PD CEN/TR 17838:2022

BSI Standards Publication

Use of plugs of bulk material in screw conveyors and product receivers for explosion isolation

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National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of CEN/TR 17838:2022.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EXL/23, Explosion and fire precautions in industrial and chemical plant.

The following technical report provides guidance on the efficacy of screw conveyors and material chokes that are required to act as explosion isolation devices.

It must be understood that if used to prevent explosion propagation, the transmission of ignition sources from upstream may still occur. It must also be understood that in operation, they can also create ignition sources due to long-term product compaction and exposure to frictional heating which, due to the very specific nature, is typically not covered by standard assessments.

It is therefore advised that if such process equipment is used to prevent explosion propagation that expert advice is obtained to ensure that it will not create an ignition source and the overall reliability is suitable for the risk.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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TECHNICAL REPORT

RAPPORT TECHNIQUE

TECHNISCHER REPORT

CEN/TR 17838

July 2022

ICS 13.230; 53.040.20

English Version

Use of plugs of bulk material in screw conveyors and product receivers for explosion isolation

Utilisation des bouchons de matériaux en vrac dans les convoyeurs à vis et les bacs de réception à des fins d'isolation contre les explosions

Schneckenförderer Explosions-Entkopplungssysteme

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 13 June 2022. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 305.

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Contents

Page

European foreword 3
Introduction 4
1 Scope 5
2 Normative references 5
3 Terms and definitions 5
4 Tubular screw conveyors and explosion isolation 6
4.1 General 6
4.2 Influence of the bulk material 9
4.2.1 General 9
4.2.2 Minimum Ignition Energy 10
4.2.3 Flow properties 10
4.3 Specifications for tubular screw conveyors for explosion isolation 12
4.3.1 General specifications 12
4.3.2 Tubular screw conveyor without removal of part of flight 12
4.3.3 Tubular screw conveyor where part of flight is removed 12
5 Product receivers and explosion isolation 13
5.1 General 13
5.2 Bulk material and design of product receivers 13
5.3 Specifications for product receivers for explosion isolation 17
Bibliography 19

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 17838:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 305 "Potentially explosive atmospheres - Explosion prevention and protection", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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Introduction

Screw conveyors are mechanical devices for the continuous movement, discharge or variable rate feeding of bulk materials in form of powder, granules or grain. They are often used horizontally or at a slight incline to discharge or feed silos, storage bins, filter units, mills or other equipment in many bulk handling industries.

Product receivers are silos, bins and hoppers used for temporary storage of bulk materials. The design of product receivers is determined by parameters such as storage capacity, throughput and overall height but also products properties such as powder cohesion, coefficient of sliding friction and permeability.

Both screw conveyors and product receivers can under certain conditions act as explosion isolation devices/systems in combination with the bulk material being handled by these pieces of equipment. This document presents the aforementioned conditions that are necessary to ensure explosion isolation. These conditions include dust properties and dust explosion properties, dimensions of the equipment and minimum requirements regarding the dimensions of the bulk material plugs.

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1 Scope

This document describes the recommendations for the design and use of screw conveyors and product receivers which can in addition be used as a means for explosion isolation to prevent a dust explosion transmission into connected plant items by using the bulk material which is inside.

The recommendations given in this document are procedural measures since the properties of the bulk material affect the efficacy of this measure essentially (e.g. flow and explosion characteristics). Product receivers and screw conveyors cannot be considered as protective systems under the scope of the ATEX Directive.

As far as screw conveyors are concerned, the scope of this document is limited to rigid, tubular, single screw conveyors which consist of a spiral blade coiled around a shaft held by external bearings (the rotating part of the conveyor is sometimes called "auger").

NOTE Additional internal bearings can be necessary if the tubular screw conveyor exceeds a certain length.

This document includes limits of application where a plug of bulk material in a screw conveyor is not possible/sufficient to achieve explosion isolation and also application ranges where a plug of bulk material is not necessary to achieve explosion isolation.

This document does not address the mandatory risk analysis and ignition hazard assessment, which are performed for the application of the screw conveyors and product receivers. The mandatory risk assessment includes start-up and shut-down conditions, when potentially no plug of material is present to prevent explosion propagation. To mitigate this residual risk it is possible to use as an extra measure, e.g. a traditional gate valve which prevents flame transmission and is able to withstand the expected maximum explosion pressure.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
screw conveyor
mechanical device for the continuous movement, discharge or variable rate feeding of bulk materials in form of powder and/or granules

NOTE 1 to entry: Screw conveyors are often used horizontally or at a slight incline to discharge or feed silos, storage bins, filter units, mills or other equipment in many bulk handling industries.

3.2
product receiver
enclosure such as silo, bin or hopper used for temporary storage of bulk materials

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