

## EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

### Part 0: Equipment – General requirements

#### INTERPRETATION SHEET 2

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
31/1132/ISH	31/1153/RVISH

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.

Following decision No 16 of the TC 31 meeting in Melbourne in 2011, the issuing of an Interpretation Sheet for IEC 60079-0:2011 (6<sup>th</sup> edition) was requested, in order to clarify the significance of the changes with respect to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

#### Question

What are the minor editorial, extensions, and major technical changes of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition with respect to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition?

#### Answer

The following table shows the significance of the changes.

The significance of the changes between IEC Standard, IEC 60079-0, Edition 5, 2007-10 (Including Corrigendum No.1 and Interpretation Sheet I-SH 01) and IEC 60079-0, Edition 6, 2011-06 are as listed below:

Explanation of the significance of the changes	Clause	Type		
		Minor and editorial changes	Extension	Major technical changes
Expansion of material specification data for plastics and elastomers, including UV resistance	7.1.2		x	
Addition of alternative qualification for O-rings	7.2.3		x	
Addition of alternative criteria for surface resistance	7.4.2 a)		x	
Addition of alternative breakdown voltage limit for non-metallic layers applied to metallic enclosures	7.4.2 c)		x	
Expansion of "X" marking options for non-metallic enclosure materials not meeting basic electrostatic requirements	7.4.2 d) 7.4.2 e)		x	
Clarification that non-metallic enclosure requirements also apply to painted or coated metal enclosures	7.4.3		x	
Clarification of test to determine capacitance of accessible metal parts with reduction in acceptable capacitance	7.5 Table 9			C1
Addition of limits on zirconium content for Group III and Group II (Gb only) enclosures	8.3 8.4		x	
Introduction of "X" marking for Group III enclosures not complying with basic material requirements, similar to that existing for Group II	8.4	x		
Addition of button-head cap screws to permitted "Special Fasteners"	9.2		x	
Reference for protective earthing (PE) requirements for electrical machines to IEC 60034-1	15.3	x		
Addition of requirements for ventilating fans	17.1.5			C2
Addition of requirement for temperature rating of bearing lubricants	17.2	x		
Addition of alternative construction for disconnectors	18.2		x	
Removal of voltage limits on plugs and sockets	20.2		x	
Addition of test requirements for arc-quenching test on plugs and sockets	20.2			C3
Additional information on cell voltages	23.3 Table 12			C4
Revision to impact test of glass parts	26.4.2	x		
Revision to impact test procedure to address "bounce" of impact head	26.4.2		x	
Clarification of the test requirements for "service" and "surface" temperature	26.5.1.2 26.5.1.3	x		
Clarification of temperature rise tests for converter-fed motors	26.5.1.3		x	
Addition of alternative test method for thermal endurance	26.8 Table 15		x	
Removal of "charging test" and addition of note providing guidance	Formerly 26.14			C5
Clarification of test for the measurement of capacitance, revision of maximum capacitance	26.14			C6
Addition of tests for ventilating fans	26.15			C2
Addition of alternative o-ring testing	26.16		x	
Addition of a "Schedule of Limitations" to	28.2	x		

Explanation of the significance of the changes	Clause	Type		
		Minor and editorial changes	Extension	Major technical changes
certificates for Ex Components				
Clarification of the marking for multiple temperature classes	29.4 d) 29.5 d)	x		
Addition of marking for converter-fed motors	29.15		x	
Removal of IP marking for Group III	29.5	x		
Addition of specific instructions for electrical machines and for ventilating fans	30.3 30.4		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.

### Explanation of the Types of Changes:

#### A) Definitions

##### 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.

##### 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. For these changes additional information is provided in clause B) below.

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

#### B) Information about the background of 'Major technical changes'

**C1** – The values in the table have been significantly reduced based on information that is intended to be published in IEC TS 60079-32-1 (currently in preparation).

**C2** – The requirements for fans was added at the request of the IECEx International Product Certification Scheme.

**C3** – The test has been introduced for all disconnectors as an alternative to the voltage and current restrictions in the previous standard which were considered to be arbitrary.

**C4** – There has been a slight increase in some cell voltages. This is a minor change for most protection concepts but should be regarded as a major change for equipment having a type of protection relying on energy limitation, e.g. IEC 60079-11

**C5** – The charging test was removed as it had been found to be not repeatable. Guidance will be given in IEC TS 60079-32-1 (currently in preparation).

**C6** – The limits for capacitance have been decreased based on technical information in CLC/TR 50404.