

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Explosive atmospheres –  
Part 14: Electrical installations design, selection and erection**

**Atmosphères explosives –  
Partie 14: Conception, sélection et construction des installations électriques**



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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

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**Atmosphères explosives –  
Partie 14: Conception, sélection et construction des installations électriques**

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# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

### Part 14: Electrical installations design, selection and erection

#### FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60079-14 has been prepared by subcommittee 31J: Classification of hazardous areas and installation requirements, of IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2002 and constitutes a technical revision with respect to gases and vapours and incorporates the requirements for dusts from IEC 61241-14 (2004). The incorporation of requirements for dust is without technical change.

The significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows:

- Knowledge, skills and competencies of "Responsible Persons", "Operatives" and "Designers" are explained in Annex F.
- Equipment Protection Levels (EPLs) have been introduced and are explained in the new Annex I.
- Dust requirements included from IEC 61241-14, Ed. 1.0.

NOTE Dust requirements are included as an interim presentation for the purpose of this edition and will be refined in a next edition with other required technical changes.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
31J/150/FDIS	31J/152/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard 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.

A list of all parts of the IEC 60079 series, under the general title *Explosive atmospheres*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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- withdrawn,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

## INTRODUCTION

Preventive measures to reduce the explosion risk from flammable materials are based on three principles, which shall be applied in the following order:

- 1) Substitution
- 2) Control
- 3) Mitigation

Substitution involves, for example, replacing a flammable material by one which is either not flammable or less flammable.

Control involves, for example:

- a) reducing the quantity of flammables;
- b) avoiding or minimising releases;
- c) controlling the release;
- d) preventing the formation of an explosive atmosphere;
- e) collecting and containing releases; and
- f) avoiding ignition sources.

NOTE 1 With the exception of item f), all of the above are part of the process of hazardous area classification.

Mitigation involves, for example:

- 1) reducing the number of people exposed;
- 2) providing measures to avoid the propagation of an explosion;
- 3) providing explosion pressure relief;
- 4) providing explosion pressure suppression; and
- 5) providing suitable personal protective equipment.

NOTE 2 The above items are part of consequence management when considering risk.

Once the principles of substitution and control (items a) to e)) have been applied, the remaining hazardous areas should be classified into zones according to the likelihood of an explosive atmosphere being present (see IEC 60079-10 or IEC 61241-10). Such classification, which may be used in conjunction with an assessment of the consequences of an ignition, allows equipment protection levels to be determined and hence appropriate types of protection to be specified for each location.

For an explosion to occur, an explosive atmosphere and a source of ignition need to co-exist. Protective measures aim to reduce, to an acceptable level, the likelihood that the electrical installation could become a source of ignition.

By careful design of the electrical installation, it is frequently possible to locate much of the electrical equipment in less hazardous or non-hazardous areas.

When electrical equipment is to be installed in areas where dangerous concentrations and quantities of flammable gases, vapours, mists or dusts may be present in the atmosphere, protective measures are applied to reduce the likelihood of explosion due to ignition by arcs, sparks or hot surfaces, produced either in normal operation or under specified fault conditions.

Many types of dust that are generated, processed, handled and stored, are combustible. When ignited they can burn rapidly and with considerable explosive force if mixed with air in the appropriate proportions. It is often necessary to use electrical apparatus in locations

where such combustible materials are present, and suitable precautions must therefore be taken to ensure that all such apparatus is adequately protected so as to reduce the likelihood of ignition of the external explosive atmosphere. In electrical apparatus, potential ignition sources include electrical arcs and sparks, hot surfaces and frictional sparks.

Areas where dust, flyings and fibres in air occur in dangerous quantities are classified as hazardous and are divided into three zones according to the level of risk.

Combustible dust can be ignited by equipment in several ways:

- by surfaces of the apparatus that are above the minimum ignition temperature of the dust concerned. The temperature at which a type of dust ignites is a function of the properties of the dust, whether the dust is in a cloud or layer, the thickness of the layer and the geometry of the heat source;
- by arcing or sparking of electrical parts such as switches, contacts, commutators, brushes, or the like;
- by discharge of an accumulated electrostatic charge;
- by radiated energy (e.g. electromagnetic radiation);
- by mechanical sparking or frictional sparking associated with the apparatus.

In order to avoid dust ignition hazards it is necessary that:

- the temperature of surfaces on which dust can be deposited, or which would be in contact with a dust cloud, is kept below the temperature limitation specified in this standard;
- any electrical sparking parts, or parts having a temperature above the temperature limit specified in this standard:
  - are contained in an enclosure which adequately prevents the ingress of dust, or
  - the energy of electrical circuits is limited so as to avoid arcs, sparks or temperatures capable of igniting combustible dust;
- any other ignition sources are avoided.

Several types of protection are available for electrical equipment in hazardous areas (see IEC 60079-0), and this standard gives the specific requirements for design, selection and erection of electrical installations in explosive atmospheres.

This part of IEC 60079 is supplementary to other relevant IEC standards, for example IEC 60364 series as regards electrical installation requirements. This part also refers to IEC 60079-0 and its associated standards for the construction, testing and marking requirements of suitable electrical equipment.

This standard is based on the assumption that electrical equipment is correctly installed, tested, maintained and used in accordance with its specified characteristics.

Inspection, maintenance and repair aspects play an important role in control of hazardous area installations and the user's attention is drawn to IEC 60079-17 and IEC 60079-19 for further information concerning these aspects.

In any industrial installation, irrespective of size, there may be numerous sources of ignition apart from those associated with electrical equipment. Precautions may be necessary to ensure safety from other possible ignition sources, but guidance on this aspect is outside the scope of this standard.

In IEC 61241-1, for protection by enclosure 'tD', two different types of practice, A and B, are specified and are intended to provide an equivalent level of protection.

Both of these practices are in common use and the requirements of each should be followed without mixing either the apparatus requirements or selection/installation requirements of the two practices. They adopt different methodology with the primary differences being:

Practice A	Practice B
Written principally as performance based requirements	Written as both performance and prescriptive based requirements
Maximum surface temperature is determined with 5 mm layer of dust and installation rules require 75 °C margin between the surface temperature and ignition temperature of the particular dust	Maximum surface temperature is determined with 12,5 mm layer of dust and installation rules require 25 °C margin between the surface temperature and ignition temperature of the particular dust
A method of achieving the required dust ingress protection by the use of resilient seals on joints and rubbing seals on rotating or moving shafts or spindles and determining dust ingress according to IEC 60529 -IP Code	A method of achieving the required dust ingress protection by specified widths and clearances between joint faces and, in the case of shafts and spindles, specified lengths and diametrical clearances between moving and stationary parts and determining dust ingress according to the heat cycling test

## EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

### Part 14: Electrical installations design, selection and erection

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 contains the specific requirements for the design, selection and erection of electrical installations in hazardous areas associated with explosive atmospheres.

Where the equipment is required to meet other environmental conditions, for example, protection against ingress of water and resistance to corrosion, additional methods of protection may be necessary. The method used should not adversely affect the integrity of the enclosure.

The requirements of this standard apply only to the use of equipment under normal or near normal atmospheric conditions. For other conditions, additional precautions may be necessary. For example, most flammable materials and many materials which are normally regarded as non-flammable might burn vigorously under conditions of oxygen enrichment. Other precautions might also be necessary in the use of equipment under conditions of extreme temperature and pressure. Such precautions are beyond the scope of this standard.

These requirements are in addition to the requirements for installations in non-hazardous areas.

This standard applies to all electrical equipment including fixed, portable, transportable and personal, and installations, permanent or temporary.

It applies to installations at all voltages.

This standard does not apply to

- electrical installations in mines susceptible to firedamp;  
NOTE This standard may apply to electrical installations in mines where explosive gas atmospheres other than firedamp may be formed and to electrical installations in the surface installation of mines.
- inherently explosive situations and dust from explosives or pyrophoric substances (for example explosives manufacturing and processing);
- rooms used for medical purposes;
- electrical installations in areas where the hazard is due to hybrid mixtures of combustible dust and explosive gas, vapour or mist.

This standard does not take into account of any risk due to an emission of flammable or toxic gas from the dust.

#### 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 60034-1, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 1: Rating and performance*

IEC 60034-5, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 5: Degrees of protection provided by the integral design of rotating electrical machines (IP code) – Classification*

IEC 60050-826, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 826: Electrical installations*

IEC 60060-1, *High-voltage test techniques – Part 1: General definitions and test requirements*

IEC 60079 (all parts), *Explosive atmospheres*

IEC 60079-0, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 0: Equipment – General requirements*

IEC 60079-1, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 1: Equipment protection by flameproof enclosures “d”*

IEC 60079-2, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 2: Equipment protection by pressurized enclosure «p»*

IEC 60079-5, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 5: Equipment protection by powder filling «q»*

IEC 60079-6, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 6: Equipment protection by oil immersion “o”*

IEC 60079-7, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 7: Equipment protection by increased safety “e”*

IEC 60079-11, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety “i”*

IEC/TR 60079-13, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 13: Construction and use of rooms or buildings protected by pressurization*

IEC 60079-14, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 14: Electrical installations in hazardous areas (other than mines)*

IEC 60079-15, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 15: Construction, test and marking of type of protection “n” electrical apparatus*

IEC 60079-16, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 16: Artificial ventilation for the protection of analyzer(s) houses*

IEC 60079-18, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 18: Construction, test and marking of type of protection encapsulation “m” electrical apparatus*

IEC 60079-19, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 19: Equipment repair, overhaul and reclamation*

IEC 60079-25, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 25: Intrinsically safe systems*

IEC 60079-26, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 26: Equipment with equipment protection level (EPL) Ga*

IEC 60079-27, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 27: Fieldbus intrinsically safe concept (FISCO) and Fieldbus non-incendive concept (FNICO)*

IEC 60079-28, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 28: Protection of equipment and transmissions systems using optical radiation*

IEC 60079-29-1, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 29-1: Gas detectors – Performance requirements of detectors for flammable gases*

IEC 60079-29-2, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 29-2: Gas detectors – Selection, installation, use and maintenance of detectors for flammable gases and oxygen*



IEC 60079-31, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 31: Equipment dust ignition protection by enclosure "tD"*<sup>1</sup>

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

IEC 60332-1-2, *Tests on electric and optical cables under fire conditions – Part 1-2: Test for vertical flame propagation for a single insulated wire or cable-Procedure for 1KW pre-mixed flame*

IEC 60364 (all parts) *Low-voltage electrical installations*

IEC 60364-4-41, *Low-voltage electrical installations – Part 4-41: Protection for safety – Protection against electric shock*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosure (IP code)*

IEC 60950 (all parts), *Information technology equipment – Safety*

IEC 61010-1, *Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use - Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 61241 (all parts), *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust*

IEC 61241-0, *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust – Part 0: General requirements*

IEC 61241-1, *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust – Part 1: Protection by enclosures "tD"*

IEC 61241-2-1, *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust – Part 2: Test methods – Section 1: Methods for determining the minimum ignition temperatures of dust*

IEC 61241-4, *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust – Part 4: Type of protection "pD"*

IEC 61241-10, *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust – Part 10: Classification of areas where combustible dusts are or may be present*

IEC 61241-11, *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust – Part 11: Protection by intrinsic safety "iD"*

IEC 61285, *Industrial process control – Safety of analyser houses*

IEC 61558-2-6, *Safety of power transformers, power supply units and similar – Part 2-6: Particular requirements for safety isolating transformers for general use*

IEC 62305-3, *Protection against lightning – Part 3 Physical damage to structures and life hazard*

ISO 10807, *Pipework – Corrugated flexible metallic hose assemblies for the protection of electric cables in explosive atmospheres*

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<sup>1</sup> To be published