

Meeting: IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) TC89 (Fire hazard testing)

Date: 29 to 31 May, 2007

Venue: British Standards Institution (BSI), London, UK

Attendance: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, The United Kingdom, The United States (30 attendees from 11 member bodies)

Attendee from NMRI
Mr. Koichi Yoshida: Director, Centre for International Cooperation (Forth from the left in photo)



A view of the meeting

Major contributions to the meeting

Mr. K. Yoshida delegated Japan as the leader, and contributed to the meeting as follows.

1. Guidelines on Fire safety assessment for electrotechnical products

Need for clarification of responsibility on safety of electro-technical products and demand on enhancing safety designs lead IEC to development of guidelines on fire safety assessment, namely;

IEC 60695-1-10: Guidance for assessing fire hazard of electrotechnical products – General guidelines

IEC 60695-1-11: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire Hazard assessment

IEC60695-1-12: Guidance for assessing the fire hazard of electrotechnical products – Fire safety engineering.

60695-1-10 and 60695-1-11 were approved as work items and will proceed to CD stage. Development on 60695-1-12 is deferred. These guidelines are also applicable to electrical installation of ships.

2. Ignitability test under heat flux from flame

IEC 60695-11-11 “Determination of the ignition characteristic heat flux from a flame source” has started by a proposal of Japan, and is now CD stage. Mr. Yoshida is the project leader of this item. The test method has been developed jointly by National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) and NMRI. Comments to the third CD from members were resolved. TC89 agreed to proceed to the 4th CD ballot. TC89 also agreed that this standard should be published as a Technical Specification (TS) in 2008 as the first step.

3. Standards for heat release rate measurement (IEC60695-8-3)

Development of IEC 60695-8-3 Heat release rate test for liquid insulation materials and other liquids has been started in 2004. Mr. Yoshida has been working as co-project leader. The draft test method is being developed based on ISO 5660-1: Cone Calorimeter. This test method is also applicable for measurement of heat release of liquid fuel, such as marine diesel oil. Comments to CDV from members were resolved. TC89 agreed to publish this as a Technical Specification (TS).

4. Liaison between IEC/TC89 and ISO/TC92 and relation to IMO

IEC/TC89 is keeping closely liaison with ISO/TC92 (Fire safety). Mr. Yoshida is working as the liaison officer between IEC/TC89 and ISO/TC92, because he is chairing ISO/TC92/SC1 (Fire initiation and growth).

Future meetings

Next TC89 plenary meeting and its working group meeting will be held from 16 to 19 October 2007 in Le Mans France.