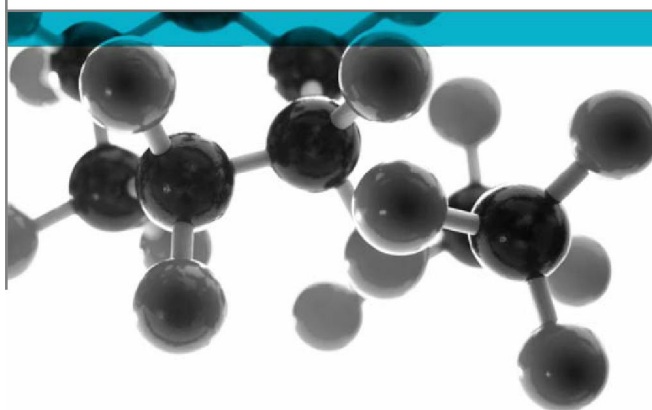


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BS 476: Part 7: 1997



Method For Classification Of The Surface Spread Of Flame Of Products

A Report To: BÜFA Gelcoat Plus GmbH & Co. KG

Document Reference: 319944

Date: 03rd August 2012

Issue No.: 1

Page 1

**Testing
Advising
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0249

Executive Summary

Objective To determine the surface spread of flame classification of the following product when tested in accordance with BS 476: Part 7: 1997.



Generic Description	Product reference	Thickness	Weight per unit area or density
Flame retardant grade glass reinforced plastic	"BÜFA Firestop 3355-W-3 (BÜFA FR 28/12 – 4)"	2.27mm*	3.94kg/m²*
Individual components used to manufacture composite:			
Resin	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Fibre reinforcement	"emulsion bound chopped strand mat, 3 ply"	Not stated	Not stated
* determined by Exova warringtonfire			
Please see page 5 of this test report for the full description of the product tested			

Test Sponsor BÜFA Gelcoat Plus GmbH & Co. KG, Hohe Looe 2-8, 26180 Rastede, Germany

Test Results: **Class 1**

Date of Test 3rd July 2012

Signatories

	
Responsible Officer D. J. Owen * Senior Technical Officer	Authorised T. Mort * Senior Technical Officer

* For and on behalf of **Exova Warringtonfire**.

Report Issued: 03rd August 2012

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Test Details

Purpose of test	To determine the performance of a product when it is subjected to the conditions of the test specified in BS 476: Part 7: 1997, "Fire tests on building materials and structures, method for classification of the surface spread of flame of products". This test was therefore performed in accordance with the procedure specified in BS 476: Part 7: 1997, and this report should be read in conjunction with that British Standard.
Scope of test	BS 476: Part 7: 1997 specifies a method of test for measuring the lateral spread of flame along the surface of a specimen of a product orientated in the vertical position, and a classification system based on the rate and extent of flame spread. It provides data suitable for comparing the performances of essentially flat materials, composites, or assemblies, which are used primarily as the exposed surfaces of walls or ceilings.
Fire test study group/EGOLF	Certain aspects of some fire test specifications are open to different interpretations. The Fire Test Study Group and EGOLF have identified a number of such areas and have agreed Resolutions which define common agreement of interpretations between fire test laboratories which are members of the Groups. Where such Resolutions are applicable to this test they have been followed.
Instruction to test	The test was conducted on the 3 rd July 2012, at the request of BÜFA Gelcoat Plus GmbH & Co. KG, the sponsor of the test.
Provision of test specimens	The specimens were supplied by the sponsor of the test. Exova Warringtonfire was not involved in any selection or sampling procedure.
Conditioning of specimens	The specimens were received on the 28 th June 2012 and were conditioned to constant mass at a temperature of $23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a relative humidity of $50 \pm 5\%$ prior to testing.
Form in which the specimens were tested	Assembly - Fabrication of materials and/or composites that can contain air gaps. Each specimen was placed over 25mm thick by 20mm wide calcium silicate based spacers positioned around its perimeter and mounted onto a backing board so that a 25mm enclosed air gap was provided between the unexposed face of the specimen and the backing board.
Exposed face	The smooth face of the specimens was exposed to the heating conditions of the test.

Description of Test Specimens

The description of the specimens given below has been prepared from information provided by the sponsor of the test. All values quoted are nominal, unless tolerances are given.

General description			Flame retardant grade glass reinforced plastic
Product reference			"BÜFA Firestop 3355-W-3 (BÜFA FR 28/12 – 4)"
Name of manufacturer			See Note 1 Below
Colour			"White"
Overall thickness			2.27mm (determined by Exova Warringtonfire)
Overall weight per unit area			3.94kg/m ² (determined by Exova Warringtonfire)
Moulded Sheet	Resin	Generic type	See Note 1 Below
		Product reference	See Note 1 Below
		Name of manufacturer	See Note 1 Below
		Density	See Note 1 Below
		Flame retardant details	See Note 1 Below
	Fibre reinforcement	Generic type	"emulsion bound chopped strand mat, 3 ply"
		Product reference	See Note 1 Below
		Number of layers	3
		Weight per unit area of each layer	See Note 1 Below
		Configuration of glass reinforcement	See Note 1 Below
		Name of manufacturer	See Note 1 Below
	Resin to glass ratio (by weight)		2.5:1
	Percentage glass reinforcement (by weight)		See Note 1 Below
	Curing process (duration and temperature)		1% Butanox M 50, cured overnight at room temperature then followed by 6 hours elevated temperature post cure at 70°C
Brief description of manufacturing process			See Note 1 Below

Note 1: The sponsor was unwilling to provide this information.

The description of the specimens as given above is not as detailed as would usually be the case for descriptions included in Exova Warringtonfire test reports and the description may not fully comply with the requirements of the test standard. In all other respects however the tests were conducted fully in accordance with the requirements of the test standard and the test results are valid.

Test Results

Results and observations	The test results for the individual specimens, together with observations made during the test and comments on any difficulties encountered during the test are given in Appendix 1.
Classification	In accordance with the class definitions given in BS 476: Part 7: 1997, the specimens tested are classified as Class 1.
Criteria for classification	If the prefix 'D' or suffix 'R' or 'Y' is included in the classification, this indicates that the results should be treated with caution. An explanation of the reason for the prefix and suffixes is given in Appendix 2, together with the classification limits specified in the Standard.
Applicability of test result	<p>The test results relate only to the behaviour of the test specimens of the product under the particular conditions of test; they are not intended to be the sole criterion for assessing the potential fire hazard of the product in use.</p> <p>The test results relate only to the specimens of the product in the form in which they were tested. Small differences in the composition or thickness of the product may significantly affect the performance during the test and may therefore invalidate the test results. Care should be taken to ensure that any product which is supplied or used is fully represented by the specimens which were tested.</p>
Validity	<p>The specification and interpretation of fire test methods are the subject of ongoing development and refinement. Changes in associated legislation may also occur. For these reasons it is recommended that the relevance of test reports over five years old should be considered by the user. The laboratory that issued the report will be able to offer, on behalf of the legal owner, a review of the procedures adopted for a particular test to ensure that they are consistent with current practices, and if required may endorse the test report.</p> <p>This report may only be reproduced in full. Extracts or abridgements shall not be published without permission of Exova Warringtonfire.</p>

Appendix 1 – Test Results

SPECIMEN No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Maximum distance travelled at 1.5 minutes (mm)	80	80	85	85	80	80
Distance (mm)	Time to travel to indicated distance (minutes : seconds)					
75	0:41	0:39	0:38	0:36	0:35	0:39
165						
190						
215						
240						
265						
290						
375						
455						
500						
525						
600						
675						
710						
750						
785						
825						
Time to reach maximum distance travelled	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00
Maximum distance travelled in 10 minutes (mm)	80	80	85	85	80	80

Note: Six specimens are usually tested. If the test on any specimen is deemed to be invalid, as defined in the Standard, it is permissible for up to a maximum of nine specimens to be tested in order to obtain the six valid test results.

Observations made during test and comments on any difficulties encountered during the test:

In the case of each specimen transitory flaming occurred from the second minute of the test reaching up to a maximum distance of 150mm.

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Appendix 2 – Classification Criteria

Classification of spread of flame	Spread of Flame at 1.5 min		Final Spread of Flame	
	Classification	Limit (mm)	Limit for one specimen (mm)	Limit for one specimen (mm)
	Class 1	165	165 + 25	165 + 25
	Class 2	215	215 + 25	455 + 45
	Class 3	265	265 + 25	710 + 75
	Class 4	Exceeding the limits for class 3		

Explanation of prefix and suffixes which may be added to the classification

1. A suffix R is added to the classification if more than six specimens are required in order to obtain six valid test results (e.g. class 2R).
2. A prefix D is added to the classification of any product which does not comply with the surface characteristics specified in the Standard and has therefore been tested in a modified form (e.g. class D3).
3. A suffix Y is added to the classification if any softening and/or other behaviour that may affect the flame spread occurs (e.g. class 3Y).

For example, a classification of D3RY could be achieved indicating (a) a modified surface has been used; (b) a class 3 result has been obtained; (c) additional specimens have been used to obtain 6 valid results and; (d) softening and/or other behaviour has occurred which is considered to have affected the test result.

Revision History

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Revised By:	Approved By:
Reason for Revision:	

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