, e.g. upright or inverted.*
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 dm³)

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

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

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

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

DETERMINATION OF THE IGNITION DISTANCE OF THE SPRAY JET UN GLOBAL HARMONISATION

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 *at least* 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 15cm or more. Aerosol products with a spray distance of less than 15cm such as: dispensing foams, mousses, gels *and pastes* or fitted with a metering valve, are excluded from this test. Aerosol products that dispense foams, mousses, gels *or pastes* 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, *including whether the dispenser is intended to be used in the upright or inverted position*. 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°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

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 15cm 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 15cm

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 15cm between the burner flame and the aerosol actuator, in the range of 15 – 90 cm. It is efficient to start at 60cm distance between burner flame and aerosol actuator. The distance between burner flame and aerosol actuator should be increased by 15cm in the case of an ignition of the spray at 60cm distance. The distance should be decreased by 15cm in the case of no ignition at 60cm 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 15cm 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. *Note: the aerosol should be tested in the position it is designed to be used in, e.g. upright or inverted.*
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. *If no ignition occurs during step 10, the aerosol should be tested in alternative orientations, e.g. inverted for upright use products, to check if ignition is obtained.*
 13. Repeat steps 7 *to* 11 twice more (a total of 3) for the same can at the same distance between the gas burner and the aerosol actuator.
 14. Repeat the test procedure for another two aerosol cans of the same product at the same distance between gas burner and aerosol actuator.
 15. Repeat steps 7 *to* 14 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*).
 16. If no ignition occurs at 15cm, the procedure is finished for initially full cans. The procedure is also finished when ignition and sustained combustion is obtained at a distance of 90cm. If ignition could not be obtained at 15cm 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.
 17. 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".
 18. 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.
 19. Repeat steps 7 to 14 for 10 - 12% nominal fill aerosol cans, omitting steps 12 *and* 13. *This test should only be performed with the aerosol in one position, e.g. upright or inverted, corresponding with that which produced the ignition (if any) for filled cans.*
 20. 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 - <i>inc. can position</i>												

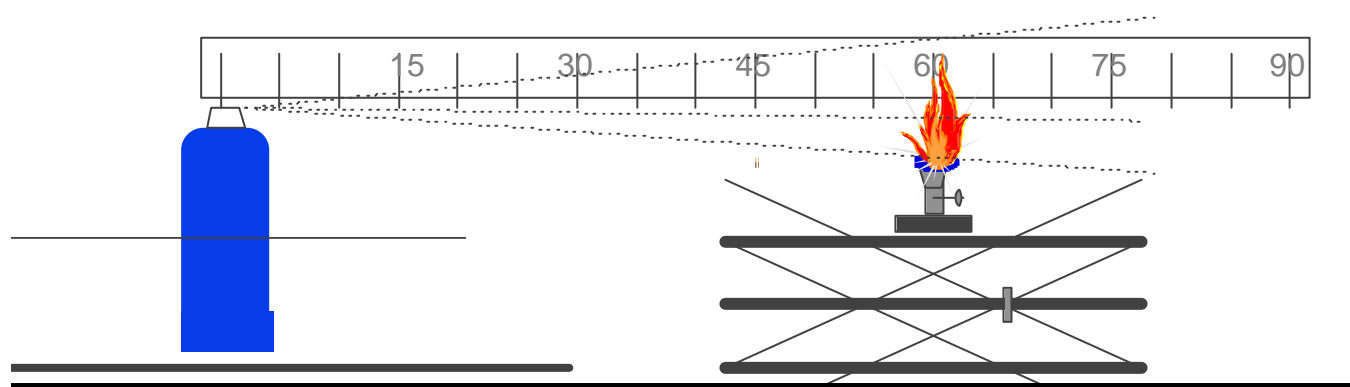


Figure 1

AEROSOL FOAM FLAMMABILITY TEST

UN GLOBAL HARMONISATION

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 *if* ignition and sustained combustion of the foam, mousse, gel or paste *occurs*.

Ignition is defined as a stable flame maintained for ≥ 2 seconds *and a minimum 4cm in height*.

SCOPE

This method can be used for aerosols that 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, *including whether the dispenser is intended to be used in the upright or inverted position*. 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 ± 0.2 s
- Candle, wax taper, match or lighter
- Calibrated laboratory scales (balance) accurate to ± 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 ± 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 5g of the product onto the centre 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). *If necessary, the ignition source should be removed from the edge of the sample after approximately two seconds, in order to clearly observe if ignition has occurred. If no ignition of the sample is apparent, the ignition source should be reapplied to the edge of the sample.*
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. *Allow the product to stand for 30 sec, 1 min, 2 min or 4 min before applying the ignition source.*
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
-