



Standard Guide for Evaluating the Predictive Capability of Deterministic Fire Models¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1355; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide provides a methodology for evaluating the predictive capabilities of a fire model for a specific use.

1.2 The methodology is presented in terms of four areas of evaluation:

1.2.1 Defining the model and scenarios for which the evaluation is to be conducted,

1.2.2 Verifying the appropriateness of the theoretical basis and assumptions used in the model,

1.2.3 Verifying the mathematical and numerical robustness of the model, and

1.2.4 Quantifying the uncertainty and accuracy of the model results in predicting of the course of events in similar fire scenarios.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 The output from this document should not be used for regulatory purposes or the basis for regulations.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 176 Terminology of Fire Standards²

E 603 Guide for Room Fire Experiments²

E 1472 Guide for Documenting Computer Software for Fire Models²

E 1591 Guide for Data for Fire Models²

2.2 *International Standards Organization Standards:*
Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions Specific to This Guide:

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E-5 on Fire Standards and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E05.39 on Fire Modeling.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.07.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

3.1.1 *model evaluation*—the process of quantifying the accuracy of chosen results from a model when applied for a specific use.

3.1.2 *model validation*—the process of determining the correctness of the assumptions and governing equations implemented in a model when applied to the entire class of problems addressed by the model.

3.1.3 *model verification*—the process of determining the correctness of the solution of a system of governing equations in a model. With this definition, verification does not imply the solution of the correct set of governing equations, only that the given set of equations is solved correctly.

3.2 For additional definitions of terms used in this guide refer to Terminology E 176.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 A recommended process for evaluating the predictive capability of fire models is described. This process includes a brief description of the model and the scenarios for which evaluation is sought. Then, methodologies for conducting an analysis to quantify the sensitivity of model predictions to various uncertain factors are presented, and several alternatives for evaluating the accuracy of the predictions of the model are provided. Finally, guidance is given concerning the relevant documentation required to summarize the evaluation process.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The process of model evaluation is critical to establishing both the acceptable uses and limitations of fire models. It is not possible to evaluate a model in total; instead, this guide is intended to provide a methodology for evaluating the predictive capabilities for a specific use. Validation for one application or scenario does not imply validation for different scenarios. Several alternatives are provided for performing the evaluation process including: comparison of predictions against standard fire tests, full-scale fire experiments, field experience, published literature, or previously evaluated models.

5.2 The use of fire models currently extends beyond the fire research laboratory and into the engineering, fire service and legal communities. Sufficient evaluation of fire models is necessary to ensure that those using the models can judge the

adequacy of the scientific and technical basis for the models, select models appropriate for a desired use, and understand the level of confidence which can be placed on the results predicted by the models. Adequate evaluation will help prevent the unintentional misuse of fire models.

5.3 This guide is intended to be used in conjunction with other guides under development by Committee E-5. It is intended for use by:

5.3.1 *Model Developers/Marketers*—To document the usefulness of a particular calculation method perhaps for specific applications. Part of model development includes identification of precision and limits of applicability, and independent testing.

5.3.2 *Model Users*—To assure themselves that they are using an appropriate model for an application and that it provides adequate accuracy.

5.3.3 *Developers of Model Performance Codes*—To be sure that they are incorporating a valid calculation procedures into codes.

5.3.4 *Approving Officials*—To ensure that the results of calculations using mathematical models stating conformance to this guide, cited in a submission, show clearly that the model is used within its applicable limits and has an acceptable level of accuracy.

5.3.5 *Educators*—To demonstrate the application and acceptability of calculation methods being taught.

5.4 This guide is not meant to describe an acceptance testing procedure.

5.5 The primary emphasis of this guide is on zone models of compartment fires. However, other types of mathematical models need similar evaluations of their predictive capabilities.

6. General Methodology

6.1 The methodology is presented in terms of four areas of evaluation:

6.1.1 Defining the model and scenarios for which the evaluation is to be conducted,

6.1.2 Assessing the appropriateness of the theoretical basis and assumptions used in the model,

6.1.3 Assessing the mathematical and numerical robustness of the model, and

6.1.4 Quantifying the uncertainty and accuracy of the model results in predicting the course of events in similar fire scenarios.

6.2 *Model and Scenario Definition:*

6.2.1 *Model Documentation*—Sufficient documentation of calculation models, including computer software, is absolutely necessary to assess the adequacy of the scientific and technical basis of the models, and the accuracy of computational procedures. Also, adequate documentation will help prevent the unintentional misuse of fire models. Guidance on the documentation of computer-based fire models is provided in Guide E 1472. Details applicable to evaluation of the predictive capability of fire models are provided in 7.1.

6.2.2 *Scenario Documentation*—Provide a complete description of the scenarios or phenomena of interest in the evaluation to facilitate appropriate application of the model, to aid in developing realistic inputs for the model, and criteria for

judging the results of the evaluation. Details applicable to evaluation of the predictive capability of fire models are provided in 7.2.

6.3 *Theoretical Basis and Assumptions in the Model*—An independent review of the underlying physics and chemistry inherent in a model ensures appropriate application of submodels which have been combined to produce the overall model. Details applicable to evaluation of the predictive capability of fire models are provided in Section 8.

6.4 *Mathematical and Numerical Robustness*—The computer implementation of the model should be checked to ensure such implementation matches the stated documentation. Details applicable to evaluation of the predictive capability of fire models are provided in Section 9.

6.5 *Quantifying the Uncertainty and Accuracy of the Model:*

6.5.1 *Model Uncertainty*—Even deterministic models rely on inputs often based on experimental measurements, empirical correlations, or estimates made by engineering judgement. Uncertainties in the model inputs can lead to corresponding uncertainties in the model outputs. Sensitivity analysis is used to quantify these uncertainties in the model outputs based upon known or estimated uncertainties in model inputs. Guidance for obtaining input data for fire models is provided by Guide E 1591. Details of sensitivity analysis applicable to evaluation of the predictive capability of fire models are provided in Section 10.

6.5.2 *Experimental Uncertainty*—In general, the result of measurement is only the result of an approximation or estimate of the specific quantity subject to measurement, and thus the result is complete only when accompanied by a quantitative statement of uncertainty. Guidance for conducting full-scale compartment tests is provided by Guide E 603. Guidance for determining the uncertainty in measurements is provided in the ISO Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement.

6.5.3 *Model Evaluation*—Obtaining accurate estimates of fire behavior using predictive fire models involves insuring correct model inputs appropriate to the scenarios to be modeled, correct selection of a model appropriate to the scenarios to be modeled, correct calculations by the model chosen, and correct interpretation of the results of the model calculation. Evaluation of a specific scenario with different levels of knowledge of the expected results of the calculation addresses these multiple sources of potential error. Details applicable to evaluation of the predictive capability of fire models are provided in Section 11.

7. Model and Scenario Definition

7.1 *Model Documentation*—Provide the following information:

7.1.1 The name and version of the model,

7.1.2 The name of the model developer(s),

7.1.3 A list of relevant publications,

7.1.4 A statement of the stated uses, limitations, and results of the model,

7.1.5 The type of model (zone, field, etc.),

7.1.6 A statement of the modeling rigor, including:

7.1.6.1 The assumptions inherent in the model and the governing equations included in the model formulation, and

7.1.6.2 The numerics employed to solve the equations and the method by which individual solutions are coupled.

7.1.7 Additional assumptions of the model as they relate to the stated uses or other potential uses,

7.1.8 The input data required to run the model, and

7.1.9 Property data that are defined with the computer program or were assumed in the model development.

7.2 *Scenarios for Which Evaluation is Sought*—Provide the following information:

7.2.1 A description of the scenarios or phenomena of interest,

7.2.2 A list of quantities predicted by the model for which evaluation is sought, and

7.2.3 The degree of accuracy required for each quantity.

8. Theoretical Basis for the Model

8.1 The theoretical basis of the model should be reviewed by one or more recognized experts fully conversant with the chemistry and physics of fire phenomena but not involved with the production of the model. This review should include:

8.1.1 An assessment of the completeness of the documentation particularly with regard to the assumptions and approximations.

8.1.2 An assessment of whether there is sufficient scientific evidence in the open scientific literature to justify the approaches and assumptions being used.

8.1.3 Empirical or reference data used for constants and default values in the code should also be assessed for accuracy and applicability in the context of the model.

9. Mathematical and Numerical Robustness

9.1 Analyses which can be performed include:

9.1.1 *Analytical Tests*—If the program is to be applied to a situation for which there is a known mathematical solution, analytical testing is a powerful way of testing the correct functioning of a model. However, there are relatively few situations (especially for complex scenarios) for which analytical solutions are known.

9.1.2 *Code Checking*—The code can be verified on a structural basis preferably by a third party either totally manually or by using code checking programs to detect irregularities and inconsistencies within the computer code. A process of code checking can increase the level of confidence in the program's ability to process the data to the program correctly, but it cannot give any indication of the likely adequacy or accuracy of the program in use.

9.1.3 *Numerical Tests*—Mathematical models are usually expressed in the form of differential or integral equations. The models are in general very complex, and analytical solutions are hard or even impossible to find. Numerical techniques are needed for finding approximate solutions. These numerical techniques can be a source of error in the predicted results. Numerical tests include an investigation of the magnitude of the residuals from the solution of the system of equations employed in the model as an indicator of numerical accuracy and of the reduction in residuals as an indicator of numerical convergence.

9.1.4 Many fire problems involve the interaction of different physical processes, such as the chemical or thermal processes

and the mechanical response. Time scales associated with the processes may be substantially different, which easily causes numerical difficulties. Such problems are called stiff. Some numerical methods have difficulty with stiff problems since they slavishly follow the rapid changes even when they are less important than the general trend in the solution. Special algorithms have been devised for solving stiff problems.⁴

9.1.5 Numerical accuracy of predictive fire models has been considered in the literature.⁵

10. Model Sensitivity

10.1 Fire growth models are typically based on a system of ordinary differential equations of the form

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = f(z, p, \tau) \quad z(\tau = 0) = z_0 \quad (1)$$

where:

$z (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m)$ = the solution vector for the system of equations (for example, mass, temperature, or volume)

$p (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$ = a vector of input parameters (for example, room area, room height, heat release rate), and

τ = time.

The solutions to these equations are, in general, not known explicitly and must be determined numerically. To study the sensitivity of such a set of equations, the partial derivatives of an output z_j with respect to an input p_i (for $j = 1, \dots, m$ and $i = 1, \dots, n$) should be examined.

10.2 A sensitivity analysis of a model is a study of how changes in model parameters affect the results generated by the model. Model predictions may be sensitive to uncertainties in input data, to the level of rigor employed in modeling the relevant physics and chemistry, and to the accuracy of numerical treatments. The purpose of conducting a sensitivity analysis is to assess the extent to which uncertainty in model inputs is manifested to become uncertainty in the results of interest from the model. This information can be used to:

10.2.1 Determine the dominant variables in the models,

10.2.2 Define the acceptable range of values for each input variable,

10.2.3 Quantify the sensitivity of output variables to variations in input data, and

10.2.4 Inform and caution any potential users about the degree and level of care to be taken in selecting input and running the model.

10.3 Inputs to models consist of:

10.3.1 *Scenario Specific Data*—Such as the geometry of the domain, the environmental conditions, and specifics of the fire description.

⁴ Petzold, L. R., *A Description of DASSL: A Differential/Algebraic System Solver*, Technical Report 8637, Sandia National Laboratories, 1982.

⁵ Mitler, H. E., "Mathematical Modeling of Enclosure Fires, Numerical Approaches to Combustion Modeling," ed. Oran, E. S. and Boris, J. P., *Progress in Astronautics and Aeronautics* 135, pp. 711–753, American Institute of Astronautics and Astronautics, Washington, 1991, and Forney, G. P. and Moss, W. F., "Analyzing and Exploiting the Numerical Characteristics of Zone Fire Models," *Fire Science and Technology*, 14: 49–60, 1994.

10.3.2 *Property Data*—Such as thermal conductivity, density, and heat capacity, and

10.3.3 *Numerical Constants*—Such as turbulence model constants, entrainment coefficients, and orifice constants.

10.4 Conducting a sensitivity analysis of a fire model is not a simple task. Many models require extensive input data and generate predictions for multiple output variables over an extended period of time.

10.4.1 Time and cost become critical factors in determining the extent and degree of an analysis. A practical problem to be faced when designing a sensitivity analysis experiment, is that the number of model runs required will rapidly increase with the number of input parameters and number of independent variables considered. Hence a full factorial experiment may be prohibitive in terms of man hours expended for the return gained.

10.4.2 In many cases partial factorial experiments will be adequate for the purpose of obtaining information on the effect of varying the input parameters and consequential interactions considered important. In this case, third and higher order interactions may often be ignored.

10.4.3 For sensitivity analysis of models with large numbers of parameters, efficient methods are available to conduct the analysis with a manageable number of individual model simulations.⁶ For highly non-linear fire models, the method of choice is most often Latin hypercube sampling:

10.4.3.1 *Latin Hypercube Sampling*—The possible range for input parameter is divided into N intervals of equal probability. For each input parameter, one value is randomly chosen within each of the N intervals. From the resulting N possibilities for each input parameter, one value is randomly selected. This set of values is used for the first simulation. The preceding is repeated N times to generate N sets of parameters for N total model simulations. Software is available which can calculate parameter values for a Latin Hypercube sampling.⁷

10.5 Several methods of sensitivity analysis have been applied to fire models.⁸ The one chosen for use will be dependent upon the resources available and the model being analyzed. Two common methods of analysis follow:

10.5.1 *Global Methods*—Produce sensitivity measures which are averaged over the entire range of input parameters. Global methods require knowledge of the probability density functions of the input parameters, which in the case of fire models, is generally unknown.

10.5.2 *Local Methods*—Produce sensitivity measures for a particular set of input parameters and must be repeated for a

range of input parameters to obtain information on the overall model performance. Finite difference methods can be applied without modifying a model's equation set, but require careful selection of input parameters to obtain good estimates. Direct methods supplement the equation set solved by a model with sensitivity equations derived from the equation set solved by the model.⁹ The sensitivity equations are then solved in conjunction with the model's system of equations to obtain the sensitivities. Direct methods must be incorporated into the design of a fire model and are not often available for already existing fire models. There are several classes of local methods which are of interest. Using the nomenclature of equation (1), these are outlined below.

10.5.2.1 Finite difference methods provide estimates of sensitivity functions by approximating the partial derivatives of an output z_i with respect to an input p_i as finite differences:

$$\frac{\partial z_j}{\partial p_m} = \frac{z_j(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m + \Delta p_m, \dots, p_k) - z_j(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m, \dots, p_k)}{\Delta p_m} \quad (2)$$

$$j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots, k$$

This method is easy and straightforward to implement. However, as with any finite difference method, the choice of Δp_m is pivotal in obtaining good estimates. To determine the $n \cdot k$ first-order sensitivity equations requires $k + 1$ runs of the model. These may be run simultaneously as a larger system or in parallel.

10.5.2.2 Direct methods derive the sensitivity differential equations from the model's system of ordinary differential equations:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial z_j}{\partial p_m} = \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial p_m} + \sum_i \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial z_i} \frac{\partial z_i}{\partial p_m} \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots, k \quad (3)$$

These equations are then solved in conjunction with the model's system of differential equations to obtain the sensitivities. To compute the $n \times k$ first-order sensitivities requires 1 model run. These may be incorporated directly into the model and solved as a single, coupled set of $n + (n \cdot k)$ differential equations¹⁰ or decoupled solving the model equations and the sensitivity equations iteratively using the model's solution and an appropriate interpolation scheme.¹¹

10.5.3 *Response Surface Method*—An appropriate vector of functions is fit to a selected set of model runs. The resulting metamodel is then assumed to behave in the same manner as the model. By appropriate choice of functions, the resulting metamodel is simpler and easier to analyze than the actual model. The equations are then solved to perform a sensitivity analysis on the metamodel. The Jacobian of the metamodel solution represents the sensitivity equations.

11. Model Evaluation

11.1 A model should be assessed for a specific use in terms of its quantitative ability to predict outcomes such as:

⁶ Clemson, B., Yongming, T., Pyne, J., and Unal, R., "Efficient Methods for Sensitivity Analysis," *Systems Dynamics Review*, Vol 11, No. 1 (Spring 1995), 31–49.

⁷ Iman, R. L. and Shortencarier, A. FORTRAN 77 Program and User's Guide for the Generation of Latin Hypercube and Random Samples for Use with Computer Models. NUREG/CR-3624, SAND83-2365, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico (1984).

⁸ Davies, A. D., "Some Tools for Fire Model Validation," *Fire Technology*, Vol 23, No. 2, May 1987, pp. 95–114; Khoudja, N., "Procedures for Quantitative Sensitivity and Performance Validation Studies of a Deterministic Fire Safety Model," *NBS-GCR-88-544*, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, 1988; and Peacock, R. D., Davis, S., and Lee, B. T., "An Experimental Data Set for the Accuracy Assessment of Room Fire Models," *NBSIR 88-3752*, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, 1988.

⁹ Wierzbicki, A., *Models and Sensitivity of Control Systems*, Wiley and Sons, New York, 1984.

¹⁰ Dickinson, R. P. and Gelinis, R. J., "Sensitivity Analysis of Ordinary Differential Equation Systems—A Direct Method," *Journal of Comp. Physics*, Vol 21, 123–143 (1976).

¹¹ Dunker, A. M., "The Decoupled Direct Method for Calculating Sensitivity Coefficients in Chemical Kinetics," *J. Chem. Phys.*, 81 (5), pp. 2385–2393, 1984.

11.1.1 Fire growth and spread (as typified by temperature, smoke, gas concentrations, etc.),

11.1.2 Rate of flame spread, fire resistance, etc.,

11.1.3 Fire hazard (as typified by available egress time, tenability etc.),

11.1.4 Response of active and passive fire protection or,

11.1.5 Some other property.

11.2 Model evaluation addresses multiple sources of potential error in the design and use of predictive fire models, including insuring correct model inputs appropriate to the scenarios to be modeled, correct selection of a model appropriate to the scenarios to be modeled, correct calculations by the model chosen, and correct interpretation of the results of the model calculation. Evaluation of a specific scenario with different levels of knowledge of the expected results of the calculation addresses these multiple sources of potential error. It is understood that only one or more of these levels of evaluation may be included in a particular model evaluation.

11.2.1 *Blind Calculation*—The model user is provided with a basic description of the scenario to be modeled. For this application, the problem description is not exact; the model user is responsible for developing appropriate model inputs from the problem description, including additional details of the geometry, material properties, and fire description, as appropriate. Additional details necessary to simulate the scenario with a specific model are left to the judgement of the model user. In addition to illustrating the comparability of models in actual end-use conditions, this will test the ability of those who use the model to develop appropriate input data for the models.

11.2.2 *Specified Calculation*—The model user is provided with a complete detailed description of model inputs, including geometry, material properties, and fire description. As a follow-on to the blind calculation, this test provides a more careful comparison of the underlying physics in the models with a more completely specified scenario.

11.2.3 *Open Calculation*—The model user is provided with the most complete information about the scenario, including geometry, material properties, fire description, and the results of experimental tests or benchmark model runs which were used in the evaluation of the blind or specified calculations of the scenario. Deficiencies in available input (used for the blind calculation) should become most apparent with comparison of the open and blind calculation.

11.2.4 *Problem Description and Model Inputs*—Different models may require substantially different details in the problem description for each of the three levels outlined above. For example, some models may require precise details of geometry, while other for models, a simple compartment volume may suffice. For some models, a detailed description of the fire in terms of heat release rate, pyrolysis rate, and species production rates are necessary inputs. For other models, these may be calculated outputs. For each of the three levels of evaluation, an appropriate problem description sufficient to allow the problem to be simulated is necessary.

11.3 A model may be evaluated employing one or more of the following tools:

11.3.1 *Comparison with Standard Tests:*

11.3.1.1 Guidance for conducting the tests is provided by the relevant test method. Generally test conditions are well defined and focus on one or more specific output variables.

11.3.1.2 Model predictions can be tested against test output variables. This approach may be particularly useful for evaluating models designed to predict quantities such as fire resistance, flame-spread rates, etc.

11.3.1.3 Where data are available, model predictions should be viewed in light of the uncertainty in test/experimental data as compared to the uncertainty in the model results that arise due to uncertainty in the model inputs.

11.3.2 *Comparison with Full-Scale Tests Conducted Specifically for the Chosen Evaluation:*

11.3.2.1 Guidance for conducting full-scale compartment tests is provided by Guide E 603.

11.3.2.2 The simulations are to be designed to duplicate, as well as possible, the salient features of the scenarios for which evaluation is sought. Data shall contain sufficient detail (for example, initial conditions, time scales, and so forth) to establish correspondence between predicted and measured quantities.

11.3.2.3 The predictive capabilities can be assessed by comparing predicted values and measured values of important quantities, by comparing key events in the fire, and by comparing key behavioral traits predicted by the model and measured during the simulation.

11.3.2.4 Where data are available, model predictions should be viewed in light of the variability of the full-scale test results and model sensitivity.

11.3.3 *Comparison with Previously Published Full-Scale Tests Data:*

11.3.3.1 Care should be taken to ensure the test closely simulated the scenario for which evaluation is sought. For example, input data to the model prediction should reflect the actual test conditions and some data normalization may be required to ensure the accuracy of the comparisons.

11.3.3.2 Although key measurements may or may not have been taken, the predictive capabilities can often be assessed by comparing predicted values and measured values of important variables, by comparing key events in the fire, and by comparing key behavioral traits predicted by the model and measured during the simulation.

11.3.3.3 Where data are available, model predictions should be viewed in light of the variability of the full-scale test results and model sensitivity.

11.3.4 *Comparison with Documented Fire Experience:*

11.3.4.1 Statistical data on fire experience must be judged for reliability.

11.3.4.2 Model predictions can be compared with eyewitness accounts of real fires.

11.3.4.3 Model predictions can be compared with known behavior of materials in fires (for example, melting temperatures of materials).

11.3.4.4 Model predictions can be compared with observed post-fire conditions such as known behavior of materials in fires (for example, melting temperatures of materials), extent of fire spread, tenability, etc.

11.3.5 *Comparison with Proven Benchmark Models:*

11.3.5.1 Care should be taken to ensure that the *benchmark* model has been evaluated for the scenarios of interest.

11.3.5.2 The predictive capabilities can be assessed by comparing the predicted values of important quantities, by comparing key events in the fire predicted by both models, and by comparing key behavioral traits predicted by both models.

11.3.5.3 Where data are available, model predictions should be viewed in light of the variability of the sensitivity of both model predictions.

11.3.6 *Quantifying Model Evaluation*—How to best quantify the comparisons is not always obvious. The necessary and perceived level of agreement for any predicted quantity is dependent upon the typical use of the quantity in the context of the specific use being evaluated, the nature of the comparison, and the context of the comparison in relation to other comparisons being made.

11.3.7 For single-point comparisons such as time to critical events or peak values, the results of the comparison may be expressed as an absolute difference (*model value—reference value*), relative difference (*model value—reference value*)/*reference value*, or other comparison as appropriate.

11.3.8 For comparisons of two timed-based curves, appropriate quantitative comparisons depend upon the characteristics of the curves:

11.3.8.1 For steady-state or nearly steady state comparisons, the comparison may be expressed as an average absolute difference or average relative difference.

11.3.8.2 *For Rapidly Varying Comparisons:*

(a) (a) The comparison may be expressed in terms of a range of the calculated absolute difference or relative difference, and

(b) (b) The comparison may be expressed by comparing a time-integrated value of the quantity of interest.

11.3.9 Whenever possible, the use of subjective judgements should be avoided and the results of the comparisons should be expressed in quantitative terms.

12. Evaluation Report

12.1 Report the following information:

12.1.1 Date of the evaluation report.

12.1.2 Person or organization responsible for the evaluation.

12.1.3 Specific reference information for the evaluation report. References to model documentation, reports of experimental measurements, sensitivity analysis reports, and additional evaluation reports are appropriate.

12.1.4 Description of the model and scenarios for which evaluation is sought as outlined in 7.1 and 7.2.

12.1.5 A summary of the sensitivity analysis.

12.1.6 A summary of the predictive capabilities of the model.

12.1.7 Known limitations for the use of the evaluation for other fire scenarios.

13. Keywords

13.1 evaluation; fire model; sensitivity; validation

APPENDIX

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. COMMENTARY

X1.1 *Introduction*—This commentary has been prepared to provide the user of the guide with background information on its development and use.

X1.2 *History of the Guide:*

X1.2.1 When Subcommittee E05.39 on Fire Modeling was formed in 1985, one of its mandates, as formulated in response to the results of a survey of Committee E-5 members, was to develop guidelines for the validation of fire models.

X1.2.2 It has been recognized that the use of fire models extended beyond the fire research laboratory and into the engineering community. Reliance on model predictions in engineering applications is warranted only if the model has been validated for that application, but there was no accepted validation standard available at the time.

X1.2.3 Fire modelers had conducted validation exercises on their models and the Center for Fire Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology was developing general procedures for model validation. This guide was developed to summarize the state-of-the-art in model validation into a single document of the use of either the modeler or the user of the model.

X1.3 *Scope and Significance:*

X1.3.1 It is not possible to validate a model per se; instead, this guide is intended to provide a methodology for evaluating the predictive capabilities of a fire model for a specific use.

X1.3.2 This guide has been developed to be applicable to the validation of fire models or to the validation of submodels which may describe one or more phenomena associated with a fire.

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