

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Explosive atmospheres –
Part 15: Equipment protection by type of protection "n"**

**Atmosphères explosives –
Partie 15: Protection du matériel par mode de protection «n»**



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2017 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

Droits de reproduction réservés. Sauf indication contraire, aucune partie de cette publication ne peut être reproduite ni utilisée sous quelque forme que ce soit et par aucun procédé, électronique ou mécanique, y compris la photocopie et les microfilms, sans l'accord écrit de l'IEC ou du Comité national de l'IEC du pays du demandeur. Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de l'IEC ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de l'IEC de votre pays de résidence.

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigenda or an amendment might have been published.

IEC Catalogue - webstore.iec.ch/catalogue

The stand-alone application for consulting the entire bibliographical information on IEC International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports and other documents. Available for PC, Mac OS, Android Tablets and iPad.

IEC publications search - www.iec.ch/searchpub

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee,...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and also once a month by email.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary of electronic and electrical terms containing 20 000 terms and definitions in English and French, with equivalent terms in 16 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

IEC Glossary - std.iec.ch/glossary

65 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

IEC Customer Service Centre - webstore.iec.ch/csc

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: csc@iec.ch.

A propos de l'IEC

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

A propos des publications IEC

Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

Catalogue IEC - webstore.iec.ch/catalogue

Application autonome pour consulter tous les renseignements bibliographiques sur les Normes internationales, Spécifications techniques, Rapports techniques et autres documents de l'IEC. Disponible pour PC, Mac OS, tablettes Android et iPad.

Recherche de publications IEC - www.iec.ch/searchpub

La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études,...). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et aussi une fois par mois par email.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

Le premier dictionnaire en ligne de termes électroniques et électriques. Il contient 20 000 termes et définitions en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 16 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

Glossaire IEC - std.iec.ch/glossary

65 000 entrées terminologiques électrotechniques, en anglais et en français, extraites des articles Termes et Définitions des publications IEC parues depuis 2002. Plus certaines entrées antérieures extraites des publications des CE 37, 77, 86 et CISPR de l'IEC.

Service Clients - webstore.iec.ch/csc

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: csc@iec.ch.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Explosive atmospheres –
Part 15: Equipment protection by type of protection "n"**

**Atmosphères explosives –
Partie 15: Protection du matériel par mode de protection «n»**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 29.260.20

ISBN 978-2-8322-5047-1

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.
Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.**

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
1 Scope	9
2 Normative references	15
3 Terms and definitions	16
4 General	17
4.1 Equipment grouping and temperature classification	17
4.2 Potential ignition sources	17
4.3 Equipment requirements	17
5 Maximum surface temperatures	17
6 Requirements for electrical equipment	18
6.1 General	18
6.2 Electric strength insulation from earth or frame	18
7 Requirements for non-incendive components	18
7.1 Type testing	18
7.2 Circuit limitations	18
8 Requirements for hermetically sealed devices	18
9 Requirements for sealed devices	19
9.1 Non-metallic materials	19
9.2 Opening	19
9.3 Internal spaces	19
9.4 Handling	19
9.5 Gasket and seals	19
9.6 Type tests	19
10 Requirements for restricted-breathing enclosures	19
10.1 General	19
10.2 Constructional requirements	20
10.2.1 Type of equipment	20
10.2.2 Cells and batteries	20
10.2.3 Cable glands and conduit entries	20
10.2.4 Operating rods, spindles and shafts	21
10.2.5 Windows	21
10.2.6 Gasket and seal requirements	21
10.2.7 Non-resilient seals	21
10.2.8 Test port	22
10.2.9 Internal fans	23
10.3 Temperature limitation	23
10.4 Additional requirements for restricted-breathing luminaires	23
10.4.1 Mounting arrangement	23
10.4.2 Reflectors	23
10.4.3 Surface temperatures of restricted-breathing luminaires	23
11 Type Tests	24
11.1 Tests for non incendive components	24
11.1.1 Preparation of non-incendive component samples	24
11.1.2 Test conditions for non-incendive components	24
11.2 Tests for sealed devices	25

11.2.1	Conditioning	25
11.2.2	Voltage test	25
11.2.3	Leakage tests on sealed devices	25
11.3	Type test requirements for restricted-breathing enclosures	26
11.3.1	General	26
11.3.2	Equipment where the volume of the enclosure will be unchanged due to pressure	26
11.3.3	Alternative type test for equipment where the volume of the enclosure changes due to pressure	26
12	Routine verifications and tests	27
12.1	Electric strength test	27
12.2	Routine test requirements for restricted-breathing enclosures	27
12.2.1	General	27
12.2.2	Test procedure	27
12.3	Routine temperature rise test	28
12.4	Temperature calculation	28
13	Marking	29
13.1	General	29
13.2	Examples of marking	29
13.3	Warning markings	29
14	Documentation	29
15	Instructions	30
	Bibliography	31
	Table 1 – Relationship of IEC 60079-15 to IEC 60079-0	9
	Table 2 – Text of warning markings	29

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –**Part 15: Equipment protection by type of protection "n"****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.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 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.

International Standard IEC 60079-15 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition, published in 2010, and constitutes a technical revision.

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

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
31/1339/FDIS	31/1355/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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

This International Standard is to be read in conjunction with IEC 60079-0.

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

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

Changes	Clause	Type		
		Minor and editorial changes	Extension	Major technical changes
Requirements for enclosed break devices have been removed	-			C1
Requirements for type of protection “nA” has been removed	-			C2
Scope has been updated to allow equipment with internal working voltages over 15 kV such as starters for HID luminaires	1		X	
Definition for cable sealing box removed	3	X		
Definitions for creepage distance and clearance removed as they are now in 60079-0	3	X		
Definition of non-sparking device “nA” removed, as the concept has been transferred to 60079-7	3			C2
Definition of duty cycle removed	3	X		
Definition of enclosed break device moved as the concept has been transferred to 60079-1	3			C1
Definition of hermetically sealed device revised	3	A1		
Definition for normally sparking device added	3.2	X		
Small component temperature clause removed, part of moving type of protection “nA” to 60079-7	5			C2
Minimum degree of protection requirements; clearance, creepage and separation requirements; determination of working voltage; conformal coating; CTI requirement; Insulation between conductive parts and measurement of creepage and clearance requirements have been removed.	6			C2
Connection facilities and terminal compartment requirements have been removed	-			C2
Supplementary requirements for non-sparking electrical rotating machines have been removed	-			C2
Supplementary requirements for non-sparking fuses and fuse assemblies have been removed	-			C2
Supplementary requirements for non-sparking plugs and sockets have been removed	-			C2
Supplementary requirements for non-sparking luminaires have been removed	-			C2
Supplementary requirements for equipment incorporating non-sparking cells and batteries have been removed	-			C2
Supplementary requirements for non-sparking low power equipment have been removed	-			C2
Supplementary requirements for non-sparking current transformers have been removed	-			C2
Requirements for other non-sparking electrical equipment have been removed	-			C2
General supplementary requirements for equipment producing arcs, sparks or hot surfaces have been removed	-			C2
Requirements for enclosed break devices have been removed	-			C1
Voltage and current limitations added for non-incendive components.	7.2			C6