EN 50615:2015 · CENELEC CLC/TC 61

BS EN 50615, on one page

The standard for devices that prevent or suppress fire on electric hobs – commonly called **"stove guards"**. Paraphrased throughout; no part of the standard is quoted.

THE CATEGORY B WINDOW

200°C → 330°C

Must not act below 200°C. Must cut power before the pan reaches 330°C. Oil must not ignite for 10 minutes after. 11.104.2

What it is

A product standard, not a building standard. It provides manufacturers and testing facilities with benchmarks for certification. It doesn't say which buildings need one, how many, or how they are commissioned and maintained. It modifies EN 60335-1:2012 clause by clause and shouldn't be read alone. Covers electric hobs only. Published March 2015.

Categories 3.101

A Suppression	Puts out a fire that has already started, and cuts the power at the same time.
B Prevention	Cuts the power before the oil can ignite. Nothing catches fire.
AB Both	Prevents first, extinguishes if ignition still occurs.

Every stove guard we have found on sale in the UK is Category B. We haven't been able to identify a certified Category A or AB device anywhere.

How devices are tested 11.2, 11.104

A six-element hob in a fitted-kitchen test rig: 86cm worktop, wall units at 55cm – in a room of 20–30m³. Sunflower oil (fresh for each test), 30–220ml by pan size, no lids, elements at maximum. Where a hood is assumed, the device is tested with it off and then again at full extract.

The nuisance test. Every hob element is in use. Water simmers in all but the largest pan. After 20 minutes, the oil in the largest pan is driven at full power.
Silence below 200°C. Power cut before 330°C.

Every element, one at a time. Oil is heated on the element under test. Tall, empty pans stand on all the other elements, blocking the sensor's view. Each element is tested in turn.
Power cut before 330°C, and no ignition for the next 10 minutes.

Cast iron pan on the worst-performing element. Test 2 is repeated on whichever element performed worst, using a cast iron frying pan.
Power cut before 330°C, and no ignition for the next 10 minutes.

Fail-safe and anti-tamper

Take the sensor off its mounting, or turn it, and leave it that way for more than five minutes, and the hob must not work until the sensor is replaced correctly. 22.106

A device that runs on batteries alone must warn – visibly and audibly – when the batteries are nearly out, or the device is mounted incorrectly, and must stop the hob being switched on. 22.102

Every device must have a way to check that it is properly connected and working. 22.104

Someone has to intervene after the device cuts power before the hob works again; the device must not automatically reset itself and allow cooking to continue. p.14

What it doesn't cover

- **Gas hobs.** Out of scope entirely.
- **Ovens and grills.** A Category A device isn't expected to deal with a fire inside an oven or under an oven grill, and its instructions must say this.
- **Smoke.** The drafters considered smoke – including smoke carrying harmful substances – and couldn't devise a test for it that would give repeatable results, so it was omitted from the standard.
- **Items left on the hob.** A Category B device isn't required to cope with flammable material left on or near the hob, and its instructions must warn about this.
- **Electromagnetic compatibility.** Not covered here.
- **How many times a test is run.** The standard doesn't say.
- **Which kind of electric hob.** The words induction, ceramic, and solid plate don't appear.
- **Who ran the tests.** Nothing in the standard requires a third party to verify that a device meets it.
- **Servicing intervals.** The standard doesn't set one: it requires the manufacturer to state an interval for technical checks where relevant, and to give instructions for whatever user maintenance the device needs, but it doesn't explicitly provide guidance on what the servicing interval should be.

Questions worth asking a supplier

- Which company tested the device, and can I have a copy of the report?
- Which hob types is it stated as being suitable for, and what is the largest hob that it covers?
- What about island hobs, or kitchens with no extraction hood?
- What happens when the cooker isolator is switched off and on again?
- What does the device do when the sensor batteries run out?
- What happens if someone takes the sensor off the wall?

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