INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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IEC 60079-11

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EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety “i”

INTERPRETATION SHEET 3

This interpretation sheet has been prepared by subcommittee 31G: Intrinsically-safe apparatus, of IEC technical committee 31: Explosive atmospheres.

The text of this interpretation sheet is based on the following documents:

DISH	Report on voting
31G/400/DISH	31G/403/RVDISH

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

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Background

Devices which read from memory during operation are clearly programmable components and need to be considered according to 7.7.8. IEC 60079-11 is not clear whether a component which only reads from memory or internal registers during initialisation – such as a digital potentiometer – is a programmable component according to 7.7.8 or a simpler semiconductor which can be considered according to 7.7.2.

Question

Can a digital potentiometer (or other similar device) which relies on reading from memory or an internal register only during initialization to set the resistance value be used as a component on which intrinsic safety depends for Levels of Protection “ia” and “ib”?

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