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Edition 4.1 2022-05  
CONSOLIDATED VERSION

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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## Explosive atmospheres – Part 5: Equipment protection by powder filling "q"

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## Explosive atmospheres – Part 5: Equipment protection by powder filling "q"



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

#### Part 5: Equipment protection by powder filling “q”

#### FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as “IEC Publication(s)”). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
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- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

**This consolidated version of the official IEC Standard and its amendment has been prepared for user convenience.**

**IEC 60079-5 edition 4.1 contains the fourth edition (2015-02) [documents 31/1156/FDIS and 31/1171/RVD] and its amendment 1 (2022-05) [documents 31/1601/CDV and 31/1171/RVD].**

**In this Redline version, a vertical line in the margin shows where the technical content is modified by amendment 1. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text. A separate Final version with all changes accepted is available in this publication.**

This is a preview of "IEC 60079-5 Ed. 4.1 ...". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

International Standard IEC 60079-5 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This fourth edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

NOTE The technical changes referred to include the significant technical changes in the revised IEC standard, but they do not form an exhaustive list of all modifications from the previous edition. More guidance may be found by referring to the redline version of the IEC standard, if available.

Significant changes	Clause/subclause	Type		
		Minor and editorial changes	Extension	Major technical changes
Specific references to IEC 60079-0 have been reworded so the references to IEC 60079-0 can be non-dated references	4.1.3 4.8 4.8.3	X		
The "housing" surrounding the powder filled equipment or Ex Component has been redefined as a "container" to avoid confusion with the "enclosure" requirements of IEC 60079-0	4.1	X		
A relaxation has been introduced to permit reduced distances through filling material for instances where there is no adjacent gap in the container	4.3.1		X	
A relaxation has been introduced to permit the use of creepage dimensions per IEC 60079-7 where CTI is better than 175	4.8.3		X	
An evaluation of joints employed when the reduced distances according to Table 1 are applied, has been added.	5.1.1		X	
Text for determination of maximum temperature clarified with respect to overloads and malfunctions	5.1.4	X		
A batch routine test has been introduced	5.2.1		X	

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

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

The committee has decided that the contents of the base publication and its amendment will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under [webstore.iec.ch](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.

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## EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

### Part 5: Equipment protection by powder filling “q”

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 contains specific requirements for the construction, testing and marking of electrical equipment, parts of electrical equipment and Ex components in the type of protection powder filling “q”, intended for use in explosive gas atmospheres.

NOTE 1 Electrical equipment and Ex components protected by powder filling “q” can contain electronic circuits, transformers, protection fuses, relays, intrinsically safe electrical apparatus, associated electrical apparatus, switches, etc.

NOTE 2 Type of protection powder filling “q” provides Equipment Protection Level (EPL) Gb or Mb.

This standard supplements and modifies the general requirements of IEC 60079-0. Where a requirement of this standard conflicts with a requirement of IEC 60079-0, the requirement of this standard takes precedence.

This standard applies to electrical equipment, parts of electrical equipment and Ex components with:

- a rated supply current less than or equal to 16 A;
- a rated supply voltage less than or equal to 1 000 V;
- a rated power consumption less than or equal to 1 000 W.

#### 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*

IEC 60079-7, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 7: Equipment protection by increased safety “e”*

IEC 60079-11, *Explosive atmospheres – Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety “i”*

IEC 60127 (all parts), *Miniature fuses*

IEC 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

IEC 61558-1, *Safety of power transformers, power supplies, reactors and similar products – Part 1: General requirements and tests*

IEC 61558-2-6, *Safety of transformers, reactors, power supply units and similar products for supply voltages up to 1 100 V – Part 2-6: Particular requirements and tests for safety isolating transformers and power supply units incorporating safety isolating transformers*

ISO 2859-1, *Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes – Part 1: Sampling schemes indexed by acceptance quality limit (AQL) for lot-by-lot inspection*

ISO 3310-1, *Test sieves – Technical requirements and testing – Part 1: Test sieves of metal wire cloth*

ISO 3310-2, *Test sieves – Technical requirements and testing – Part 2: Test sieves of perforated metal plate*

ISO 2591-1, *Test sieving – Methods using test sieves of woven wire cloth and perforated metal plate*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60079-0 as well as the following apply.

NOTE Additional definitions applicable to explosive atmospheres can be found in IEC 60050-426.

#### 3.1

##### **powder filling “q”**

type of protection in which the parts capable of igniting an explosive gas atmosphere are fixed in position and completely surrounded by filling material to prevent the ignition of an external explosive gas atmosphere

Note 1 to entry: The type of protection may not prevent the surrounding explosive gas atmosphere from penetrating into the equipment and components and being ignited by the circuits. However, due to the small free volumes in the filling material and due to the quenching of a flame which may propagate through the paths in the filling material, an external explosion is prevented.

#### 3.2

##### **filling material**

solid quartz or solid glass particles

#### 3.3

##### **container (for filling material)**

housing immediately surrounding the electrical equipment protected by and containing the filling material

Note 1 to entry: The container may, in some cases, also be the external enclosure.

### 4 Constructional requirements

#### 4.1 Containers

##### 4.1.1 Closing and sealing

###### 4.1.1.1 General

Containers of electrical equipment, parts of electrical equipment or Ex components protected by powder filling “q” shall be filled and sealed at the time of manufacture. The closing and sealing shall be the methods of 4.1.1.2 or 4.1.1.3.

###### 4.1.1.2 Containers permanently sealed at the time of manufacture

The container shall be permanently sealed at the time of manufacture and shall not be capable of being opened without leaving visible evidence that the container has been opened. The container shall be marked in accordance with Clause 6, item a).

NOTE Suitable techniques that can provide visible evidence of containers being opened are, for example, welding, soldering, cemented joints, rivets, cementing of screws, or lead-seal safety-wiring of screws.



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Edition 4.1 2022-05  
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# FINAL VERSION

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## Explosive atmospheres – Part 5: Equipment protection by powder filling "q"



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

### EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

#### Part 5: Equipment protection by powder filling “q”

#### FOREWORD

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The "housing" surrounding the powder filled equipment or Ex Component has been redefined as a "container" to avoid confusion with the "enclosure" requirements of IEC 60079-0	4.1	X		
A relaxation has been introduced to permit reduced distances through filling material for instances where there is no adjacent gap in the container	4.3.1		X	
A relaxation has been introduced to permit the use of creepage dimensions per IEC 60079-7 where CTI is better than 175	4.8.3		X	
An evaluation of joints employed when the reduced distances according to Table 1 are applied, has been added.	5.1.1		X	
Text for determination of maximum temperature clarified with respect to overloads and malfunctions	5.1.4	X		
A batch routine test has been introduced	5.2.1		X	

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## EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

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NOTE 2 Type of protection powder filling “q” provides Equipment Protection Level (EPL) Gb or Mb.

This standard supplements and modifies the general requirements of IEC 60079-0. Where a requirement of this standard conflicts with a requirement of IEC 60079-0, the requirement of this standard takes precedence.

This standard applies to electrical equipment, parts of electrical equipment and Ex components with:

- a rated supply current less than or equal to 16 A;
- a rated supply voltage less than or equal to 1 000 V;
- a rated power consumption less than or equal to 1 000 W.

#### 2 Normative references

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ISO 3310-2, *Test sieves – Technical requirements and testing – Part 2: Test sieves of perforated metal plate*

ISO 2591-1, *Test sieving – Methods using test sieves of woven wire cloth and perforated metal plate*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60079-0 as well as the following apply.

NOTE Additional definitions applicable to explosive atmospheres can be found in IEC 60050-426.

#### 3.1

##### **powder filling “q”**

type of protection in which the parts capable of igniting an explosive gas atmosphere are fixed in position and completely surrounded by filling material to prevent the ignition of an external explosive gas atmosphere

Note 1 to entry: The type of protection may not prevent the surrounding explosive gas atmosphere from penetrating into the equipment and components and being ignited by the circuits. However, due to the small free volumes in the filling material and due to the quenching of a flame which may propagate through the paths in the filling material, an external explosion is prevented.

#### 3.2

##### **filling material**

solid quartz or solid glass particles

#### 3.3

##### **container (for filling material)**

housing immediately surrounding the electrical equipment protected by and containing the filling material

Note 1 to entry: The container may, in some cases, also be the external enclosure.

### 4 Constructional requirements

#### 4.1 Containers

##### 4.1.1 Closing and sealing

###### 4.1.1.1 General

Containers of electrical equipment, parts of electrical equipment or Ex components protected by powder filling “q” shall be filled and sealed at the time of manufacture. The closing and sealing shall be the methods of 4.1.1.2 or 4.1.1.3.

###### 4.1.1.2 Containers permanently sealed at the time of manufacture

The container shall be permanently sealed at the time of manufacture and shall not be capable of being opened without leaving visible evidence that the container has been opened. The container shall be marked in accordance with Clause 6, item a).

NOTE Suitable techniques that can provide visible evidence of containers being opened are, for example, welding, soldering, cemented joints, rivets, cementing of screws, or lead-seal safety-wiring of screws.