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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Explosive atmospheres – Part 20-1: Material characteristics for gas and vapour classification – Test methods and data

Atmosphères explosives – Partie 20-1: Caractéristiques des produits pour le classement des gaz et des vapeurs – Méthodes et données d'essai



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EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 20-1: Material characteristics for gas and vapour classification – Test methods and data

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International Standard ISO/IEC 80079-20-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 31M: Non-electrical equipment and protective systems for explosive atmospheres, of IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This first edition of ISO/IEC 80079-20-1 cancels and replaces IEC 60079-20-1:2010. It constitutes a technical revision. No significant changes were made with respect to IEC 60079-20-1:2010.

It is published as a double logo standard.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
31M/122/FDIS	31M/126/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 in the IEC 60079 series, under the general title: *Explosive atmospheres*, as well as the International Standard 80079 series, can be found on the IEC website.

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

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- withdrawn,
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EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 20-1: Material characteristics for gas and vapour classification – Test methods and data

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 80079 provides guidance on classification of gases and vapours. It describes a test method intended for the measurement of the maximum experimental safe gaps (MESG) for gas-air mixtures or vapour-air mixtures under normal conditions of temperature and pressure (20 °C, 101,3 kPa) so as to permit the selection of an appropriate group of equipment. This document also describes a test method intended for use in the determination of the auto-ignition temperature (AIT) of a vapour-air mixture or gas-air mixture at atmospheric pressure, so as to permit the selection of an appropriate temperature class of equipment.

Values of chemical properties of materials are provided to assist in the selection of equipment to be used in hazardous areas. Further data may be added as the results of validated tests become available.

The materials and the characteristics included in a table (see Annex B) have been selected with particular reference to the use of equipment in hazardous areas. The data in this document have been taken from a number of references which are given in the bibliography.

These methods for determining the MESG or the AIT may also be used for gas-air-inert mixtures or vapour-air-inert mixtures. However, data on air-inert mixtures are not tabulated.

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 60050-426, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary − Part 426: Electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres* (available at http://www.electropedia.org/)

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

IEC 60079-14, *Explosive atmospheres − Part 14: Electrical installations design, selection and erection*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-426 and the following apply.

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
auto-ignition
reaction which is evidenced by a clearly perceptible flame and/or explosion, and for which the ignition delay time does not exceed 5 min

Note 1 to entry: See 7.2.2 for a test method.

3.2
ignition delay time
time between the completed injection of the flammable material and the ignition

3.3
auto-ignition temperature
AIT
lowest temperature (of a surface) at which under specified test conditions an ignition of a flammable gas or vapour in mixture with air or air-inert gas occurs

Note 1 to entry: See Clause 7 for a test method.

3.4
maximum experimental safe gap
MESG
maximum gap of a joint of 25 mm in width which prevents any transmission of an explosion during tests made under the conditions specified in this document

Note 1 to entry: See Clause 6 for a test method.

3.5
minimum ignition current
MIC
minimum current in a specified test circuit that causes the ignition of the explosive test mixture in the spark test apparatus according to IEC 60079-11

Note 1 to entry: See 5.1.6 for the test circuit.

3.6
flammable limits
lower flammable limit (LFL) and upper flammable limit (UFL) of gas in a gas-air mixture, between which a flammable mixture is formed

Note 1 to entry: The term “explosive limits” is used especially in European standardization and regulations interchangeably to describe these limits.

Note 2 to entry: The concentration can be expressed as either a volume fraction or a mass per unit volume.

3.6.1
lower flammable limit
LFL
concentration of flammable gas or vapour in air, below which an explosive gas atmosphere does not form

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of Ex Equipment, this was previously referred to as the lower explosive limit (LEL).

Note 2 to entry: The concentration can be expressed as either a volume fraction or a mass per unit volume.

3.6.2
upper flammable limit
UFL
concentration of flammable gas or vapour in air, above which an explosive gas atmosphere does not form

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of Ex Equipment, this was previously referred to as the upper explosive limit (UEL).

Note 2 to entry: The concentration can be expressed as either a volume fraction or a mass per unit volume.

3.7
equipment grouping
classification system of equipment related to the explosive atmosphere for which they are intended to be used

Note 1 to entry: IEC 60079-0 identifies three equipment groups:

Group I − equipment for mines susceptible to fire damp;

Group II, which is sub-divided into groups IIA, IIB and IIC − equipment for all places with an explosive gas atmosphere other than mines susceptible to fire damp;

Group III, which is sub-divided into groups IIIA, IIIB and IIIC − equipment for all places with an explosive dust atmosphere other than mines susceptible to fire damp.

3.8
flash point
FP
lowest liquid temperature at which, under specified test conditions, a liquid gives off vapours in quantity such as to be capable of forming an ignitable vapour-air mixture

3.9
gas
gaseous phase of a substance that cannot reach equilibrium with its liquid or solid state in the temperature and pressure range of interest

Note 1 to entry: This is a simplification of the scientific definition, and merely requires that the substance is above its boiling point or sublimation point at the ambient temperature and pressure.

3.10
vapour
gaseous phase of a substance that can reach equilibrium with its liquid or solid state in the temperature and pressure range of interest

Note 1 to entry: This is a simplification of the scientific definition, and merely requires that the substance is below its boiling point or sublimation point at the ambient temperature and pressure.

4 Classification of gases and vapours

4.1 General

Equipment Group I addresses mines susceptible to firedamp.

NOTE Firedamp consists mainly of methane, but always contains small quantities of other gases, such as nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen, and sometimes ethane and carbon monoxide. The terms firedamp and methane are used frequently in mining practice as synonyms.

Equipment Group II addresses flammable gases and vapours other than in mines susceptible to firedamp. Equipment Group II gases and vapours are classified according to their MESG and/or MIC ratio into equipment groups IIA, IIB and IIC.

All flammable materials are classified according to their AIT into temperature classes.

4.2 Classification according to the maximum experimental safe gap (MESG)

Gases and vapours may be classified according to their MESG into Equipment Groups IIA, IIB or IIC, based on the determination method described in this document. In order to ensure standardized results the MESG apparatus is dimensioned to avoid the possible effects of obstruction on the safe gaps.