

related test method	<b>EN 1363-1: 1999 Fire resistance tests: General requirements [plus EN 1364-1: 1999 fire resistance tests for separating elements]</b>
subject	<b>Testing of separating elements and need to carry out the cotton pad test for all test constructions and intended classifications</b>
reference of original query	TC2 N262rev2 Helpdesk 2000-01, TC2 N320

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**Problem**

Does a laboratory testing a separating element (*including a fire door or shutter*) for integrity (E) only, and not for insulation (I) still have to use the cotton pad test, even though doing so might initiate continuous flaming.

EN 13501-2 (§7.5.5.3.1) states for separating elements (*including a fire doors or shutters*) that, where an element is classified E but without being classified I, the integrity value shall be defined without considering ignition of the cotton pad. Therefore, does the classification system allow one to “ignore” the cotton pad test or just the observations from using the cotton pad test when classifying un-insulated elements?

**Recommendation**

The cotton pad shall always be used in testing separating elements (*including a fire doors or shutters*), irrespective of the construction or the intended classification, for that is what is mandated under EN 1363-1. Where necessary, the cotton pad shall always be used with caution.

