IEC 60079-26

Edition 4.0 2021-02

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Explosive atmospheres –
Part 26: Equipment with Separation Elements or Combined Levels of Protection

Atmosphères explosives –
Partie 26: Appareil avec éléments de séparation ou niveaux de protection combinés

IEC 60079-26:2021-02 (en-fr)

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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 26: Equipment with Separation Elements or combined Levels of Protection

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 60079-26 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition published in 2014 and constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant changes with respect to the previous edition:

Changes	Clause	Type		
		Minor and editorial changes	Extension	Major technical changes
The scope of the standard was extended for separation elements between all EPLs for gas and dust hazardous areas as well as for non-electrical equipment. The title and the structure of the standard was modified accordingly.	5		x	
The requirements for combined Types of Protection 4.1.2 were restructured and included in Clause 4	4	x		
The requirements for equipment with moving parts was removed and transferred to IEC 60079-0	4.2 (ed. 3)	x		
For equipment with partition walls other than corrosion resistant metals, glass or ceramic the type tests were detailed and the cycling test acc. to IEC TS 60079-40 specified, if they were exposed to constant vibrational stress	7.2			C
The marking is extended for equipment to be mounted between different Zones	8			
The thickness of the partition wall must be specified in the instructions	9	x		
Additional warnings are included in the instructions for equipment with separation elements exposed to abrasive dust flow	9		x	
Table 1 "Separation elements" was moved to Annex A as Table A.1 and modified for clarification	Table A.1	x		
Table A.2 to table A.8 added for the extended separation elements			x	

NOTE The technical changes referred to include the significance of technical changes in the revised IEC Standard, but they do not form an exhaustive list of all modifications from the previous version.

Explanation of the types of changes:

A) Definitions

1. Minor and editorial changes:

- Clarification
- Decrease of technical requirements
- Minor technical change
- Editorial corrections

These are changes which modify requirements in an editorial or a minor technical way. They include changes of the wording to clarify technical requirements without any technical change, or a reduction in level of existing requirement.

2. Extension: Addition of technical options

These are changes which add new or modify existing technical requirements, in a way that new options are given, but without increasing requirements for equipment that was fully compliant with the previous standard. Therefore, these will not have to be considered for products in conformity with the preceding edition.

3. Major technical changes:

- addition of technical requirements
- increase of technical requirements

These are changes to technical requirements (addition, increase of the level or removal) made in a way that a product in conformity with the preceding edition will not always be able to fulfil the requirements given in the later edition. These changes have to be considered for products in conformity with the preceding edition. For these changes additional information is provided in clause B below.

NOTE These changes represent current technological knowledge. However, these changes should not normally have an influence on equipment already placed on the market.

B) Information about the background of 'Major technical changes'

C1 to ensure that partition walls consisting of materials other than stainless steel, ceramics or glass, which are exposed to pressure or vibrational stress, provide a comparable level of safety, additional endurance tests were included. Reference to tests in IEC TS 60079-40 were considered appropriate.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
31/1562/FDIS	31/1564/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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

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EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 26: Equipment with Separation Elements or combined Levels of Protection

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 specifies requirements for construction, testing and marking for Ex Equipment that contains parts of the equipment with different Equipment Protection Levels (EPLs) and a separation element. This equipment is mounted across a boundary where different EPLs are required, for example between different gas hazardous areas, dust hazardous areas or gas hazardous areas adjacent to dust hazardous areas.

EXAMPLE: Equipment installed in the wall of storage tanks located in Zone 1 and containing Zone 0 inside.

Separation elements are considered for both electrical and non-electrical equipment. If mechanical energy can be transformed into a potential ignition source, additionally an ignition hazard assessment in accordance with ISO 80079-36 is performed and appropriate measures are undertaken. Suitable measures can be selected from ISO 80079-37 or IEC TS 60079-42.

This document also specifies requirements for the combination of two Types of Protection, each with EPL Gb, to achieve EPL Ga. Examples are included in 4.2.

This document supplements and modifies the general requirements of IEC 60079-0. Where a requirement of this document conflicts with a requirement of IEC 60079-0, the requirement of this document takes precedence.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 60079-0, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 0: Equipment – General requirements*

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

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

IEC 60079-31, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 31: Equipment dust ignition protection by enclosure "t"*

IEC TS 60079-40, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 40: Requirements for process sealing between flammable process fluids and electrical systems*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60695-11-10, *Fire hazard testing – Part 11-10: Test flames – 50 W horizontal and vertical flame test methods*