IEC 60079-0

Edition 6.0 2011-06

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Explosive atmospheres –
Part 0: Equipment – General requirements

Atmosphères explosives –
Partie 0: Matériel – Exigences générales

IEC 60079-0:2011

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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International Standard IEC 60079-0 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition, published in 2007, and constitutes a full technical revision.

The significant changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- Relocation of definitions for energy limitation parameters to IEC 60079-11
- Addition of note to clarify that the non-metallic "enclosure" requirements are applied to other than "enclosures" by some of the subparts
- Expansion of material specification data for plastics and elastomers, including UV resistance
- Addition of alternative qualification for O-rings
- Addition of alternative criteria for surface resistance

- Addition of breakdown voltage limit for non-metallic layers applied to metallic enclosures
- Expansion of “X” marking options for non-metallic enclosure materials not meeting basic electrostatic requirements
- Clarification that non-metallic enclosure requirements also apply to painted or coated metal enclosures
- Clarification of test to determine capacitance of accessible metal parts with reduction in acceptable capacitance
- Addition of limits on zirconium content for Group III and Group II (Gb only) enclosures
- Introduction of “X” marking for Group III enclosures not complying with basic material requirements, similar to that existing for Group II
- Addition of button-head cap screws to permitted “Special Fasteners”
- Reference for protective earthing (PE) requirements for electrical machines to IEC 60034-1
- Clarification of terminology for cable glands, blanking elements, and thread adapters
- Addition of requirements for ventilating fans
- Addition of alternative construction for disconnectors
- Removal of voltage limits on plugs and sockets
- Addition of test requirements for arc-quenching test on plugs and sockets
- Update of cell and battery information to reflect latest standards
- Revision to impact test of glass parts
- Revision to impact test procedure to address “bounce” of impact head
- Clarification of the test requirements for “service” and “surface” temperature
- Addition of temperature rise tests for converter-fed motors
- Addition of alternative test method for thermal endurance
- Removal of “charging test” and addition of note providing guidance
- Clarification of test for the measurement of capacitance
- Addition of a “Schedule of Limitations” to certificates for Ex Components
- Clarification of the marking for multiple temperature classes
- Addition of marking for converter-fed motors
- Removal of IP marking for Group III
- Addition of specific instructions for electrical machines
- Addition of specific instructions for ventilating fans
- Update to informative Annex D on converter-fed motors
- Update to informative Annex E on temperature testing of motors
- Addition of informative Annex F, flowchart for testing of non-metallic enclosures and non-metallic parts of enclosures

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

FDIS	Report on voting
31/922/FDIS	31/939/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.

Future standards in this series will carry the new general title as cited above. Titles of existing standards in this series will be updated at the time of a new edition.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability 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.

EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 0: Equipment – General requirements

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 specifies the general requirements for construction, testing and marking of electrical equipment and Ex Components intended for use in explosive atmospheres.

The standard atmospheric conditions (relating to the explosion characteristics of the atmosphere) under which it may be assumed that electrical equipment can be operated are:

- temperature –20 °C to +60 °C;
- pressure 80 kPa (0,8 bar) to 110 kPa (1,1 bar); and
- air with normal oxygen content, typically 21 % v/v.

This standard and other standards supplementing this standard specify additional test requirements for equipment operating outside the standard temperature range, but further additional consideration and additional testing may be required for equipment operating outside the standard atmospheric pressure range and standard oxygen content, particularly with respect to types of protection that depend on quenching of a flame such as 'flameproof enclosure "d"' (IEC 60079-1) or limitation of energy, 'intrinsic safety "i"' (IEC 60079-11).

NOTE 1 Although the standard atmospheric conditions above give a temperature range for the atmosphere of -20 °C to +60 °C, the normal ambient temperature range for the equipment is –20 °C to +40 °C, unless otherwise specified and marked. See 5.1.1. It is considered that –20 °C to +40 °C is appropriate for most equipment and that to manufacture all equipment to be suitable for a standard atmosphere upper ambient temperature of +60 °C would place unnecessary design constraints.

NOTE 2 Requirements given in this standard result from an ignition hazard assessment made on electrical equipment. The ignition sources taken into account are those found associated with this type of equipment, such as hot surfaces, mechanically generated sparks, mechanical impacts resulting in thermite reactions, electrical arcing and static electric discharge in normal industrial environments.

NOTE 3 It is acknowledged that, with developments in technology, it may be possible to achieve the objectives of the IEC 60079 series of standards in respect of explosion prevention by methods that are not yet fully defined. Where a manufacturer wishes to take advantage of such developments, this International Standard, as well as other standards in the IEC 60079 series, may be applied in part. It is intended that the manufacturer prepare documentation that clearly defines how the IEC 60079 series of standards has been applied, together with a full explanation of the additional techniques employed. The designation "Ex s" has been reserved to indicate special protection. A standard for special protection "s", IEC 60079-33, is in preparation.

NOTE 4 Where an explosive gas atmosphere and a combustible dust atmosphere are, or may be, present at the same time, the simultaneous presence of both should be considered and may require additional protective measures.

This standard does not specify requirements for safety, other than those directly related to the explosion risk. Ignition sources like adiabatic compression, shock waves, exothermic chemical reaction, self ignition of dust, naked flames and hot gases/liquids, are not addressed by this standard.

NOTE 5 Such equipment should be subjected to a hazard analysis that identifies and lists all of the potential sources of ignition by the electrical equipment and the measures to be applied to prevent them becoming effective.

This standard is supplemented or modified by the following standards concerning specific types of protection:

– IEC 60079-1: Gas – Flameproof enclosures "d";
– IEC 60079-2: Gas – Pressurized enclosures "p";