

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

IEC 60079-10

Fourth edition
2002-06

Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres –

Part 10: Classification of hazardous areas

*This **English-language** version is derived from the original **bilingual** publication by leaving out all French-language pages. Missing page numbers correspond to the French-language pages.*



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ELECTRICAL APPARATUS FOR EXPLOSIVE GAS ATMOSPHERES – Part 10: Classification of hazardous areas

FOREWORD

- 1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the 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, the IEC publishes International Standards. 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. The 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 60079-10 has been prepared by subcommittee 31J: Classification of hazardous areas and installation requirements, of IEC technical committee 31: Electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 1995, and constitutes a technical revision.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
31J/82/FDIS	31J/84/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 3.

Annexes A, B and C are for information only.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2007. At this date, the publication will be

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- withdrawn;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

INTRODUCTION

In areas where dangerous quantities and concentrations of flammable gas or vapour may arise, protective measures are to be applied in order to reduce the risk of explosions. This part of IEC 60079 sets out the essential criteria against which the risk of ignition can be assessed, and gives guidance on the design and control parameters which can be used in order to reduce such a risk.

This standard can be used as a basis for the proper selection and installation of apparatus for use in a hazardous area.

Withdrawn

ELECTRICAL APPARATUS FOR EXPLOSIVE GAS ATMOSPHERES –

Part 10: Classification of hazardous areas

1 General

1.1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 is concerned with the classification of hazardous areas where flammable gas or vapour risks may arise, in order to permit the proper selection and installation of apparatus for use in such hazardous areas.

It is intended to be applied where there may be a risk of ignition due to the presence of flammable gas or vapour, mixed with air under normal atmospheric conditions (see note 2), but it does not apply to

- a) mines susceptible to firedamp;
- b) the processing and manufacture of explosives;
- c) areas where a risk may arise due to the presence of ignitable dusts or fibres;
- d) catastrophic failures which are beyond the concept of abnormality dealt with in this standard (see note 3);
- e) rooms used for medical purposes;
- f) areas where the presence of flammable mist may give rise to an unpredictable risk and which require special consideration (see note 5);
- g) domestic premises.

This standard does not take into account the effects of consequential damage.

Definitions and explanations of terms are given together with the main principles and procedures relating to hazardous area classification.

For detailed recommendations regarding the extent of the hazardous areas in specific industries or applications, reference may be made to the codes relating to those industries or applications.

NOTE 1 For the purpose of this standard, an area is a three-dimensional region or space.

NOTE 2 Atmospheric conditions include variations above and below reference levels of 101,3 kPa (1 013 mbar) and 20 °C (293 K), provided that the variations have a negligible effect on the explosion properties of the flammable materials.

NOTE 3 Catastrophic failure in this context is applied, for example, to the rupture of a process vessel or pipeline and events that are not predictable.

NOTE 4 In any process plant, irrespective of size, there may be numerous sources of ignition apart from those associated with electrical apparatus. Appropriate precautions will be necessary to ensure safety in this context. This standard may be used with judgement for other ignition sources.

NOTE 5 Mists may form or be present at the same time as flammable vapours. This may affect the way flammable material disperses and the extent of any hazardous areas. The strict application of area classification for gases and vapours may not be appropriate because the flammability characteristics of mists are not always predictable. Whilst it can be difficult to decide upon the type and extent of zones, the criteria applicable to gases and vapours will, in most cases, give a safe result. However, special consideration should always be given to the danger of ignition of flammable mists.

1.2 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 60050(426):1990, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) – Chapter 426: Electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres*

IEC 60079-4:1975, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 4: Method of test for ignition temperature*

IEC 60079-4A:1970, *First supplement to IEC 60079-4 (1966), Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 4: Method of test for ignition temperature*

IEC 60079-20:1996, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 20: Data for flammable gases and vapours, relating to the use of electrical apparatus*

Withdrawn