

From Combustion Vehicle to Electric Vehicle Parking, Through a Review of Legislation and Publications

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Abstract Electric mobility is expected to increase in the following years motivated by environmental awareness and government targets, therefore, a great number of combustion engines cars will be replaced by electric ones. In addition, urban space has become scarcer to house a large number of existing vehicles increasing the number of underground parking. Like cars remain parked here most time of the day being charged, new elements appear, so this transition requires parking infrastructures to match. But, are the millions of underground existing parking ready for it? Given the shortage of regulations and the existing debate, the integration of the systems is not undertaken safely. In this context, this paper seeks to analyze the level of preparation of underground parking through scientific literature and a review of standards detecting conditions and requirements to prevent possible hazards. Although the article is focused on the Spanish context, the detected problems, hypothesis and proposal of solutions can be applied to other countries.

Keywords Vehicle, Building, Parking, Safety, Risk, Extinction

1. Introduction

Nowadays the dependence on cars as a means of transport is still a concern. Improvements in road transport and the urbanization of the periphery of cities have led to an increase in this dependency (Paul Rodrigue, 2020). Consequently, the use of cars is presented as one of the largest sources of emission of greenhouse gases GHG in the European Union. Almost 72% of total GHG transport emissions were attributed to overland transport in 2017, of which 44% corresponded to passenger cars (EEA, 2019).

For many years, numerous countries have been trying to set targets to gradually ban conventional combustion vehicles and stimulate interest in electric ones in an attempt to achieve significant reductions in emissions (European Environment Agency, 2019). This reduction has been achieved through tax incentives, grants, and funding (Selvey, 2018), restricting cars in some parts of cities and the promotion of public transport (Rezvani, Jansson & Bodin, 2015).

Measures to reduce the impact of the sector are sought through electric mobility, as this type of vehicle guarantees the reduction of the emissions of air polluting gases (Niestadt & Bjørnåvold, 2019).

Electric cars use a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), of which there is a wide variety on the market. However, the batteries most commonly used in electric cars (EVs) are lithium-ion ones (Dawson, Bloomberg, & Getty, 2018). The use of this technology implies changing the way cars are refueled (Mingardo, van Wee, & Rye, 2015). This transition from conventional combustion vehicles to electric ones represents a challenge that currently remains unresolved. The present study arose as a result of this issue, aiming to assess the level of preparation of underground parking concerning the aforementioned transition. In the future, a large number of parking spaces would have to be retrofitted to cater for electric cars, since at least two off-street and two on-street parking spaces are necessary for each electric car in a motorized city (Paul Rodrigue, 2020). Parking infrastructures may have to be converted into a type of container of numerous systems that make use of the electricity grid of the buildings in which they are located. With this comes the risk that if the infrastructure is not adequately designed, charging points are likely to increase a building's electrical load (Selvey, 2018). It is, therefore, necessary to consider specific conditions to mitigate the potential hazards.

1.1. Objectives

Among the numerous EVs are trains, buses, motorbikes, bikes and the increasingly used electric scooters (Álvarez & Land, 2018). According to AEDIVE, the PNIEC set a target of achieving five million electric vehicles in Spain by the

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year 2030 (ADIVE, 2020). Most of these are passenger cars and are considered the main field of study of this research. Despite electric mobility being intended to grow at a rapid pace, the incorporation of electric cars requires not only a change in mentality but the adaptation of existing road transport infrastructures. From an architectural point of view, the close relationship between cars and buildings gives rise to underground parking. This is why the different solutions which shall be proposed all relate to these spaces.

The purpose is to assess how prepared the existing infrastructure is so that the transition from combustion to EVs fulfills the same statutory requirements, including those of fire protection and safety standards. However, in terms of safety, it is still unclear how electric cars compare to conventional ones. This lack of real solutions for the implementation led to the creation of an informative framework using different references.

An additional objective was to extract the guides and specifications, from different chosen standards, which car batteries would have to meet. This consequently includes where they are housed; the underground parking area. The abovementioned lines of work will allow us to establish the challenges that electric vehicles face today in terms of safety, as well as the prospect of this type of technology in the future.

1.2. Methodology

Information gathering research was first carried out, in phases. In this process, to gather the background and previous experiences, an analysis of different publications was done through the study of scientific literature (Figure 1).

A review of the existing legislation on ESS through different standards stands as follows:

- American standard NFPA 855/2020 (National FireProtection Association, 2020).
- NFPA Emergency field guide 2018 edition, hybrid, electric, fuel cell, and gaseous vehicles (NFPA, 2018).
- Spanish standard ITC-BT 52 from RBT (REBT, 2019).

The different extracted requirements from this review were assessed and subdivided into three selected groups of measures or strategies: passive strategies, active services, and maintenance.

When these detected requirements are known, this information helps determine the level of preparation of the

existing parking areas of residential buildings in Spain. This led to establishing future solutions, real action strategies, and gaps in knowledge that require further study.

1.3. Restrictions

Nowadays, people have become more concerned about the problem of climate change and the effects that the transport sector has on it. For this reason, many countries are encouraging the adoption of electric mobility, whether for public or personal use. However, not all users have a positive attitude towards them, which means that growth is slower than expected (Biresselioglu, Demirbag Kaplan, & Yilmaz, 2018). Another problem that has been detected is that of the electrical requirements and fire safety plans actuation of electric vehicles, which are constantly being debated (Egelhaaf, Wolpert, & Lange, 2014). It is suggested that certain reasons, including the above, may contribute to the limitations of the widespread adoption of electric vehicles and can be classified into different categories.

- Initial investment.** It is known that the investment for the purchase of an electric vehicle involves a higher cost than for fuel vehicles at first, and it is from this moment that opposing perspectives arise. On the one hand, those who believe that the initial expense is covered by the fuel savings during its useable life and on the other hand, those who remain skeptical, as not all consumers are awarded by incentive programs concerning electric mobility (Biresselioglu et al., 2018).
- Unconsolidated network of charging points.** Even though the public network of recharging points is slowly increasing in Europe to allow free and flexible mobility (Foundation & McKinsey & Company, 2014), the daily routine of an electric car owner will probably lead him or her to load the vehicle either at their home or at the workplace, involving in many cases, underground infrastructures (Selvey, 2018).
- Technical features.** This new infrastructure often involves placing a bigger load on the electric grid that in some areas of cities is sometimes under pressure (Niestadt & Bjørnåvold, 2019). It is now believed that the load on many buildings is not large enough to allow the simultaneous charge of many vehicles at once. Another important consideration is the lack of supervision during the moment of loading the vehicle.

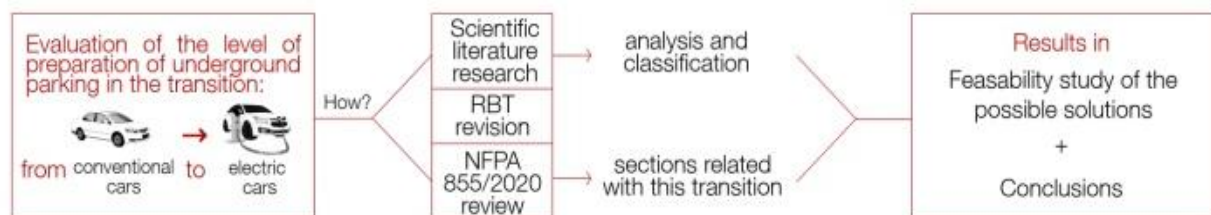


Figure 1. Workflow followed in the article. Source: Drawing by authors

- D. Heated debate. The problem with lithium-ion batteries is that "while highly beneficial, also come with some unique hazards" (O'Connor, 2020). When they are damaged a lot of heat is generated, toxic and flammable gases are emitted, thermal runaway between battery cells can cause fire or explosion, and even when the fire is extinguished, a reignition could occur (O'Connor, 2020). This is the reason why rescue personnel must be made aware of it (Egelhaaf et al., 2014). When a fire occurs, the ESS involved is difficult to control (O'Connor, 2020), which leads to an existing debate about the best procedure for action, which increases in part due to confusing published knowledge guides (Egelhaaf et al., 2014).
- E. Lack of regulation. Related to this, the biggest drawback is that currently there is no formal legislation to regulate the problem of safety protection in electric parking lots. Without compulsory measures, the risk is a reality, as the number of electric vehicles increases but without an installation that guarantees correct functioning in terms of fire protection. The present study consequently aims to explain this.

2. Context and State of the Art

There is currently no consolidated regulatory framework for electric cars covering all areas to avoid possible hazards involving ESS. Moreover, the EC already passed in 2018 a directive that among other objectives, aimed to foster the development of the demand for EV's. The Energy Performance Buildings Directive establishes guidelines that only relate to charging infrastructures, citing the different criteria between new and existing buildings (European Commission, 2019).

Table 1. Proposed minimum number of electric parking spaces. Source: Table 14: Summary of electromobility requirements from the official Journal of the European Union, Commission recommendation of 21.06.19 on building modernization. Redrawn by authors from the original

Type of building	Members State obligations	
New construction and buildings with major renovation requirements	Non-residential buildings > 10 parking spaces	For at least 1 in 5 parking spaces 1 recharging point and ducting infrastructures are required.
	Residential buildings > 10 parking spaces	In every parking space ducting infrastructure is required.
Built buildings	Non-residential buildings > 20 parking spaces.	Installation of a minimum number of recharging points, applicable from 2025.

In Spain, there is legislation that regulates the connections of electric vehicles and their supply from the building electrical connection, the ITC-BT 52 standard (REBT, 2019). However, this regulation does not refer to safety conditions, which means that if a fire occurs involving an electric car, there are no specific protocols or guidelines for action.

In terms of safety and fire extinguishing, different

research has been carried out in recent years which seems to have resulted in confusing criteria. Some of that developed by the NFPA, for example, focuses on responding to the differences and tactical adjustments needed between conventional combustion and electric vehicles. Also included is how to attain the goal of developing clear and more efficient protocols for fire emergency response involving vehicle batteries (Long., Blum, Bress, & Cotts, 2013).

Looking forward to a future where transport is based on electric vehicles, the background related to electric vehicles has been analyzed through scientific literature of the last ten years. To gather the references for this research, the online journal database Scopus was consulted using a specific search method. This process resulted in 279 documents that were obtained under the following search criteria: "(TITLE-ABS (car* OR vehicle*) AND TITLE-ABS- KEY (building* OR parking*) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (safety OR fire) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (ventilation OR detection OR firefighting)) AND PUBYEAR > 2008 AND PUBYEAR < 2018". (Information is shown in Table 2).

Table 2. Search conditions during the scientific literature research

Keywords	Scopus
"car* OR "vehicle*" AND "building* OR "parking*" AND "safety OR "fire" AND "ventilation OR extinction OR firefighting*"	Title/Abstract/Keywords
Last 10 years	
Total	279

Regarding the type of publication, only indexed articles were taken into account. The subject area was chosen according to convenience, meaning that only the documents related to energy, engineering, and multidisciplinary categories were finally studied. Among these references, a first filter was applied and those articles whose object of the study included fires occurring in other unrelated areas of the buildings, phenomena of various kinds such as earthquakes, or solutions and strategies of installations and construction not related to the main location of this research, parking lots, were ruled out. This procedure resulted in a final sum of 71 publications. From here these documents were studied in greater detail eliminating those not relevant to this work, and classifying 41 of them according to specific parameter criteria.

Subsequently, from a more specific perspective two categories were established, first by differentiating the type of parking, either on-street or off-street parking, and second, if the parking area is part of a building; an existing one, or of new construction. As electric vehicles are the main subject of this research, another division was made following the type of power source used, in this way this category allowed us to

quantify the number of electric vehicle publications among the total ones.

Finally, it was also important to establish whether the research development in the articles as well as in the solutions adopted for them were studied in a theoretical way or whether they had been implemented in a real experience.

The previous results of the scientific literature research are synthesized in the graph below, where it can be seen how most of the articles refer to off-street parking, with the majority of the theoretical studies hardly referencing actual fires (Figure 2).

Due to there not being current, specific legislation regulating the battery requirements of electric vehicles and their introduction in buildings, a study of the present standards regarding EES was carried out to establish a parallel analysis to resemble needs and restrictions. This was done firstly through the review of American standard NFPA 855/2020 (National Fire Protection Association, 2020) because in this standard different requirements for the protection of all EES systems are collected, focusing on batteries (O'Connor, 2020).

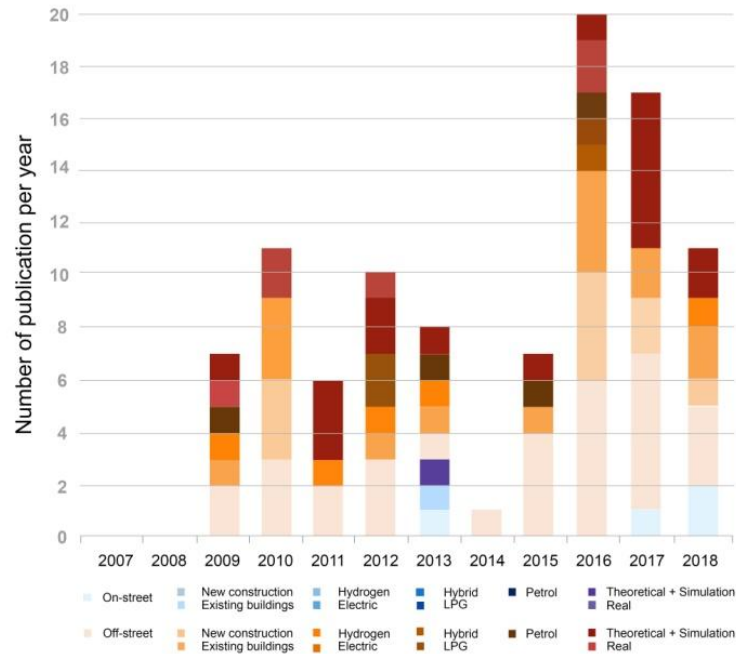


Figure 2. Several publications per year among the same subcategories of scientific literature classification are in Table.1. Source: Drawing by authors

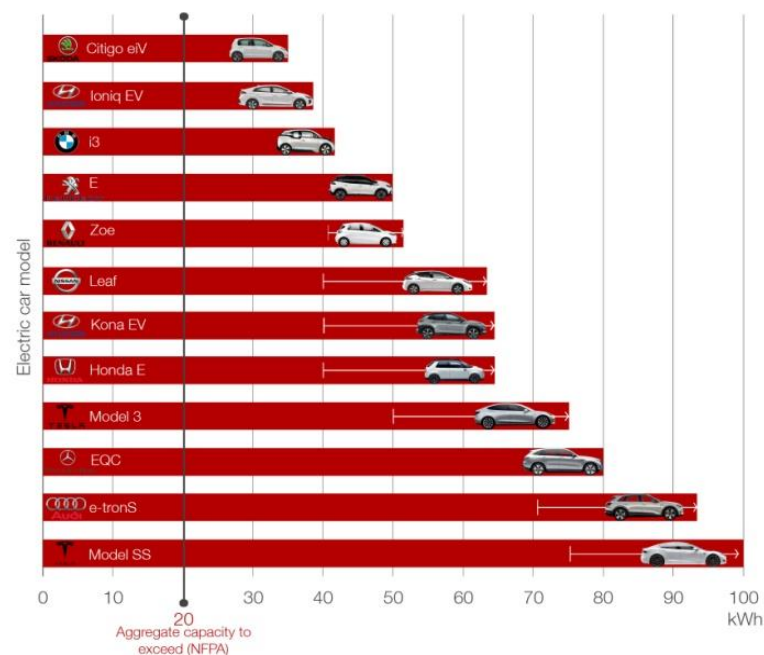


Figure 3. Study of aggregate capacity through the comparison of different car models. Source: Drawing by authors

To determine whether the context of the application of this legislation is appropriate and also to justify it, section 1.3 of NFPA 855/2020 standard was used. As this standard is applied when the different values are exceeded, we proceeded to establish the one that corresponds to lithium-ion batteries, in this case referring to an aggregate capacity of 20 kWh.

Electric cars often use lithium-ion batteries, and for this type of battery, the aggregate capacity must exceed 20 kWh for its implementation. Because of this, a comparison in terms of aggregate capacity of the most in demand and currently in use electric car models was made through different automotive brands, to establish whether this capacity is exceeded or not (Figure 3).

According to section 4.5.6, if mobile ESS are charged and stored they must be considered permanent ESS installations. The main field of study of this work focuses on electric cars, whose batteries are also charged and stored. Therefore, this consideration must be applied and must also comply with the requirements for indoor EES installations. If the ESS is located in a fire area of a non-dedicated-use building, in an open parking garage, or if it is a mobile ESS this standard provides a maximum stored energy value according to Table 3.

Table 3. Maximum stored energy allowed. Chapter 4, NFPA 855/2020 standard. Redraw by authors from original

ESS Type	Maximum Stored Energy ^a (kWh)
Lead-acid batteries, all types	Unlimited
Nick batteries ^b	Unlimited
Lithium-ion batteries, all types	600
Sodium nickel, chloride batteries	600
Flow batteries ^c	600
Other battery technologies	200
Storage capacitors	20

Concerning this capacity, some points are particularly noteworthy.

- It could be the case that more than one ESS is located in a fire area. With an appropriate design of the different fire systems, this important hazard could be protected.
- Another possibility is to have different ESS types within a single fire area. In this context, the maximum stored energy is based on a division between the sum of

the percentages and the maximum stored energy for each type.

Other parameters and conditions should be taken into consideration to increase safety criteria in buildings containing ESS technology according to NFPA 855/200:

- If a fire occurs involving an ESS, air monitoring should be the key.
- Some studies show that during the suppression of batteries, fires sprinklers have improved the effectiveness of removing combustion and flammable gases.
- When a lithium-ion battery burns, flammable gases are generated during and after the extinguishing process, which is why ventilation in suppression activities is critical. This last point struck us as important because as mentioned above, exhaust ventilation installations are not required as mandatory for lithium-ion batteries according to this standard.

Related to passive measures, electrochemical ESS fires are a challenge to overcome and due to this, the different passive fire control features must be designed to meet this objective. Considering this point about enclosures, "building spaces containing ESS need to be separated from other rooms by fire barriers with a minimum of 2 hours fire-resistance rating" (NFPA 855/2020, section 4.3.6) (Figure 4).

Moreover, these spaces must meet certain characteristics related to egress criteria and lighting. This means that the spaces containing ESS should be designed to provide safe egress. They also have to be separated through egress doors, which should be illuminated following the guidelines of the local building code (sections 4.3.10.1 and 4.3.10.2).

In relation safe the presence of materials with the potential to create hazardous situations in buildings, "combustible materials not related to ESS shall not be stored in rooms, cabinets, or enclosures containing ESS equipment" and "in occupied work centers they shall not be stored within 914mm of ESS equipment". In the case of "ESS located on rooftops and open garages... shall be separated by a minimum of 3048 mm from locations where motor vehicles can be parked." (NFPA 855/2020, sections 4.1.6.1 and 4.4.2.1) (Figure 6).

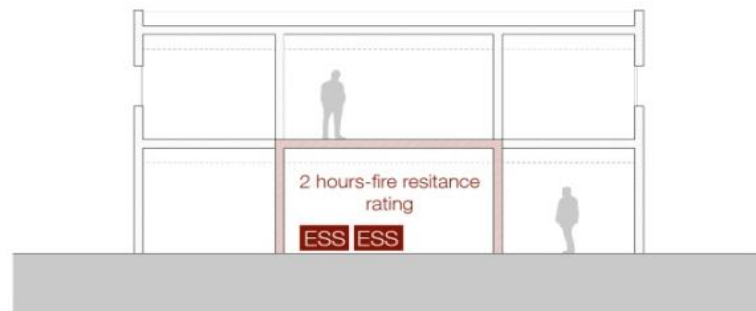


Figure 4. Conditions to fulfill in terms of interior spread and compartmentalization of spaces containing ESS. Source: Drawing by authors

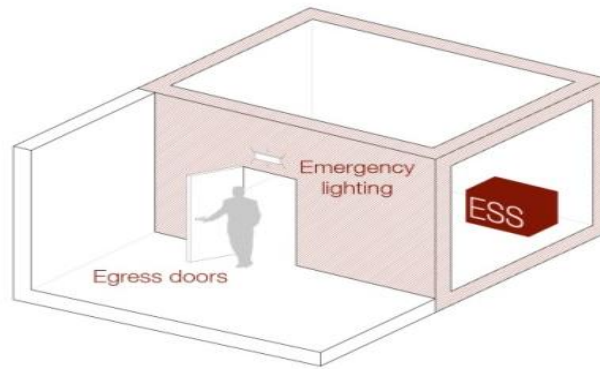


Figure 5. Requirements in areas or spaces containing ESS. Source: Drawing by authors

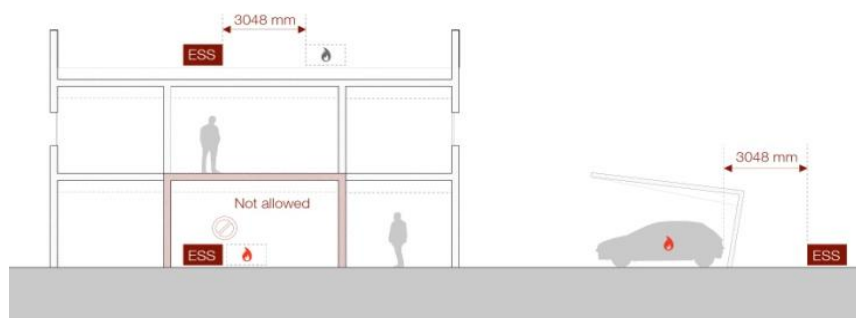


Figure 6. The maximum permitted distance between ESS and combustible materials. Source: Drawing by authors

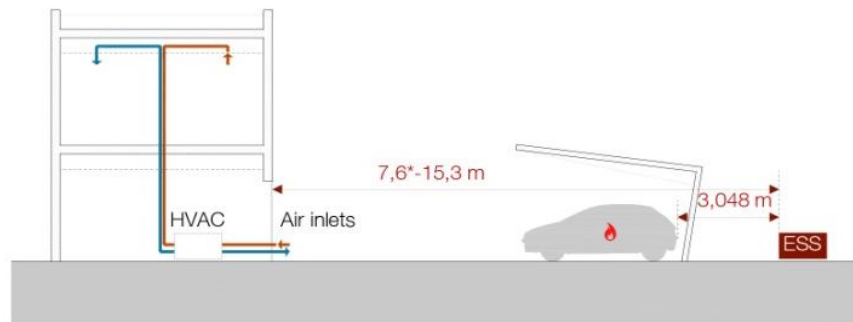


Figure 7. The maximum permitted distance between ESS and building air inlets (referring to those that lead the entrance of air to both inside the building and other premises). Source: Drawing by authors

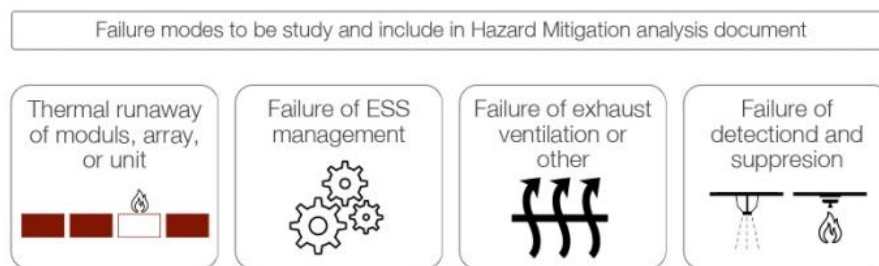


Figure 8. The study of the different modes of failure to be included in the Hazard Mitigation analysis. Source: Chapter 4, NFPA 855/2020 standard. Drawing by authors

In line with this, open parking areas containing ESS should also comply to provide minimum safety distances from certain elements of the building, as seen in Figure 7.

To avoid risks concerning fire protection, building

services maintenance is a fundamental point. Not only in terms of one-off punctual intervention but to establish in advance how a potentially hazardous situation is maintained and addressed. To achieve this, personnel and emergency

responders must have all the information to effectively respond to foreseeable hazards. That is, an emergency planning and training should be provided by the owner of the ESS, and a hazard mitigation analysis should be approved by the AHJ for review and approval" (Figure 8).

3. Existing Alternatives

3.1. Data Presentation

As mentioned before, in Spain there is a suggested lack of appropriate knowledge and policies about the safety criteria of electrical cars. This often results in an unsuitable installation that could entail great risks. When talking about underground parking this is even more important. Another scenario arises within this context; that of applying other criteria to the underground parking areas of residential buildings in Spain. The objective of the data is to analyze what would happen if the NFPA criteria were to be adopted.

3.1.1. Active Measures

In Spanish residential buildings, the typical scheme

includes parking spaces that are often located underground. Among other minor uses, there is a mixed-use ground floor and residential use on elevated floors. With the introduction of electric cars, the ESS are now located in underground parking areas which form part of buildings. According to NFPA 855/2020 section 4.3.9, "the ESS located under the finished floor of the lowest level of exit discharge shall not be permitted unless the location is approved by the AHJ".

Therefore, what are the requirements and conditions to be applied in the transition from combustion to EV? About the maximum stored energy for lithium-ion batteries, the ones used in electric cars, the maximum stored energy is 600 kWh. However, some exceptions have been detected and could be applied, if previously approved by the AHJ. In this case, by presenting a hazardous mitigation analysis and large scale-fire testing.

The Spanish government hopes to achieve a future based mainly on EVs, which means that potentially there will be a large number of electric parking spaces. As we have seen, the capacity of batteries could be among the 35-100 kWh. So, this value of 600 kWh would probably only be surpassed by a few cars.

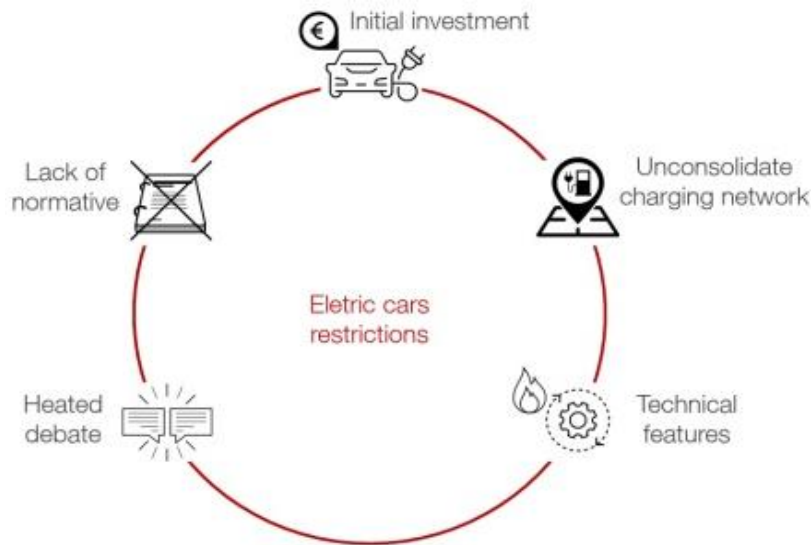


Figure 9. Several restrictions that electric mobility has to overcome. Source: Drawing by authors

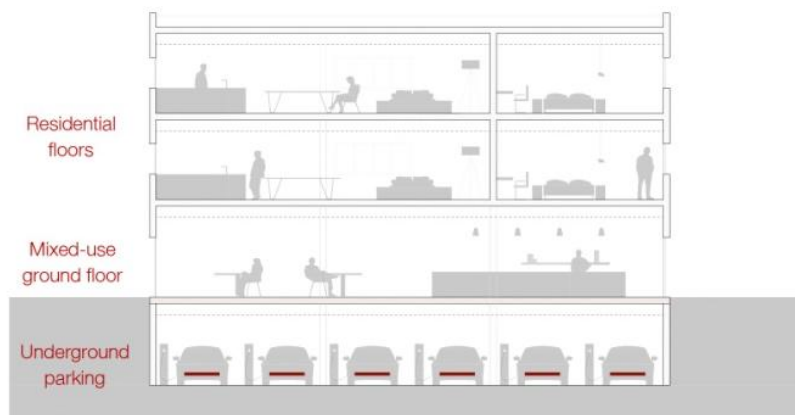


Figure 10. EVs introduction in the typical scheme of residential buildings in Spain. Source: Drawing by authors

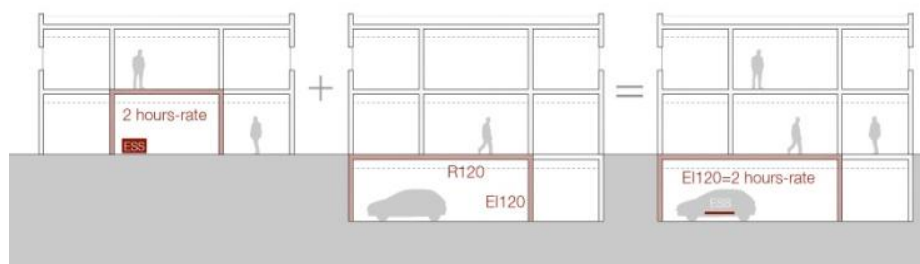


Figure 11. Comparison between NFPA and CTE standards concerning interior fire spread. Also included is the final result of the application of both regulations. Source: Drawing by authors

With the analysis of the NFPA, different parameters will be needed in residential underground parking areas. Given the applied architectural research character of this work, these requirements could be organized according to the level of complexity, from the most economical and with a simpler implication in operative terms to those that technically require a greater effort and are more expensive. In Spain, for example, the order is fire hydrants, sprinkler systems, other suppression systems methods to neutralize spills.

On the subject of the location of sprinklers, it is important to note that according to the NFPA "during sprinkler suppression, removal of combustion and flammable gases emitted from battery significantly improves the effectiveness of the suppression"(National Fire Protection Association, 2020). It seems that this would have to be considered given the Spanish framework. On the other hand, buildings in Spain have an exhaust ventilation system. Even though this is not a compulsory requirement according to the NFPA, having this type of ventilation is a plus in security and could help the mitigation of possible hazards involving the batteries of electric vehicles. Consequently, Spanish buildings could have an advantage in this area.

3.1.2. Passive Strategies

To prevent the interior spread of fire from one space in the building to another, compartmentation plays a fundamental role, and this is also applicable to residential buildings. Firstly, the NFPA standard states that a two-hour rating must be achieved in walls and ceilings containing ESS. Therefore, as we are analyzing the Spanish case, this condition is compared to the existing one at the DB SI from the Spanish Building Code CTE, which states that spaces intended to house car parks should be considered a risk sector of their own.

According to Section 1 of DB SI, underground parking integrated into buildings of other uses must offer 120 minutes of fire protection (EI 120 according to CTE) for walls and 120 minutes resistance for ceilings (REI 120 according to CTE).

Until all vehicles are electric, which is not yet predictable over time, residential parking areas will contain both combustion and electric cars. This means that different ESS will be in close contact with combustible material. This is a practice that already takes place today in Spain and which led

us to the conclusion that a minimum distance between both types of cars is necessary. In this way, even if the NFPA only refers to open parking areas, a minimum of 3,048 meters of distance could be established and then adopted to reinforce safety conditions. If this is a necessity in open parking areas it would also have to be in the underground ones, whose conditions are more extreme and particular (Figure 12).

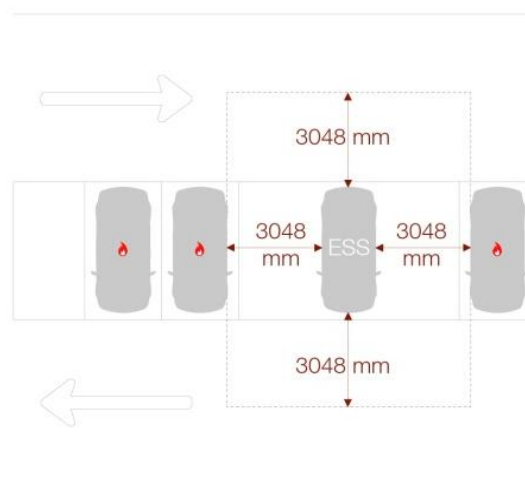


Figure 12. Scheme for indicating the minimum required distance between combustion and electric cars. Source: Drawing by authors

3.1.3. Maintenance

To avoid possible hazards, protect the occupants of buildings and create a safe and healthy environment, maintenance is the key. However, this is not always carried out as often as it should be. Moreover, on a national level, the ITC-BT 52 regulates the connections of electric cars but does not offer specific details on this topic. In this sense, the NFPA standard provides a highly demanding maintenance parameter. This led us to the belief that knowledge-based parameters and conditions should also be applied in Spain.

As indicated, a series of documents shall be presented to establish guidance and emergency actuation methods for qualified personnel, including firefighters. As a consequence of this, Spanish buildings would have to incorporate the following reports to the already required ones: Emergency planning and training and an emergency operation plan with the shutdown, de-energizing, or insulation of equipment and systems under emergency conditions.

3.2. Evaluation

Once the needs and requirements that parking areas in residential buildings should include are established, this section intends to analyze, in general terms, the impact of the above hypotheses in technical, economic, and operative terms.

3.2.1. Technical Feasibility

- Active measures: A series of different active measures should be included in residential underground parking areas to achieve more consolidated safety criteria. In the present day, the majority are available on the market but on the subject of specific EVs requirements, not all have the same effect as for the previous use. This is the case of fire detection and suppression systems, for example.
- Passive strategies: The techniques and processes are known and therefore possible to implement. That said, a separation between types of cars would be necessary.
- Maintenance: This point refers to the possibility of including new documents in Spanish building legislation. Standards are under constant revision and changes could be made if necessary. According to the NFPA, some processes and tests must be included to provide adequate information about the cars located in a residential parking space. In this way, if a fire occurred, the data would be available and could be provided to emergency teams such as firefighters or qualified personnel.

3.2.2. Economic Feasibility

- Active measures: To achieve the best solutions to increase the safety conditions in underground parking, new installations will be needed in some cases. For example, this is the case with sprinklers. Not all residential existing parking areas have this type of suppression system therefore an adaptation of the facilities should be carried out if necessary. The same applies, for example, to the installation of thermographic cameras or with processes to prevent the thermal runaway and explosions of batteries. The inhabitants of the building would have to take on the new expenses and if this were the case of a newly

constructed residential building, it could strongly influence the budget, and therefore the purchase price.

- Passive: Adopting the explained passive strategies would not represent a large economic outlay in comparison to the current budgets of residential parking for combustion vehicles. However, if we talk about size and separation distances, a major parking space would be needed for EVs until conventional combustion vehicles disappear completely. As they will have to share location for many years, an established distance would be needed between them. This would result in a smaller number of parking spaces.
- Maintenance: The different fire tests, analyses and changes in documentation represent an added economic outlay. This may be reflected in a higher selling price of underground parking spaces in the case of a newly constructed building.

3.2.3. Operative Feasibility

- Active measures: A proposed requirement is to have a load management system of the batteries of the EVs, in this way possible hazards could be prevented and kept under control. Nevertheless, there are no available standards for manufacturers to provide an interface or a method of "monitored alarm system within the building"(National Fire Protection Association, 2020). With regard to exhaust ventilation, the NFPA standard does not establish its obligation, but states that ventilation during suppression is the key (National Fire Protection Association, 2020), and as many Spanish residential buildings have this type of ventilation system, the safety criteria is reinforced. Additionally, in the underground parking areas of residential buildings, detection must also be included. It must be said that some requirements are difficult to achieve at this time. For example, methods to neutralize spills are technically complicated and must be carried out by qualified personnel. In this sense it seems unlikely that it could become a normal practice in these building spaces. Other suppression agents could be used for suppressing batteries fire. However, there is a lack of appropriate knowledge on this matter.

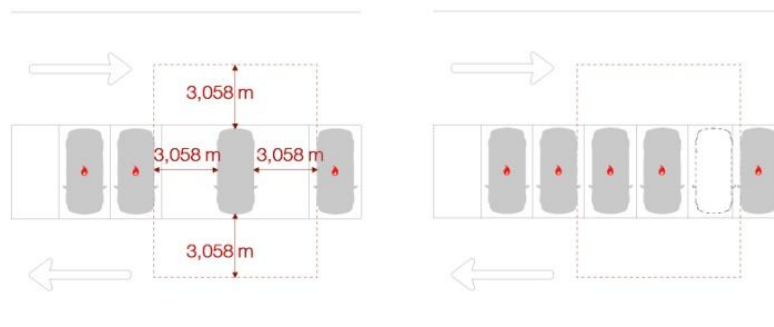


Figure 13. Comparison between the new situation (applying a distance of separation) and the previous one. Source: Drawing by authors

- Passive: Firstly, there is one group of requirements that in Spain does not currently involve changing design, processes and materials. This is the case of hour-rate resistance of enclosures, egress routes and doors and lighting. There are however, some points that can affect underground parking in operative terms, such as the need for a distance of separation. Applying a minimum distance between both combustion and electric vehicles means that a smaller number of parking spaces could be organized inside a residential underground parking lot. This is a very important aspect which would need to be studied with greater consideration in the future.
- Maintenance: The adoption of the requested documentation, for delivering it to the concerned authorities and for it to be consequently organized by the emergency personnel, would affect building safety protocols. This would involve making several changes and readapting the existing standards. However, this would also involve testing, training of qualified personnel and various activities already identified, which for an existing building may prove difficult to adopt. If we apply this to residential buildings, a qualified person should regulate EVs in underground parking. This is a complicated issue since the availability of 24-hour surveillance staff would entail significant cost and in turn be difficult to implement due to the large number of buildings with underground parking in Spain. Other authors make reference to load management systems in order to dispense with the suggested staff, but further development is needed in this field of study, as is also indicated in the NFPA standard.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

Background evidence proves that electric transport transition is a reality in 2020. However, there are still many unknown aspects and society does not seem well prepared for it. With uneven development between different parts of the world, electric mobility faces a challenge. With the introduction of electric cars, these spaces were analyzed in this study to establish the current level of preparation of these infrastructures within the car transition. Firstly, this work analyzes and classifies the existing scientific literature related to this transition over the last ten years. It is worth noting that this literature review demonstrates that only a few publications consider the safety of on-street parking. Therefore, future research on this topic will be necessary in order to achieve equal safety criteria. In the same way, it is important to highlight those studies involving real experiences are fewer than the ones that remain at a theoretical level. Few scale prototypes have been developed in underground parking areas and even less in residential buildings.

As a result, this type of mobility needs to be developed further and some of the main improvements should be

carried out taking the following points into consideration:

- The analysis of the proposed scenario, the adoption of the American criteria by the Spanish residential underground parking, determines that the implementation of several new conditions is possible. However, it appears that the European Union could make an effort to adapt and evaluate the consequences of incorporating some of the mentioned terms.
- Spanish legislation regarding electric cars does not mention any safety of maintenance activities. According to the NFPA, the standard maintenance of ESS is a key point. By adopting different required documents and conditions, the possible hazards involving electric cars batteries could be reduced.
- Future solutions must also be oriented towards creating valuable and testable performance guides for qualified personnel and firefighters. Confusing knowledge and heated debate has sometimes led to actions that may not be the correct ones.

Focusing on its progressive increase, it should be noted that other obstacles are likely to appear in the future. The transport sector is not currently experiencing a massification of electric vehicles, but if this does occur, certain questions could compromise this type of mobility. Aspects to consider include the following:

- Several studies remark that charging stations need a major boost, not only concerning their location through the road network but also their integration in buildings. The current practice in car parks is to install a reduced number of large charging points. To ensure that buildings can cope with this extra load, some authors discuss the necessity of developing load management systems and battery storage technology (Selvey, 2018).
- Although the present study has been proposed from the Spanish perspective, it is evident that the possibilities described are valid for other countries experiencing similar situations.

How governments, manufacturers and building designers deal with these questions, as well as with the necessity of safety criteria in buildings, will prove to be the ultimate step towards achieving a fully global electric transition.

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