IEC 60079-15

Edition 4.0 2010-01

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Explosive atmospheres –
Part 15: Equipment protection by type of protection "n"

Atmosphères explosives –
Partie 15: Protection du matériel par mode de protection « n »

IEC 60079-15:2010

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Email: inmail@iec.ch
Web: www.iec.ch

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Email: csc@iec.ch
Tél.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

COMMISSION ELECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE XB
CODE PRIX

ICS 29.260.20

ISBN 978-2-88910-045-3

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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IEC 60079-15
Edition 4.0 2010-01

EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 15: Equipment protection by type of protection "n"

INTERPRETATION SHEET 1

This interpretation sheet has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

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

ISH	Report on voting
31/1259/ISH	31/1273/RVD

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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Question:

Do the requirements given in 8.3 prohibit the use of a terminal box opened to the interior of a motor rated 1 kV or greater, provided the interior of the machine has an ingress protection of IP54 or greater?

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8.3 Terminal boxes

Terminal boxes attached to machines operating at voltages up to 1 kV, may be opened to the interior of the machine, only when the IP rating of the machine is IP44 or higher. The external IP protection of the box shall be not less than IP54, as determined in accordance with IEC 60079-0.

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ICS 29.260.20

Answer:

No. As long as the interior of the machine has an ingress protection of IP54 or greater, determined in accordance with IEC 60079-0, there is no limitation to less than 1 kV. If the interior of the machine has an ingress rating of IP44 or lower, the use of a terminal box open to the interior of a motor rated 1 kV or greater is not permitted.

NOTE Many manufacturers opt to declare IP44 for the machine for certification purposes, whilst claiming a rating of IP54 or higher, by assessment, for contractual purposes in order to avoid the difficult testing required for certification of the IP of larger machines. As such, this additional IP rating need only comply with IEC 60529 or IEC 60034-5 as applicable, and not with any of the testing detailed in IEC 60079-0.

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 60079-15 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition, published in 2005, and constitutes a technical revision.

The significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows:

– addition of equipment protection levels;
– removal of the requirements for energy-limited "nL" and associated energy limited apparatus "[nL]";
– removal of the requirements for encapsulated Devices "nC";
– requirements for electrical connections expanded and clarified;
– requirements for luminaire ballasts expanded and clarified;
– requirements for evaluation and testing of motor rotors clarified;

- 15 kV limit for equipment protection by type of protection "n" added;
- spacing requirement for voltages above 10 kV modified;
- requirements for restricted breathing enclosures modified;
- modification to requirements for motor rotors and stators;
- addition of Annex A (informative);
- undated references to IEC 60079-0 included.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
31/833/FDIS	31/853/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 International Standard is to be read in conjunction with IEC 60079-0.

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

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

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 interpretation sheet of September 2016 have been included in this copy.

EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 15: Equipment protection by type of protection "n"

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 specifies requirements for the construction, testing and marking for Group II electrical equipment with type of protection, "n" intended for use in explosive gas atmospheres. This standard applies to electrical equipment where the rated voltage does not exceed 15 kV r.m.s. a.c. or d.c.

This part of IEC 60079 is applicable to non-sparking electrical equipment and also to electrical equipment with parts or circuits producing arcs or sparks or having hot surfaces which, if not protected in one of the ways specified in this standard, could be capable of igniting a surrounding explosive gas atmosphere. This standard describes several different methods by which this can be achieved which may be combined with other methods described in IEC 60079-0.

This standard supplements and modifies the general requirements of IEC 60079-0, except as indicated in Table 1. Where a requirement of this standard conflicts with a requirement of IEC 60079-0, the requirement of this standard takes precedence.

Table 1 – Relationship of this part to IEC 60079-0

Clause of IEC 60079-0			IEC 60079-0 clause application to IEC 60079-15		
Ed. 5.0 (2007) (informative)	**Ed. 6.0 (future edition)** (informative)	**Clause / Subclause title** (normative)	**Protected sparking nC**	**Non sparking nA**	**Restricted breathing nR**
4	4	Equipment grouping	Applies	Applies	Applies
4.1	4.1	Group I	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
4.2	4.2	Group II	Applies	Applies	Applies
4.3	4.3	Group III	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
4.4	4.4	Equipment for a particular explosive atmosphere	Applies	Applies	Applies
5.1	5.1	Environmental influences	Applies	Applies	Applies
5.1.1	5.1.1	Ambient temperature	Applies	Applies	Applies
5.1.2	5.1.2	External source of heating or cooling	Applies	Applies	Applies
5.2	5.2	Service temperature	Applies	Applies	Applies
5.3.1	5.3.1	Determination of maximum surface temperature	Applies	Applies	Applies
5.3.2.1	5.3.2.1	Group I electrical equipment	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded

[1] Under consideration.

Clause of IEC 60079-0			IEC 60079-0 clause application to IEC 60079-15		
Ed. 5.0 (2007) (informative)	**Ed. 6.0[1] (future edition)** (informative)	**Clause / Subclause title** (normative)	**Protected sparking nC**	**Non sparking nA**	**Restricted breathing nR**
5.3.2.2	5.3.2.2	Group II electrical equipment	Applies	Applies	Applies
5.3.2.3	5.3.2.3	Group III electrical equipment	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
5.3.3	5.3.3	Small component temperature for Group I and Group II electrical equipment	Applies	Applies	Excluded
6.1	6.1	General	Applies	Applies	Applies
6.2	6.2	Mechanical strength	Applies	Applies	Applies
6.3	6.3	Opening times	Excluded	Excluded	Applies
6.4	6.4	Circulating currents	Applies	Applies	Applies
6.5	6.5	Gasket retention	Applies	Applies	Applies
6.6	6.6	Electromagnetic and ultrasonic radiating equipment	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.1.1	7.1.1	Applicability	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.1.2	7.1.2	Specification of materials	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.1.3	7.1.2.2	Plastic materials	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.1.4	7.1.2.3	Elastomeric materials	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.2	7.2	Thermal endurance	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.3	7.3	Resistance to light	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.4	7.4	Electrostatic charges on external non-metallic materials	Applies	Applies	Applies
7.5	9.1	Threaded holes	Applies	Applies	Applies
8.1.1	8.2	Group I	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
8.1.2	8.3	Group II	Applies	Applies	Applies
8.1.3	8.4	Group III	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
8.2	9.1	Threaded holes	Applies	Applies	Applies
9.1	9.1	General	Applies	Applies	Applies
9.2	9.2	Special fasteners	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
9.3	9.3	Holes for special fasteners	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
10	10	Interlocking devices	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
11	11	Bushings	Applies	Applies	Applies
12	12	Materials used for cementing	Modified	Modified	Modified
13	13	Ex components	Applies	Applies	Applies
14	14	Connection facilities and termination compartments	Modified	Modified	Modified
15	15	Connection facilities for earthing and bonding conductors	Applies	Applies	Applies