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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Explosive atmospheres –
Part 38: Equipment and components in explosive atmospheres in underground mines

Atmosphères explosives –
Partie 38: Appareils et composants destinés à être utilisés dans les mines souterraines grisouteuses

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 38: Equipment and components in explosive atmospheres in underground mines

FOREWORD

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International Standard ISO/IEC 80079-38 has been prepared by subcommittee 31M: Non-electrical equipment and protective systems for explosive atmospheres, of IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

It is published as a double logo standard.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
31M/105/FDIS	31M/111/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. In ISO, the standard has been approved by 13 P members out of 21 having cast a vote.

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

"A list of all parts in the IEC 60079 series, under the general title *Explosive atmospheres*, as well as the International Standard 80079 series, can be found on the IEC website."

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability 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- withdrawn,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.

INTRODUCTION

This part of ISO/IEC 80079 specifies requirements for the constructional features of equipment and components that may be an individual item or form an assembly, to enable them to be used in mines, or parts of mines, susceptible to explosive atmospheres of firedamp and/or combustible dust.

Most of the electrical equipment used on mining machinery is certified as an individual item of equipment, e.g. the motor, switchgear etc., and meets its own marking requirements. This certification, however, does not deal with the interconnection of these items of equipment by cables or the machine electrical power system as an entity. The equipment and components, including their interconnections, should be assessed, from an ignition point of view, by the manufacturer.

Both non-electrical equipment and the interconnection of electrical/non-electrical equipment require an ignition hazard assessment.

Therefore, it is necessary that not just the equipment, but all its parts, is examined by the manufacturer according to a formally documented ignition hazard assessment that establishes and lists all the possible ignition sources of the equipment including the cables and electrical supply system. The documentation shall list the measures that shall be introduced to keep possible ignition sources from becoming effective.

The need for this International Standard arises because of major operational differences between underground mining operations and those in other industries working with, or in, explosive atmospheres. Examples of these differences are:

– the product being won from the underground strata may be combustible and may continually release firedamp during the winning process;
– the ignitability of the atmosphere around equipment and components usually depends upon the amount of dilution offered by an active ventilating system;
– the atmosphere in the general body of mine air in which machinery is working may change from one that is potentially explosive to one that is explosive (for example, during an outburst of firedamp);
– persons working in the mine are usually situated within the potentially explosive atmosphere;
– there is a need to monitor constantly the mine atmosphere at strategic places to ensure that power can be disconnected from all equipment except Ma equipment which is suitable for use in a constantly explosive atmosphere;
– in gassy coal mines, an explosion of firedamp at a machine can raise a combustible dust cloud that exacerbates the explosion;
– some mining machinery, especially that associated with winning the product, contains cutting devices and drilling devices that are intended to cut into the combustible product as part of their normal operation. This introduces an ignition risk from frictional heating or frictional sparking from contact with strata containing high concentrations of quartz or iron pyrites;
– long roadways in coal mines are equipped with mineral conveying systems carrying a product that has a potential for raising a combustible dust cloud and the production of firedamp.

To decide which equipment or its component parts should merit inclusion in this International Standard, ignition data has been examined based on international experience.

When drafting this International standard, it has been assumed that equipment and components are:

– designed in accordance with good engineering practice, taking account of expected shocks, vibrations and failure modes;

– of sound mechanical and electrical construction;

– made of materials with adequate strength and of suitable quality;

– free from defects; and

– kept in good repair and working order, e.g. so that the required dimensions remain within permissible tolerance despite wear.

EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 38: Equipment and components in explosive atmospheres in underground mines

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 80079 specifies the explosion protection requirements for the design, construction, assessment and information for use (maintenance, repair, marking) of equipment that may be an individual item or form an assembly.

This includes machinery and components for use in mines susceptible to explosive atmospheres of firedamp and/or combustible dust. The standard atmospheric conditions (relating to the explosion characteristics of the atmosphere) under which it may be assumed that equipment can be operated are:

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

This part of ISO/IEC 80079 applies for equipment and components according to EPL Mb to be used in explosive atmospheres containing firedamp and/or combustible dust.

NOTE 1 In some countries, there might be differences according to the classification, e.g. Mb is similar to category M2 in the European Union.

For equipment and components according to EPL Ma, the requirements of this standard and of ISO 80079-36 and IEC 60079-0 apply.

NOTE 2 A standard with additional requirements for EPL Ma is under preparation.

It is necessary to take account of external conditions to the equipment which may affect the hazard and the resultant protection measures. These measures may include ventilation, gas detection or gas drainage.

This part of ISO/IEC 80079 also deals with the prevention of ignitions of explosive atmospheres caused by burning (or smouldering) of combustible material such as fabric fibres, plastic ”O”-rings, rubber seals, lubricating oils or greases used in the construction of the equipment if such items could be an ignition source. For example, the mechanical failure of rotating shaft bearings can result in frictional heating that ignites its plastic cage, plastic seal or lubricating grease.

Detailed requirements and test procedures for the fire protection of conveyer belts are not part of this part of ISO/IEC 80079.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60079-0, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 0: Equipment – General requirements*