

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Explosive atmospheres –**  
**Part 29-2: Gas detectors – Selection, installation, use and maintenance of**  
**detectors for flammable gases and oxygen**

**Atmosphères explosives –**  
**Partie 29-2: Détecteurs de gaz – Sélection, installation, utilisation et maintenance**  
**des détecteurs de gaz inflammables et d'oxygène**



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	8
INTRODUCTION.....	11
1 Scope.....	13
2 Normative references .....	14
3 Terms and definitions .....	14
3.1 Gas properties and other physics.....	14
3.2 Types of equipment .....	16
3.3 Sensors and detectors .....	18
3.4 Supply of gas to instruments.....	19
3.5 Signals and alarms .....	19
3.6 Times, checks and equipment behaviour.....	20
3.7 Terms exclusive to open path equipment .....	21
4 Basic information on the properties, behaviour, gases and vapours, and specific applications of gas detection .....	23
4.1 Detecting gases and vapours .....	23
4.1.1 General .....	23
4.1.2 Safety when monitoring for flammable gases where personnel could be present.....	24
4.2 Some common properties of gases and vapours .....	25
4.3 The differences between detecting gases and vapours .....	26
4.3.1 General .....	26
4.3.2 Detection of gases.....	26
4.3.3 Detection of vapours.....	28
4.4 Oxygen deficiency.....	31
4.4.1 General .....	31
4.4.2 Chemical reaction of oxygen, with solid products .....	31
4.4.3 Chemical reaction of oxygen, with gaseous products .....	31
4.4.4 Dilution of the air by displacement by some other gas or vapour.....	32
4.5 Specific applications of gas detection .....	32
4.5.1 Gas detection as means of reducing risk of explosion.....	32
4.5.2 Gas free work permit .....	35
4.5.3 Monitoring of air inlets .....	36
4.6 Specific considerations for open path detection .....	36
5 Measuring principles.....	37
5.1 General.....	37
5.2 Catalytic sensors .....	39
5.2.1 General .....	39
5.2.2 Common applications .....	39
5.2.3 Limitations .....	39
5.2.4 Interferences .....	40
5.2.5 Poisoning .....	40
5.3 Thermal conductivity sensors.....	40
5.3.1 General .....	40
5.3.2 Common applications .....	41
5.3.3 Limitations .....	41
5.3.4 Interferences .....	41

5.3.5	Poisoning .....	41
5.4	Infrared sensors .....	41
5.4.1	General .....	41
5.4.2	Common applications .....	41
5.4.3	Limitations .....	42
5.4.4	Interferences .....	42
5.4.5	Poisoning .....	42
5.5	Semiconductor sensors .....	42
5.5.1	General .....	42
5.5.2	Common applications .....	42
5.5.3	Limitations .....	43
5.5.4	Interferences .....	43
5.5.5	Poisoning .....	43
5.6	Electrochemical sensors .....	43
5.6.1	General .....	43
5.6.2	Common applications .....	44
5.6.3	Limitations .....	44
5.6.4	Interferences .....	44
5.6.5	Poisoning .....	44
5.7	Flame ionization detectors (FID) .....	44
5.7.1	General .....	44
5.7.2	Common applications .....	44
5.7.3	Limitations .....	45
5.7.4	Interferences .....	45
5.7.5	Poisoning .....	45
5.8	Flame temperature analysers (FTA) .....	45
5.8.1	General .....	45
5.8.2	Common applications .....	45
5.8.3	Limitations .....	45
5.8.4	Interferences .....	45
5.8.5	Poisoning .....	46
5.9	Photo ionisation detector (PID) .....	46
5.9.1	General .....	46
5.9.2	Common applications .....	46
5.9.3	Limitations .....	46
5.9.4	Interferences .....	46
5.9.5	Poisoning .....	46
5.10	Paramagnetic oxygen detector .....	46
5.10.1	General .....	46
5.10.2	Common applications .....	47
5.10.3	Limitations .....	47
5.10.4	Interference .....	47
5.10.5	Poisoning .....	47
6	Selection of equipment .....	47
6.1	General .....	47
6.2	Selection criteria .....	48
6.2.1	General criteria .....	48
6.2.2	Gases to be detected by the equipment .....	49
6.2.3	Application of fixed equipment .....	50

6.2.4	Application of transportable and portable equipment.....	53
6.3	Miscellaneous factors affecting selection of equipment .....	54
6.3.1	Electromagnetic immunity .....	54
6.3.2	Intended Zone(s) of use.....	54
7	Behaviour of gas releases .....	55
7.1	Nature of a release .....	55
7.1.1	General .....	55
7.1.2	Release rate of gas or vapour.....	55
7.1.3	Flammable limits.....	56
7.1.4	Ventilation .....	56
7.1.5	Relative density of the released gas or vapour.....	56
7.1.6	Temperature and/or pressure.....	56
7.1.7	Other parameters to be considered.....	57
7.1.8	Outdoor sites and open structures .....	57
7.2	Buildings and enclosures .....	57
7.2.1	General .....	57
7.2.2	Unventilated buildings and enclosures .....	57
7.2.3	Ventilated buildings and enclosures .....	57
7.3	Environmental considerations .....	59
8	Design and installation of fixed gas detection systems.....	59
8.1	General.....	59
8.2	Basic considerations for the installation of fixed systems .....	59
8.2.1	General .....	59
8.2.2	Point detection equipment and remote sensors.....	60
8.2.3	Systems consisting of sampling equipment.....	60
8.2.4	Open path (line of sight) equipment .....	60
8.3	Location of detection points .....	61
8.3.1	General .....	61
8.3.2	General site considerations .....	61
8.3.3	Environmental conditions.....	62
8.4	Access for calibration and maintenance .....	64
8.5	Additional considerations for sample lines.....	65
8.6	Additional considerations for open path equipment .....	65
8.7	Summary of considerations for the location of measuring points and open paths .....	66
8.8	Installation of measuring point and open path equipment .....	66
8.9	Integrity and safety of fixed systems .....	67
8.9.1	General .....	67
8.9.2	Redundancy in fixed systems.....	67
8.9.3	Protection against loss of main power supply.....	67
8.10	Timing of installation during construction operations .....	68
8.11	Commissioning .....	68
8.11.1	Inspection.....	68
8.11.2	Initial gas calibration.....	69
8.11.3	Adjustment of alarm set points.....	69
8.12	Operating instructions, plans and records .....	69
9	Use of portable and transportable flammable gas detection equipment.....	70
9.1	General.....	70

9.2	Initial and periodic check procedures for portable and transportable instrumentation .....	71
9.2.1	General .....	71
9.2.2	Inspection and functional checks .....	71
9.2.3	Routine tests and recalibration .....	72
9.2.4	Maintenance and recalibration .....	73
9.3	Guidance on the use of portable and transportable equipment .....	74
9.3.1	Electrical safety in hazardous atmospheres .....	74
9.3.2	Safety of personnel .....	74
9.3.3	Spot tests and sampling .....	74
9.3.4	Sampling above liquids .....	75
9.3.5	Avoidance of condensation .....	75
9.3.6	Poisoning of sensors .....	75
9.3.7	Changes of temperature .....	75
9.3.8	Accidental damage .....	75
9.3.9	Minimalist operation, the “Read and run” concept .....	75
10	Training of operational personnel .....	76
10.1	General .....	76
10.2	General training – Basic limitations and safety .....	77
10.3	Operator training .....	77
10.4	Maintenance training .....	78
11	Maintenance, routine procedures and general administrative control .....	78
11.1	General .....	78
11.2	Operational checks .....	80
11.2.1	General .....	80
11.2.2	Fixed systems .....	80
11.2.3	Portable and transportable gas detection equipment .....	80
11.3	Maintenance .....	81
11.3.1	General .....	81
11.3.2	Fixed equipment .....	81
11.3.3	Portable and transportable gas detection equipment .....	81
11.3.4	Off-site maintenance, general .....	82
11.3.5	Maintenance procedures .....	82
11.4	Sensors .....	82
11.4.1	General .....	82
11.4.2	Flame arrestor .....	82
11.5	Flow systems .....	83
11.5.1	General .....	83
11.5.2	Inspection .....	83
11.5.3	Filters, traps and flame arrestors .....	83
11.5.4	Flow system and sample chamber .....	83
11.5.5	Flow connections .....	83
11.5.6	Moving parts .....	83
11.5.7	Automatic sample-draw systems .....	83
11.5.8	Loss-of-flow signals .....	83
11.6	Readout devices .....	83
11.6.1	General .....	83
11.6.2	Other readouts .....	84
11.7	Alarms .....	84

11.8	Calibration .....	84
11.8.1	Calibration kits and test equipment .....	84
11.8.2	Calibration procedure .....	85
Annex A	(normative) Measuring principles .....	87
A.1	General .....	87
A.2	Catalytic sensors .....	89
A.2.1	General .....	89
A.2.2	Common applications .....	90
A.2.3	Limitations .....	90
A.2.4	Interferences .....	90
A.2.5	Poisoning .....	91
A.3	Thermal conductivity sensors .....	92
A.3.1	General .....	92
A.3.2	Common applications .....	92
A.3.3	Limitations .....	93
A.3.4	Interferences .....	93
A.3.5	Poisoning .....	93
A.4	Infrared sensors .....	93
A.4.1	General .....	93
A.4.2	Common applications .....	95
A.4.3	Limitations .....	96
A.4.4	Interferences .....	96
A.4.5	Poisoning .....	97
A.5	Semi-conductor sensors .....	97
A.5.1	General .....	97
A.5.2	Common applications .....	97
A.5.3	Limitations .....	97
A.5.4	Interferences .....	98
A.5.5	Poisoning .....	98
A.6	Electrochemical sensors .....	98
A.6.1	General .....	98
A.6.2	Common applications .....	99
A.6.3	Limitations .....	99
A.6.4	Interferences .....	100
A.6.5	Poisoning .....	100
A.7	Flame ionization detectors (FID) .....	101
A.7.1	General .....	101
A.7.2	Common applications .....	102
A.7.3	Limitations .....	102
A.7.4	Interferences .....	102
A.7.5	Poisoning .....	102
A.8	Flame temperature analysers (FTA) .....	103
A.8.1	General .....	103
A.8.2	Common applications .....	103
A.8.3	Limitations .....	103
A.8.4	Interferences .....	103
A.8.5	Poisoning .....	103
A.9	Photo ionisation detector (PID) .....	104
A.9.1	General .....	104



A.9.2	Common applications .....	104
A.9.3	Limitations .....	105
A.9.4	Interferences .....	105
A.9.5	Poisoning .....	105
A.10	Paramagnetic oxygen detector .....	105
A.10.1	General .....	105
A.10.2	Common applications .....	106
A.10.3	Limitations .....	106
A.10.4	Interference .....	106
A.10.5	Poisoning .....	106
Annex B (informative)	Environmental parameters .....	107
Annex C (informative)	Typical environmental and application check-list for flammable gas detectors (for both Group I and Group II equipment) .....	108
Annex D (informative)	Typical instrument maintenance record for flammable gas detectors .....	110
Annex E (informative)	Atmospheric visibility .....	111
Bibliography	.....	112
Figure 1	– Integral concentration over the path length .....	37
Figure 2	– Average concentration over the path length .....	37
Table 1	– Typical Tasks and Most Relevant Causes .....	12
Table 2	– Overview of gas detection equipment with different measuring principles .....	38
Table A.1	– Overview of gas detection equipment with different measuring principles .....	88
Table B.1	– Environmental parameters .....	107

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

### Part 29-2: Gas detectors – Selection, installation, use and maintenance of detectors for flammable gases and oxygen

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International Standard IEC 60079-29-2 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This bilingual version (2017-12) corresponds to the monolingual English version, published in 2015-03.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2007. This edition 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
Addition of group 1 to scope	1		x	
Addition of Open Path Gas Detection	3, 4.6, 5.4, 6.2.3.5, 8.2, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 11, A4		x	
Changed “combustible” to “flammable”	Throughout	x		
Addition of specific applications	4.5		x	
Improvements to sampling systems	6.2.3.4, 8.2.3, 8.5, 11.2.2	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. More guidance may be found by referring to the Redline Version of the standard.

### Explanations:

- 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.

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

- 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.

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

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

FDIS	Report on voting
31/1169/FDIS	31/1179/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.

The French version of this standard has not been voted upon.

This publication 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.

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## INTRODUCTION

Flammable gas detection equipment may be used whenever there is the possibility of a hazard to life or property caused by the accumulation of a flammable gas-air mixture. Such equipment can provide a means of reducing the hazard by detecting the presence of a flammable gas and issuing suitable audible or visual warnings. Gas detectors may also be used to initiate precautionary steps (for example plant shutdown, evacuation, and operation of fire extinguishing procedures).

Equipment may be used to monitor a gas atmosphere below the lower flammable limit in circumstances where accumulation of gas may result in a concentration of the gas/air mixture to potentially explosive levels. Performance requirements for gas detecting equipment for such purposes are set out in IEC 60079-29-1 and IEC 60079-29-4. Guidance for functional safety of fixed gas detection systems are set out in IEC 60079-29-3.

However performance capability alone cannot ensure that the use of such equipment will properly safeguard life or property where flammable gases may be present. The level of safety obtained depends heavily upon correct selection, installation, calibration and periodic maintenance of the equipment, combined with knowledge of the limitations of the detection technique required. This cannot be achieved without responsible informed management.

An additional hazard to life is the toxicity of some gases and of the vapours of all liquids except water. It is not generally appreciated that all flammable vapours are potentially toxic at concentration levels which are very small fractions of their respective lower flammable limits. Equipment covered by IEC 60079-29-1 and IEC 60079-29-4 is not specifically intended for toxic protection, and additional personal protection precautions will normally be needed where personnel could be exposed to toxic vapours.

Portable equipment covered by IEC 60079-29-1 and IEC 60079-29-2 commonly have additional detectors for specific toxic gases and also for oxygen deficiency. Users are cautioned that even mild oxygen deficiency may be due to toxic concentrations of some other gas or vapour, which may not be detectable or adequately detected by the equipment in use.

General requirements for the handbook or manual of any particular flammable gas detection equipment are specified in IEC 60079-29-1 and IEC 60079-29-4. These standards provide some necessary background knowledge on the points mentioned above.

This standard has been specifically written to cover all the functions necessary from selection to ongoing maintenance for a successful gas detection operation. Different clauses are appropriate for different tasks within this range of operations. Each clause has been written as stand-alone as far as practicable. This means that some information is repeated in different clauses but with a different emphasis.

Table 1 gives a broad suggestion as to the most relevant clauses to the typical tasks to be performed.

**Table 1 – Typical Tasks and Most Relevant Causes**

Tasks	Definitions	Basic information properties of gas and vapours	Measuring principles	Selection of equipment	Behaviour of gas releases	Design and installation of fixed gas detection systems	Use of portable and transportable flammable gas detection equipment	Training of operational personnel	Maintenance, routine procedures General administrative control	Measuring principles (full detail) (normative)	Environmental parameters (informative)
Function (Clause)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Annex A	Annex B
Authorities	+	+++	+++	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
General management	+	+++	+++	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
Selection	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+	++	-	+	+++	+++
Design engineering / management	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	-	-	-	+++	+++
Installation engineering / management	+++	+++	+	++	+++	+++	-	-	-	+++	+++
Installation, technical	++	+++	++	++	++	++	-	-	-	+	++
Commissioning	+++	+++	++	++	++	+++	-	++	+	-	-
Operations management	++	+++	++	+	+	++	++	+++	+++	+	+++
Operation training	+++	+++	+	+	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Servicing / Calibration	+++	+++	-	-	-	++	++	+	+++	++	++
Repair	++	+++	++	-	-	+	+	+	+++	++	-
<p>“+++” Most appropriate</p> <p>“++” Advisable</p> <p>“+” Useful</p> <p>“-” Not applicable</p> <p>It should be noted that Clause 5 is a simplified version of Annex A.</p>											

This standard makes recommendations on how to establish maintenance and calibration intervals. In certain countries there are mandatory general or industry-specific regulations which must be followed as a minimum requirement.

## EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

### Part 29-2: Gas detectors – Selection, installation, use and maintenance of detectors for flammable gases and oxygen

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079-29 gives guidance on, and recommended practice for, the selection, installation, safe use and maintenance of electrically operated Group II equipment intended for use in industrial and commercial safety applications and Group I equipment in underground coal mines for the detection and measurement of flammable gases complying with the requirements of IEC 60079-29-1 or IEC 60079-29-4.

This standard is applicable for oxygen measurement for the purpose of inertisation where explosion protection is provided by the exclusion of oxygen instead of measuring the flammable gases or vapours present. A similar application is measuring oxygen when inertising a goaf (mined out) area in an underground coal mine.

This standard is a compilation of practical knowledge to assist the user, and applies to equipment, instruments and systems that indicate the presence of a flammable or potentially explosive mixture of gas or vapour with air by using an electrical signal from a gas sensor to produce a meter reading, to activate a visual or audible pre-set alarm or other device, or any combination of these.

Such equipment may be used as a means of reducing the risk whenever there is the possibility of a risk to life or property specifically due to the accumulation of a flammable gas-air mixture, by providing such warnings. It may also be used to initiate specific safety precautions (e.g. plant shutdown, evacuation, fire extinguishing procedures).

This standard is applicable to fixed installations and transportable equipment. Similarly it is applicable to the safe use of portable equipment. Since much modern equipment of this type also includes oxygen deficiency detection and/or specific toxic gas sensors, some additional guidance is given for these topics.

For the purposes of this standard, except where specifically stated otherwise, flammable gases include flammable vapours.

Mists are not covered by this standard due to measurement techniques currently used.

This standard applies to Group II equipment (i.e. equipment intended for use in industrial and commercial safety applications, involving areas classified in accordance with IEC 60079-10-1) and Group I equipment.

For the purposes of this standard, equipment includes

- a) fixed equipment including equipment mounted on a vehicle;
- b) transportable equipment; and
- c) portable equipment.

This standard is not intended to cover, but may provide useful information, for the following:

- a) equipment intended only for the detection of non-flammable toxic gases;
- b) equipment of laboratory or scientific type intended only for analysis or measurement purposes;