

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Explosive atmospheres

Part 0: Equipment—General requirements



AS/NZS 60079.0:2008

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee EL-014, Equipment for Explosive Atmospheres. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 29 February 2008 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 11 April 2008. This Standard was published on 19 May 2008.

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Part 0: Equipment—General requirements

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EL-014, Equipment for Explosive Atmospheres, to supersede AS/NZS 60079.0:2005.

The objective of this Standard is to specify the general requirements for construction, testing and marking of electrical equipment and Ex components intended for use in explosive atmospheres.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from, IEC 60079-0, Ed. 5.0(2007), *Explosive atmospheres – Part 0: Equipment—General requirements*.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below.

- (a) Requirements for explosive dust atmospheres transferred from AS/NZS 61241.0.
- (b) The marking Group ‘II’ alone has been replaced by ‘IIA’, ‘IIB’, or ‘IIC’ as many of the enclosure requirements are now aligned with a specific sub-group.
- (c) Dust groups defined as Group IIIA, IIIB and IIIC.
- (d) Limits for ultrasonic and electromagnetic radiation introduced.
- (e) Remainder of ‘electrostatic’ requirements transferred from AS/NZS 60079.26.
- (f) Equipment protection levels (EPL) introduced.
- (g) Transition of term from ‘apparatus’ to ‘equipment’ (where appropriate).

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (i) Its number does not appear on each page of text and its identity is shown only on the cover and title page.
- (ii) In the source text ‘IEC 60079-0’ should read ‘AS/NZS 60079.0’.
- (iii) A full point should be substituted for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ are used to define the application of the annex to which they apply. A normative annex is an integral part of a standard, whereas an informative annex is only for information and guidance.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	2
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Equipment grouping	16
4.1 Group I	16
4.2 Group II	17
4.3 Group III	17
4.4 Equipment for a particular explosive atmosphere	17
5 Temperatures	18
5.1 Environmental influences	18
5.2 Service temperature	18
5.3 Maximum surface temperature	18
6 Requirements for all electrical equipment	21
6.1 General	21
6.2 Mechanical strength of equipment	21
6.3 Opening times	21
6.4 Circulating currents	22
6.5 Gasket retention	22
6.6 Electromagnetic and ultrasonic energy radiating equipment	22
7 Non-metallic enclosures and non-metallic parts of enclosures	24
7.1 General	24
7.2 Thermal endurance	25
7.3 Resistance to light	25
7.4 Electrostatic charges on external non-metallic materials	25
7.5 Threaded holes	27
8 Metallic enclosures and metallic parts of enclosures	28
8.1 Material composition	28
8.2 Threaded holes	29
9 Fasteners	29
9.1 General	29
9.2 Special fasteners	29
9.3 Holes for special fasteners	29
10 Interlocking devices	31
11 Bushings	31
12 Materials used for cementing	31
13 Ex components	31
13.1 General	31
13.2 Mounting	31
13.3 Internal mounting	32
13.4 External mounting	32

14	Connection facilities and termination compartments	32
14.1	General	32
14.2	Termination compartment	32
14.3	Type of protection.....	32
14.4	Creepage and clearance.....	32
15	Connection facilities for earthing or bonding conductors.....	32
15.1	Equipment requiring earthing	32
15.2	Equipment not requiring earthing	33
15.3	Size of conductor connection	33
15.4	Protection against corrosion	33
15.5	Secureness of electrical connections	33
16	Entries into enclosures.....	34
16.1	General	34
16.2	Identification of entries	34
16.3	Cable glands	34
16.4	Blanking elements	34
16.5	Temperature at branching point and entry point.....	34
16.6	Electrostatic charges of cable sheaths.....	34
17	Supplementary requirements for rotating electrical machines.....	35
17.1	Fans and fan hoods.....	35
17.2	Ventilation openings for external fans	35
17.3	Construction and mounting of the ventilating systems.....	36
17.4	Clearances for the ventilating system	36
17.5	Materials for external fans and fan hoods	36
17.6	Equipotential bonding conductors	36
18	Supplementary requirements for switchgear.....	36
18.1	Flammable dielectric.....	36
18.2	Disconnectors.....	37
18.3	Group I – Provisions for locking	37
18.4	Doors and covers	37
19	Supplementary requirements for fuses	37
20	Supplementary requirements for plugs, socket outlets and connectors.....	38
20.1	Interlocking.....	38
20.2	Energized plugs.....	38
21	Supplementary requirements for luminaires	39
21.1	General	39
21.2	Covers for luminaires of EPL Gb or EPL Db.....	39
21.3	Covers for luminaires of EPL Gc or EPL Dc	39
21.4	Special lamps	40
22	Supplementary requirements for caplights and handlights	40
22.1	Group I caplights	40
22.2	Group II and Group III caplights and handlights	40

23	Equipment incorporating cells and batteries	40
23.1	General	40
23.2	Batteries	40
23.3	Cell types	40
23.4	Cells in a battery	42
23.5	Ratings of batteries	42
23.6	Interchangeability	42
23.7	Charging of primary batteries.....	42
23.8	Leakage	42
23.9	Connections	42
23.10	Orientation.....	42
23.11	Replacement of cells or batteries.....	42
23.12	Replaceable battery pack	42
24	Documentation.....	43
25	Compliance of prototype or sample with documents	43
26	Type tests	43
26.1	General	43
26.2	Test configuration	43
26.3	Tests in explosive test mixtures	43
26.4	Tests of enclosures	43
26.5	Thermal tests.....	47
26.6	Torque test for bushings	50
26.7	Non-metallic enclosures or non-metallic parts of enclosures	50
26.8	Thermal endurance to heat.....	51
26.9	Thermal endurance to cold	51
26.10	Resistance to light.....	51
26.11	Resistance to chemical agents for Group I electrical equipment.....	52
26.12	Earth continuity	52
26.13	Surface resistance test of parts of enclosures of non-metallic materials.....	53
26.14	Charging tests	54
26.15	Measurement of capacitance	58
27	Routine tests.....	58
28	Manufacturer's responsibility	58
28.1	Conformity with the documentation	58
28.2	Certificate.....	58
28.3	Responsibility for marking.....	58
29	Marking.....	59
29.1	Location	59
29.2	General	59
29.3	Ex marking for explosive gas atmospheres	59
29.4	Ex marking for explosive dust atmospheres	61
29.5	Combined types of protection	62
29.6	Multiple types of protection	62
29.7	Ga using two independent Gb types of protection	63
29.8	Ex components	63

29.9	Small equipment and small Ex components	63
29.10	Extremely small equipment and extremely small Ex components	63
29.11	Warning markings	64
29.12	Alternate marking of equipment protection levels (EPLs)	64
29.13	Cells and batteries	65
29.14	Examples of marking	66
30	Instructions	69
30.1	General	69
30.2	Cells and batteries	70
Annex A (normative)	Supplementary requirements for cable glands	71
Annex B (normative)	Requirements for Ex components	79
Annex C (informative)	Example of rig for resistance to impact test	81
Annex D (informative)	Introduction of an alternative risk assessment method encompassing "equipment protection levels" for Ex equipment.....	82
Annex E (informative)	Motors supplied by converters	87
Bibliography	88

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Australian/New Zealand Standard**Explosive atmospheres
Part 0: Equipment—General requirements**

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 specifies the general requirements for construction, testing and marking of electrical equipment and Ex components intended for use in explosive atmospheres.

Unless modified by one of the standards supplementing this standard, electrical equipment complying with this standard is intended for use in hazardous areas in which explosive atmospheres exist under normal atmospheric conditions of

- temperature -20 °C to $+60\text{ °C}$;
- pressure 80 kPa (0,8 bar) to 110 kPa (1,1 bar); and
- air with normal oxygen content, typically 21 % v/v.

The application of electrical equipment in atmospheric conditions outside this range requires special consideration and may require additional assessment and testing.

NOTE 1 Although the normal atmospheric conditions above give a temperature range for the atmosphere of -20 °C to $+60\text{ °C}$, the normal ambient temperature range for the equipment is -20 °C to $+40\text{ °C}$, unless otherwise specified and marked. See 5.1.1.

NOTE 2 In designing equipment for operation in explosive atmospheres under conditions other than the atmospheric conditions given above, this standard may be used for guidance. However, additional testing related specifically to the intended conditions of use is recommended. This is particularly important when the types of protection 'flameproof enclosure "d"' (IEC 60079-1) and 'intrinsic safety "i"' (IEC 60079-11 or IEC 61241-11) are applied.

NOTE 3 Requirements given in this standard result from an ignition hazard assessment made on electrical equipment. The ignition sources taken into account are those found associated with this type of equipment, such as hot surfaces, mechanically generated sparks, thermite reactions, electrical arcing and static electric discharge in normal industrial environments.

NOTE 4 It is acknowledged that, with developments in technology, it may be possible to achieve the objectives of the IEC 60079 series of standards in respect of explosion prevention by methods that are not yet fully defined. Where a manufacturer wishes to take advantage of such developments, this International Standard, as well as other standards in the IEC 60079 series, may be applied in part. It is intended that the manufacturer prepare documentation that clearly defines how the IEC 60079 series of standards has been applied, together with a full explanation of the additional techniques employed. The designation "Ex s" has been reserved to indicate a type of protection that is not defined by the IEC 60079 series of standards, but may be referenced in national requirements.

NOTE 5 Where an explosive gas atmosphere and a combustible dust atmosphere are, or may be, present at the same time, the simultaneous presence of both should be considered and may require additional protective measures.

This standard does not specify requirements for safety, other than those directly related to the explosion risk. Ignition sources like adiabatic compression, shock waves, exothermic chemical reaction, self ignition of dust, naked flames and hot gases/liquids, are not addressed by this standard.

NOTE 6 Such equipment should be subjected to a hazard analysis that identifies and lists all of the potential sources of ignition by the electrical equipment and the measures to be applied to prevent them becoming effective.