

Electrostatics - Part 4-4: Standard test methods for specific applications - Electrostatic classification of flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBC)

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

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Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas.	This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation.
Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonid on teinud Euroopa standardi rahvuslikele liikmetele kättesaadavaks 23.03.2012.	Date of Availability of the European standard is 23.03.2012.
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ICS 17.220.99, 29.020, 55.080

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English version

**Electrostatics -
Part 4-4: Standard test methods for specific applications -
Electrostatic classification of flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBC)
(IEC 61340-4-4:2012)**

Electrostatique -
Partie 4-4: Méthodes d'essai normalisées
pour des applications spécifiques -
Classification électrostatique des grands
récipients pour vrac souples (GRVS)
(CEI 61340-4-4:2012)

Elektrostatik -
Teil 4-4: Normprüfverfahren für spezielle
Anwendungen -
Einordnung flexibler Schüttgutbehälter
(FIBC) in elektrostatischer Hinsicht
(IEC 61340-4-4:2012)

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CENELEC

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

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Foreword

The text of document 101/346/FDIS, future edition 2 of IEC 61340-4-4, prepared by IEC TC 101, "Electrostatics" was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN 61340-4-4:2012.

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which the document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2012-11-22
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2015-02-22

This document supersedes EN 61340-4-4:2005.

EN 61340-4-4:2012 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 61340-4-4:2005:

- a) Adoption of a type classification system for FIBC based on four types: A, B, C and D.
- b) Guidance for safe use of FIBC in relation to hazardous areas and hazardous zones defined in EN 60079-10-1 and EN 60079-10-2 is added.
- c) Resistance to groundable points and electrical breakdown voltage measurements on FIBC shall be measured at low humidity only.
- d) Requirements for labelling FIBC are changed to improve clarity and ease of recognition by end users.
- e) Classification, performance requirements and guidance for safe use of inner liners in combination with FIBC are added.
- f) An informative annex giving guidance on test methods for quality control and inspection testing is added.

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

Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 61340-4-4:2012 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following note has to be added for the standard indicated:

IEC 61340-2-1 NOTE Harmonized as EN 61340-2-1.

Annex ZA (normative)

Normative references to international publications with their corresponding European publications

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.

NOTE When an international publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>EN/HD</u>	<u>Year</u>
IEC 60079-10-1	-	Explosive atmospheres - Part 10-1: Classification of areas - Explosive gas atmospheres	EN 60079-10-1	-
IEC 60079-10-2	-	Explosive atmospheres - Part 10-2: Classification of areas - Combustible dust atmospheres	EN 60079-10-2	-
IEC 60243-1	1998	Electrical strength of insulating materials - Test methods - Part 1: Tests at power frequencies	EN 60243-1	1998
IEC 60243-2	-	Electric strength of insulating materials - Test methods - Part 2: Additional requirements for tests using direct voltage	EN 60243-2	-
IEC 60417	Data- base	Graphical symbols for use on equipment	-	-
IEC 61241-2-3	-	Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of - combustible dust - Part 2: Test methods - Section 3: Method for determining minimum ignition energy of dust/air mixtures	-	-
IEC 61340-2-3	-	Electrostatics - Part 2-3: Methods of test for determining the resistance and resistivity of solid planar materials used to avoid electrostatic charge accumulation	EN 61340-2-3	-
ISO 7000	2004	Graphical symbols for use on equipment - Index and synopsis	-	-
ISO 21898	-	Packaging - Flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBCs) for non-dangerous goods	EN ISO 21898	-
ASTM E582	-	Standard test method for minimum ignition energy and quenching distance in gaseous mixtures	-	-

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INTRODUCTION

Flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBC) are widely used for the storage, transportation and handling of powdered, flaked or granular material. Typically, they are constructed from woven polypropylene fabric in the form of cubic bags of about 1 m³ volume, although they can vary in shape and in size from 0,25 m³ to 3 m³. The fabric used may be a single layer, a multi-layer laminate, or a coated fabric. Untreated polypropylene is an electrical insulator, as is often the case with the products placed in FIBC. There is ample opportunity for the generation of electrostatic charge during filling and emptying operations and in unprotected FIBC high levels of charge can quickly build up. In such cases, electrostatic discharges are inevitable and can be a severe problem when FIBC are used in hazardous explosive atmospheres.

A hazardous explosive atmosphere can be generated when handling fine powders that create dust clouds or thin layers of powder, both of which can be ignited by electrostatic discharges. A hazardous explosive atmosphere can also be generated when using gases or volatile solvents. In these industrial situations there is clearly a need to eliminate incendive electrostatic discharges.

As with any industrial equipment, a thorough risk assessment should always be conducted before using FIBC in potentially hazardous situations. This part of IEC 61340 describes a system of classification, test methods, performance and design requirements and safe use procedures that can be used by manufacturers, specifiers and end-users as part of a risk assessment of any FIBC intended for use within a hazardous explosive atmosphere. However, it does not include procedures for evaluating the specific risks of electrostatic discharges arising from products within FIBC, e.g. cone discharges, from personnel or from equipment used near FIBC. Information on risks associated with cone discharges is given in Annex E.

CAUTION: The test methods specified in this standard involve the use of high voltage power supplies and flammable gases that may present hazards if handled incorrectly, particularly by unqualified or inexperienced personnel. Users of this standard are encouraged to carry out proper risk assessments and pay due regard to local regulations before undertaking any of the test procedures.

ELECTROSTATICS –

Part 4-4: Standard test methods for specific applications – Electrostatic classification of flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBC)

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61340 specifies requirements for flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBC) between 0,25 m³ and 3 m³ in volume, intended for use in hazardous explosive atmospheres. The explosive atmosphere may be created by the contents in the FIBC or may exist outside the FIBC.

The requirements include:

- classification and labelling of FIBC;
- classification of inner liners;
- specification of test methods for each type of FIBC and inner liner;
- design and performance requirements for FIBC and inner liners;
- safe use of FIBC (including those with inner liners) within different zones defined for explosion endangered environments, described for areas where combustible dusts are, or may be, present (IEC 60079-10-2), and for explosive gas atmospheres (IEC 60079-10-1);
- procedures for type qualification and certification of FIBC, including the safe use of inner liners.

NOTE 1 Guidance on test methods that may be used for manufacturing quality control is given in Annex C.

The requirements of this standard are applicable to all types of FIBC and inner liners, tested as manufactured, prior to use and intended for use in hazardous explosive atmospheres: Zones 1 and 2 (Groups IIA and IIB only) and Zones 21 and 22 (see Annex D for classification of hazardous areas and explosion groups). For some types of FIBC, the requirements of this standard apply only to use in hazardous explosive atmospheres with minimum ignition energy of 0,14 mJ or greater and where charging currents do not exceed 3,0 µA.

NOTE 2 0,14 mJ is the minimum ignition energy of a typical Group IIB gas or vapour. Although more sensitive materials exist, 0,14 mJ is the lowest minimum ignition energy of any material that is likely to be present when FIBC are emptied. 3,0 µA is the highest charging current likely to be found in common industrial processes. This combination of minimum ignition energy and charging current represents the most severe conditions that might be expected in practice.

Compliance with the requirements specified in this standard does not necessarily ensure that hazardous electrostatic discharges, e.g. cone discharges, will not be generated by the contents in FIBC. Information on the risks associated with cone discharges is given in Annex E.

Compliance with the requirements of this standard does not mitigate the need for full risk assessment. For example, metal and other conductive powders and toner powders may require additional precautions to prevent hazardous discharges from the powders.

NOTE 3 In the examples mentioned in the paragraph above, additional precautions may be necessary in the case of metal or other conductive powder because if the powder is isolated and becomes charged, incendiary sparks may occur, and in the case of toner powders, incendiary discharges may occur during rapid filling and emptying operations. Future IEC/TS 60079-32 [1]¹ gives guidance on additional precautions that may be necessary.

¹ Figures in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

Test methods included in this standard may be used in association with other performance requirements, for example when a risk assessment has shown the minimum ignition energy of concern is less than 0,14 mJ, charging currents are greater than 3,0 μ A, or the ambient conditions are outside of the range specified in this standard.

Compliance with the requirements specified in this standard does not necessarily ensure that electric shocks to personnel will not occur from FIBC during normal use.

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.

IEC 60079-10-1, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 10-1: Classification of areas – Explosive gas atmospheres*

IEC 60079-10-2, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 10-2: Classification of areas – Combustible dust atmospheres*

IEC 60243-1:1998, *Electric strength of insulating materials – Test methods – Part 1: Tests at power frequencies*

IEC 60243-2, *Electric strength of insulating materials – Test methods – Part 2: Additional requirements for tests using direct voltage*

IEC 60417-5019:2006, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*. Available at: <<http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment>>"

IEC 61241-2-3, *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust – Part 2: Test methods – Section 3: Method for determining minimum ignition energy of dust/air mixtures*

IEC 61340-2-3, *Electrostatics – Part 2-3: Methods of test for determining the resistance and resistivity of solid planar materials used to avoid electrostatic charge accumulation*

ISO 7000:2004, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment – Index and synopsis*

ISO 21898, *Packaging – Flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBCs) for non-dangerous goods*

ASTM E582, *Standard test method for minimum ignition energy and quenching distance in gaseous mixtures*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions, as well as those given in IEC 60079-10-1, IEC 60079-10-2 and ISO 21898, apply.

3.1

quenching

effect of solid objects acting as heat sinks in close proximity to gas

3.2

critical quenching distance

maximum separation distance between opposing electrodes below which quenching prevents ignition at a specified energy