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NSAI Standards

Irish Standard
I.S. EN 15999-1:2014

Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects - Part 1: General requirements

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NSAI	T +353 1 807 3800	Sales:
1 Swift Square,	F +353 1 807 3838	T +353 1 857 6730
Northwood, Santry	E standards@nsai.ie	F +353 1 857 6729
Dublin 9	W NSAI.ie	W standards.ie

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 15999-1

March 2014

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English Version

Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects - Part 1: General requirements

Conservation des biens culturels - Guide pour la gestion des conditions environnementales - Recommandations pour les vitrines destinées à exposer et préserver des biens culturels - Partie 1: Exigences générales

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Leitfaden für die Konstruktion von Schauvitrinen zur Ausstellung und Erhaltung von Objekten - Teil 1: Allgemeine Anforderungen

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Foreword

This document (EN 15999-1:2014) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 “Conservation of Cultural Heritage”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2014, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2014.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

EN 15999, *Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects*, consists of the following parts:

— *Part 1: General requirements*;

— *Part 2: Technical requirements*.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

The main purpose of a showcase is to reduce the risk of physical damage (e.g. theft, vandalism, natural disasters) and to improve the control of environmental parameters (relative humidity, air temperature, dust, pollutants and light) to cultural heritage objects.

Better knowledge of the material properties of cultural heritage objects and their interaction with the environment is leading to better preservation. In light of this new knowledge, and in order to prevent risk of decay related to the exhibitions, the showcase is a useful tool to preserve and protect objects.

With increasing development of cultural tourism, the number of exhibitions and visitors are likely to continue to grow and place greater burdens on cultural heritage objects.

The complexity and the number of variables and their possible incidence require the use of a showcase, adapted to the object and the environment where the showcase is situated. A badly constructed or selected showcase can in some circumstances make conditions worse for the object.

The design of showcases need to take account of the shared views of all relevant members of an exhibition team, including for example curators, conservators, scientists, architects, graphic designers, lighting experts and other decision makers.

This European Standard will consist of the following parts:

— *Conservation of cultural heritage — Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects — Part 1: General instructions*

— *Conservation of cultural heritage — Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects — Part 2: Technical aspects*

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1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the characteristics and the conditions for use of showcases for safe and secure display of cultural heritage objects, reducing environmental interaction and complying with the requirements for better preservation.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 15898:2011, *Conservation of cultural property - Main general terms and definitions*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 15898:2011 and the following apply.

3.1
accessibility
physical capability of intervention in a showcase for such purposes as handling of an object, technical intervention and maintenance

3.2
air exchange
airflow through gaps and small openings of the display space to the outside of the closed showcase

3.3
buffer
material, which resists change of relative humidity, acidity, or pollutants concentration by absorbing or desorbing vapours, gases or ions

3.4
display space
space in the showcase where the objects are displayed and which may contain other elements such as panels, supports, graphics, monitoring equipment etc

3.5
indoor climate
description of climate inside the building relevant to the preservation of an object or to human comfort

3.6
microclimate
climate in the display space of the showcase

3.7
mounting
system to allow an object to be supported or fixed

3.8
pollutants
gaseous or particulate chemical contaminants induced into the environment, which can generate corrosion, incrustation, colour fading, soiling, deterioration or other forms of damage to the object on display

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