

TECHNICAL REPORT

IEC TR 61592

Second edition
2003-05

Household electrical appliances – Guidelines for consumer panel testing

*Appareils électrodomestiques –
Guide pour les essais avec utilisateurs*

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International Electrotechnical Commission, 3, rue de Varembe, PO Box 131, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 919 02 11 Telefax: +41 22 919 03 00 E-mail: inmail@iec.ch Web: www.iec.ch



Commission Electrotechnique Internationale
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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES –
GUIDELINES FOR CONSUMER PANEL TESTING**

FOREWORD

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IEC 61592, which is a technical report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 59: Performance of household electrical appliances.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1996. It constitutes a revision mainly concerning ease of handling and needs of older persons and people with disabilities (ISO/IEC Guide 71).

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
59/294/DTR	59/321/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2006. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

INTRODUCTION

Panel testing can be an important tool both for overall as well as partial evaluation of products, since the results directly reflect practical aspects which are of interest to the user. Panel testing should be used to complement technical tests and physical measurements, if any, which are often more abstract for the consumer.

In general, panel testing can be used when

- technical tests are not considered sufficiently;
- an assessment of overall performance is needed;
- characteristics requiring a degree of human involvement have to be evaluated (e.g. handling, cleaning, ergonomic, instructions for use).

These guidelines are to be used as a checklist in determining when and how to apply panel testing and how to avoid the most obvious pitfalls.

Panel testing generally gives information at the time of the test. Comparison is possible with previous or parallel tests only when at least a reference sample and a particular methodology are used.

HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES – GUIDELINES FOR CONSUMER PANEL TESTING

1 Scope

This Technical Report applies to panel testing of household electrical appliances within the scope of IEC technical committee 59: Performance of household electrical appliances.

NOTE The provisions in this Standard can also be used to evaluate other kind of products.

2 Normative references

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

ISO/IEC Guide 14, *Product information for consumers*

ISO/IEC Guide 37, *Instructions for use of products of consumer interest*

ISO/IEC Guide 46, *Comparative testing of consumer products and related services – General principles*

ISO/IEC Guide 71, *Guidelines for standards developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities*

ISO 8317, *Child-resistant packaging – Requirements and testing procedures for reclosable packages*