

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust –
Part 0: General requirements**

**Matériels électriques pour utilisation en présence de poussières combustibles –
Partie 0: Exigences générales**

IEC 61241-0:2004

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ELECTRICAL APPARATUS FOR USE IN THE PRESENCE OF COMBUSTIBLE DUST –

Part 0: General requirements

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International Standard IEC 61241-0 has been prepared by subcommittee 31H: Apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust, of IEC technical committee 31: Electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres.

This first edition of IEC 61241-0, together with IEC 61241-1, cancels and replaces IEC 61241-1-1 (1999) and constitutes a technical revision.

This standard, and the other parts within this series, was developed to align protection methods associated with electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust and those similar protection methods associated with the IEC 60079 series of standards, where possible.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
31H/173/FDIS	31H/178/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.

IEC 61241 consists of the following parts under the general title: *Electrical apparatus for use in the presence of combustible dust*:

- Part 0: General requirements
- Part 1: Protection by enclosures 'tD'
- Part 2: Type of protection 'pD'
- Part 10: Classification of areas where combustible dusts are or may be present
- Part 11: Protection by intrinsic safety 'iD' ¹
- Part 14: Selection and installation
- Part 17: Inspection and maintenance of electrical installations in hazardous areas (other than mines) ²
- Part 18: Protection by encapsulation 'mD'
- Part 20 ³: Test methods
- Part 20-1: Methods for determining the minimum ignition temperatures of dust
- Part 20-2: Method for determining the electrical resistivity of dust in layers
- Part 20-3: Method for determining minimum ignition energy of dust/air mixtures

NOTE All references in this standard to the IEC 61241 series follows the proposed re-numbering of the dust standards agreed by SC31H and TC31. It may be necessary to alter these numbers if the relevant standards are not yet published.

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

The contents of the corrigendum of November 2005 have been included in this copy.

¹ To be published.

² To be published.

³ Under consideration.

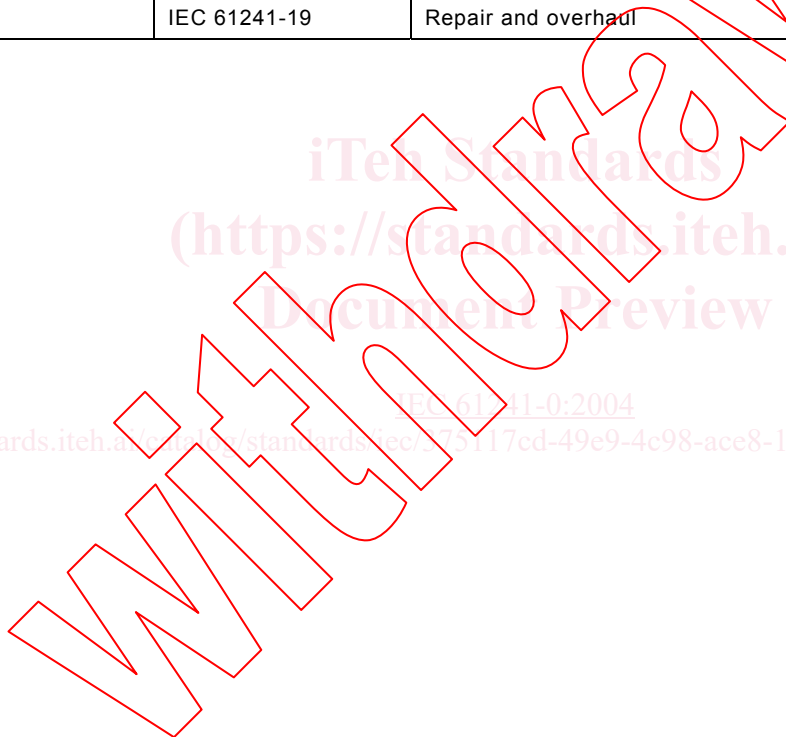
REFERENCE TABLE

Existing standard	New number assigned	Subject	Anticipated date of change
IEC 61241-1-1	IEC 61241-0	General requirements	2004
	IEC 61241-1	Protection by enclosure	2004
IEC 61241-1-2	IEC 61241-14	Selection and installation	2004
IEC 61241-2-1	IEC 61241-20-1	Test methods	2005
IEC 61241-2-2	IEC 61241-20-2	Test methods	2005
IEC 61241-2-3	IEC 61241-20-3	Test methods	2005
IEC 61241-3	IEC 61241-10	Classification	2004
IEC 61241-4	IEC 61241-2	Protection by pressurization	2005
	IEC 61241-11	Protection by intrinsic safety	2005
	IEC 61241-17	Inspection and maintenance	2004
	IEC 61241-18	Protection by encapsulation	2004
	IEC 61241-19	Repair and overhaul	2006

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INTRODUCTION

Many dusts that are generated, processed, handled and stored, are combustible. When ignited they can burn rapidly and with considerable explosive force if mixed with air in the appropriate proportions. It is often necessary to use electrical apparatus in locations where such combustible materials are present, and suitable precautions must therefore be taken to ensure that all such apparatus is adequately protected so as to reduce the likelihood of ignition of the external explosive atmosphere. In electrical apparatus, potential ignition sources include electrical arcs and sparks, hot surfaces and frictional sparks.

Areas where dust, flyings and fibres in air occur in dangerous quantities are classified as hazardous and are divided into three zones according to the level of risk.

Generally, electrical safety is ensured by the implementation of one of two considerations, i.e. that electrical apparatus be located where reasonably practicable outside hazardous areas, and that electrical apparatus be designed, installed and maintained in accordance with measures recommended for the area in which the apparatus is located.

Combustible dust can be ignited by electrical apparatus in several ways:

- by surfaces of the apparatus that are above the minimum ignition temperature of the dust concerned. The temperature at which a type of dust ignites is a function of the properties of the dust, whether the dust is in a cloud or layer, the thickness of the layer and the geometry of the heat source;
- by arcing or sparking of electrical parts such as switches, contacts, commutators, brushes, or the like;
- by discharge of an accumulated electrostatic charge;
- by radiated energy (e.g. electromagnetic radiation);
- by mechanical sparking or frictional sparking or heating associated with the apparatus.

In order to avoid ignition hazards it is necessary that

- the temperature of surfaces, on which dust can be deposited, or which would be in contact with a dust cloud, is kept below the temperature limitation specified in this standard;
- any electrical sparking parts, or parts having a temperature above the temperature limit specified in IEC 61241-14
 - are contained in an enclosure which adequately prevents the ingress of dust, or
 - the energy of electrical circuits is limited so as to avoid arcs, sparks or temperatures capable to ignite combustible dust;
- any other ignition sources are avoided.

Compliance with this standard will only provide the required level of safety if the electrical apparatus is operated within its rating and is installed and maintained according to the relevant codes of practice or requirements, for example in respect of protection against over-currents, internal short-circuits, and other electrical faults. In particular, it is essential that the severity and duration of an internal or external fault be limited to values that can be sustained by the electrical apparatus without damage.

Several techniques are available for the explosion protection of electrical apparatus in hazardous areas. This standard describes the safety features of these types of explosion-protection techniques and specifies the installation procedures to be adopted. It is most important that the correct selection and installation procedures be followed to ensure the safe use of electrical apparatus in hazardous areas.

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ELECTRICAL APPARATUS FOR USE IN THE PRESENCE OF COMBUSTIBLE DUST –

Part 0: General requirements

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61241 specifies general requirements for the design, construction, testing and marking of electrical apparatus protected by any recognized safeguard technique for use in areas where combustible dust may be present in quantities that could lead to a fire or explosion hazard.

This standard is supplemented or modified by the following parts of IEC 61241 concerning specific types of protection:

- Part 1: Protection by enclosures 'tD'
- Part 2: Protection by pressurization 'pD' (under consideration)
- Part 11: Intrinsically safe apparatus 'iD'
- Part 18: Protection by encapsulation 'mD'

NOTE IEC 61241-14 gives guidance on the selection and installation of the apparatus. Apparatus within the scope of this standard may also be subjected to additional requirements in other standards – for example, IEC 60079-0.

The application of electrical apparatus in atmospheres which may contain explosive gas as well as combustible dust, whether simultaneously or separately, requires additional protective measures.

This standard does not specify requirements for safety, other than those directly related to the explosion risk.

Where the apparatus has to meet other environmental conditions, for example, protection against ingress of water and resistance to corrosion, additional methods of protection may be necessary. The method used is not to adversely affect the integrity of the enclosure.

This standard does not apply to dusts of explosives that do not require atmospheric oxygen for combustion, or to pyrophoric substances.

This standard is not applicable to electrical apparatus intended for use in underground parts of mines as well as those parts of surface installations of such mines endangered by fire damp and/or combustible dust.

This standard does not take account of any risk due to an emission of flammable or toxic gas from the dust.

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 60034-5:2000, *Rotating electrical machines – Part 5: Degrees of protection provided by the integral design of rotating electrical machines (IP code) – Classification*

IEC 60079-0:2004, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 0: General requirements*

IEC 60079-7:2001, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 7: Increased safety 'e'*

IEC 60079-11:1999, *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres – Part 11: Intrinsic safety 'i'*

IEC 60086-1:2000, *Primary batteries – Part 1: General*

IEC 60095 (all parts), *Lead-acid starter batteries*

IEC 60192:2001, *Low-pressure sodium vapour lamps – Performance specifications*

IEC 60216-1:2001, *Electrical insulating materials – Properties of thermal endurance – Part 1: Ageing procedures and evaluation of test results*

IEC 60216-2:1990, *Guide for the determination of thermal endurance properties of electrical insulating materials – Part 2: Choice of test criteria*

IEC 60243-1:1998, *Electrical strength of insulating materials – Test methods – Part 1: Tests at power frequencies*

IEC 60285:1993, *Alkaline secondary cells and batteries – Sealed nickel-cadmium cylindrical rechargeable single cells*⁴

IEC 60529:1989, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 60623:2001, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Vented nickel-cadmium prismatic rechargeable single cells*

IEC 60662:1980, *High-pressure sodium vapour lamps*

IEC 60947-3:1999, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear – Part 3: Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse-combination units*

IEC 61056 (all parts), *General purpose lead-acid batteries (valve-regulated types)*

⁴ Cancelled and replaced by IEC 61951-1 (2003).