



IEC 60079-0

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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**Explosive atmospheres -  
Part 0: Equipment - General requirements**

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	8
1 Scope .....	18
2 Normative references .....	20
3 Terms and definitions .....	22
4 Equipment grouping .....	44
4.1 General .....	44
4.2 Group I .....	44
4.3 Group II .....	44
4.4 Group III .....	45
4.5 Equipment for a particular explosive gas atmosphere .....	45
5 Temperatures .....	45
5.1 Environmental influences .....	45
5.1.1 Ambient temperature .....	45
5.1.2 External source of heating or cooling .....	46
5.2 Service temperature .....	46
5.3 Maximum surface temperature .....	46
5.3.1 Determination of maximum surface temperature .....	46
5.3.2 Limitation of maximum surface temperature .....	47
5.3.3 Small component temperature for Group I or Group II equipment .....	48
5.3.4 Component temperature of smooth surfaces for Group I or Group II equipment .....	49
6 Requirements for all equipment .....	50
6.1 General .....	50
6.2 Mechanical strength of equipment .....	50
6.3 Opening times .....	50
6.4 Circulating currents in enclosures .....	50
6.5 Gasket retention .....	51
6.6 Electromagnetic and ultrasonic energy radiating equipment .....	51
6.6.1 General .....	51
6.6.2 Radio frequency sources .....	51
6.6.3 Ultrasonic sources .....	52
7 Non-metallic enclosures and non-metallic parts of enclosures .....	53
7.1 General .....	53
7.1.1 Applicability .....	53
7.1.2 Specification of materials .....	53
7.2 Thermal endurance .....	55
7.2.1 Tests for thermal endurance .....	55
7.2.2 Material selection .....	55
7.2.3 Alternative qualification of elastomeric O-rings .....	55
7.3 Resistance to ultraviolet light .....	56
7.4 Electrostatic charges on external non-metallic materials .....	56
7.4.1 Applicability .....	56
7.4.2 Avoidance of a build-up of electrostatic charge for Group I, Group II, or Group III .....	57
7.5 Attached external conductive parts .....	62
7.6 Electrostatic charges of cable sheaths .....	63
8 Metallic enclosures and metallic parts of enclosures .....	63

8.1	Material composition .....	63
8.2	Group I .....	63
8.3	Group II .....	63
8.4	Group III .....	64
8.5	Copper Alloys .....	64
9	Fasteners .....	64
9.1	General requirements for fasteners .....	64
9.2	Special fasteners .....	65
9.2.1	General .....	65
9.2.2	Holes for special fasteners .....	65
10	Interlocking devices .....	66
11	Bushings .....	66
12	(Reserved for future use).....	66
13	Ex Components .....	66
13.1	General.....	66
13.2	Mounting.....	67
13.3	Internal mounting .....	67
13.4	External mounting .....	67
13.5	Ex Component certificate .....	67
14	Connection facilities .....	67
14.1	General.....	67
14.2	Type of Protection.....	67
14.3	Creepage and clearance .....	68
15	Connection facilities for earthing or bonding conductors .....	68
15.1	Equipment requiring earthing or bonding.....	68
15.1.1	Internal earthing .....	68
15.1.2	External bonding .....	68
15.1.3	Electrostatic bonding .....	68
15.2	Equipment not requiring earthing .....	69
15.3	Size of protective earthing conductor connection .....	69
15.4	Size of equipotential bonding conductor connection .....	69
15.5	Protection against corrosion.....	69
15.6	Secureness of electrical connections .....	69
15.7	Internal earth continuity plate.....	69
16	Entries into enclosures .....	70
16.1	General.....	70
16.2	Identification of entries.....	70
16.3	Cable glands.....	70
16.4	Blanking Elements .....	71
16.5	Thread adapters .....	71
16.6	Temperature at the entry point and the branching point of conductors .....	71
17	Supplementary requirements for electric machines .....	72
17.1	General.....	72
17.2	Ventilation and cooling.....	73
17.2.1	Openings.....	73
17.2.2	External fans .....	73
17.2.3	Auxiliary cooling fans.....	74
17.2.4	Room ventilating fans .....	74

17.3	Bearings .....	75
18	Supplementary requirements for switchgear .....	75
18.1	Flammable dielectric .....	75
18.2	Disconnectors .....	75
18.3	Group I – Provisions for locking .....	76
18.4	Doors and covers .....	76
19	Supplementary requirements for factory wiring between enclosures .....	76
20	Supplementary requirements for external plugs, socket-outlets and appliance inlets .....	77
20.1	General.....	77
20.2	Explosive gas atmospheres .....	77
20.3	Explosive dust atmospheres .....	78
20.4	Energized plugs .....	78
21	Supplementary requirements for luminaires .....	78
21.1	General.....	78
21.2	Covers for luminaires of EPL Mb, Gb, or Db.....	78
21.3	Covers for luminaires of EPL Gc or Dc.....	78
21.4	Sodium lamps .....	79
21.5	Replacement lamps .....	79
22	Supplementary requirements for caplights and handlights .....	79
22.1	Group I caplights .....	79
22.2	Group II and Group III caplights and handlights .....	79
23	Equipment incorporating cells and batteries.....	79
23.1	General.....	79
23.2	Interconnection of cells to form batteries.....	80
23.3	Electrochemical systems of cells and batteries .....	80
23.4	Cells in a battery.....	82
23.5	Ratings of batteries.....	82
23.6	Interchangeability .....	82
23.7	Prohibition of charging of primary batteries .....	82
23.8	Leakage.....	82
23.9	Connections.....	83
23.10	Orientation.....	83
23.11	Replacement of cells or batteries .....	83
23.12	Replaceable battery pack.....	83
24	Documentation .....	83
24.1	Schedule drawings.....	83
24.2	Related drawings .....	83
25	Compliance of prototype or sample with documents.....	84
26	Type tests .....	84
26.1	General.....	84
26.2	Test configuration .....	84
26.3	Tests in explosive test mixture .....	84
26.4	Tests of enclosures.....	84
26.4.1	Order of tests .....	84
26.4.2	Resistance to impact .....	86
26.4.3	Drop test .....	88
26.4.4	Acceptance criteria .....	89

26.4.5	Degree of protection (IP Code) by enclosures.....	89
26.5	Thermal tests.....	90
26.5.1	Temperature measurement.....	90
26.5.2	Thermal shock test.....	93
26.5.3	Small component ignition test (Group I and Group II).....	93
26.6	Torque test for bushings.....	94
26.6.1	Test procedure.....	94
26.6.2	Acceptance criteria.....	95
26.7	Non-metallic enclosures or non-metallic parts of enclosures.....	95
26.7.1	General.....	95
26.7.2	Test temperatures.....	95
26.8	Thermal endurance to heat.....	95
26.9	Thermal endurance to cold.....	97
26.10	Resistance to UV light.....	97
26.10.1	General.....	97
26.10.2	Light exposure.....	98
26.10.3	Acceptance criteria.....	98
26.11	Resistance to chemical agents for Group I equipment.....	98
26.12	Earth continuity.....	98
26.13	Surface resistance test of parts of enclosures of non-metallic materials.....	100
26.14	Measurement of capacitance.....	102
26.14.1	General.....	102
26.14.2	Test procedure.....	102
26.15	Verification of ratings of ventilating fans.....	103
26.16	Alternative qualification of elastomeric O-rings.....	103
26.17	Transferred charge test.....	103
26.17.1	Test equipment.....	103
26.17.2	Test sample.....	107
26.17.3	Test procedure.....	107
27	Routine tests.....	108
28	Certificate.....	108
29	Marking.....	109
29.1	Applicability.....	109
29.2	Location.....	109
29.3	General.....	109
29.4	Ex marking for explosive gas atmospheres.....	110
29.5	Ex marking for explosive dust atmospheres.....	112
29.6	Combined Types (or Levels) of Protection.....	115
29.7	Multiple Types of Protection.....	115
29.8	Ga equipment using two independent Gb Types (or Levels) of Protection.....	115
29.9	Boundary.....	116
29.10	Ex Components.....	116
29.11	Small Ex Equipment and small Ex Components.....	117
29.12	Extremely small Ex Equipment and extremely small Ex Components.....	117
29.13	Alternative marking of Ex Equipment and Ex Components using digital technology.....	117
29.14	Warning markings.....	118
29.15	Cells and batteries.....	118
29.16	Electric machines supplied by a converter.....	118

29.17	Examples of marking.....	119
30	Instructions.....	124
30.1	General.....	124
30.2	Cells and batteries.....	125
30.3	Electric machines.....	125
30.4	Ventilating fans.....	126
30.5	Cable glands.....	127
Annex A (normative)	Supplementary requirements for cable glands and cable transit devices.....	128
A.1	General.....	128
A.2	Constructional requirements .....	128
A.2.1	Cable sealing.....	128
A.2.2	Filling compounds.....	129
A.2.3	Clamping .....	129
A.2.4	Lead-in of cable.....	130
A.2.5	Release by a tool.....	130
A.2.6	Fixing .....	130
A.2.7	Degree of protection (IP Code) rating .....	130
A.3	Type tests.....	130
A.3.1	Tests of clamping of non-armoured and braided cables .....	130
A.3.2	Tests of clamping of armoured cables.....	134
A.3.3	Type test for resistance to impact.....	135
A.3.4	Test for degree of protection (IP Code) rating of cable glands .....	136
A.4	Marking.....	137
A.4.1	Marking of cable glands.....	137
A.4.2	Identification of cable-sealing rings.....	137
A.5	Instructions .....	138
Annex B (normative)	Requirements for Ex Components.....	139
Annex C (informative)	Example of rig for resistance to impact test.....	142
Annex D (informative)	Electric machines supplied by a converter.....	143
Annex E (informative)	Temperature evaluation of electric machines.....	144
Annex F (informative)	Guidance flowchart for tests of non-metallic enclosures or non-metallic parts of enclosures (26.4) .....	147
Annex G (informative)	Guidance flowchart for tests of cable glands .....	148
Annex H (informative)	Shaft voltages resulting in motor bearing or shaft brush sparking discharge energy calculation .....	150
H.1	General.....	150
H.2	Assessment of the possibility of ignition using ignition energy calculation .....	150
H.3	Shaft voltage determination for a rotating machine.....	151
H.4	Capacitance "C" calculation for a rotating machine .....	152
H.5	Energy "E" calculation for a rotating machine .....	154
H.6	Assessment using reference curves.....	154
Bibliography.....		156
Figure 1	– Typical battery examples.....	23
Figure 2	– Typical battery compartment .....	25
Figure 3	– Typical replaceable battery pack .....	26
Figure 4	– Shield with electrostatic bonding .....	59

Figure 5 – Cylindrical shield with electrostatic bonding .....	59
Figure 6 – Tolerances and clearance for threaded fasteners .....	65
Figure 7 – Contact surface under head of fastener with a reduced shank.....	66
Figure 8 – Cable gland.....	72
Figure 9 – Conduit entry .....	72
Figure 10 – Assembly of test sample for earth-continuity test.....	100
Figure 11 – Test piece with electrodes .....	101
Figure 12 – Compression set of an O-ring.....	103
Figure 13 – Example of non-oscillating pulse trace (1) .....	104
Figure 14 – Example of faulty oscillating pulse trace (1) .....	105
Figure 15 – Shunt with four parallel resistors .....	105
Figure 16 – Schematic drawing of the method shunt and oscilloscope .....	106
Figure 17 – Zero-line trace (1) with low noise .....	106
Figure A.1 – Cable sealing and clamping .....	129
Figure A.2 – Rounded edge of the point of entry of the flexible cable .....	130
Figure A.3 – Example of a seal with multiple openings.....	131
Figure A.4 – Example of rig for resistance to impact test.....	136
Figure C.1 – Example of rig for resistance to impact test .....	142
Figure F.1 – Non-metallic enclosures or non-metallic parts of enclosures .....	147
Figure G.1 – Guidance flowchart for tests of cable glands.....	149
Figure H.1 – Capacitance stored in bearing clearance of sleeve bearing between journal and outer bearing housing.....	153
Figure H.2 – Air-gap between stator and rotor.....	153
Figure H.3 – Typical surfaces that form capacitors from the motor shaft to earth .....	154
Figure H.4 – Capacitive ignition curves .....	155
Table 1 – Classification of maximum surface temperatures for Group II equipment .....	47
Table 2 – Assessment of temperature classification according to component size.....	49
Table 3 – Assessment of temperature classification Component surface area $\geq 20 \text{ mm}^2$ .....	49
Table 4 – Threshold power .....	52
Table 5 – Threshold energy .....	52
Table 6 – Limitation of surface areas .....	59
Table 7 – Maximum diameter or width.....	60
Table 8 – Limitation of thickness of non-metallic layer .....	60
Table 9 – Maximum transferred charge .....	60
Table 10 – Maximum capacitance of unearthed conductive parts .....	62
Table 11 – Minimum cross-sectional area of PE conductors.....	69
Table 12 – Primary cells .....	80
Table 13 – Secondary cells.....	81
Table 14 – Impact tests.....	87
Table 15 – Torque to be applied to the stem of bushing used for connection facilities.....	95
Table 16 – Thermal endurance test.....	96
Table 17 – Thermal endurance tests – personal or portable equipment.....	97

Table 18 – Text of warning markings .....	118
Table 19 – Example of converter parameters .....	126
Table B.1 – Applicability of clauses to Ex Components .....	139
Table H.1 – Maximum permitted energy .....	151

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**Explosive atmospheres -  
Part 0: Equipment - General requirements**

**FOREWORD**

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IEC 60079-0 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres. It is an International Standard.

This eighth edition cancels and replaces the seventh edition, published in 2017. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

Users of this document are advised that interpretation sheets clarifying the interpretation of this document can be published. Interpretation sheets are available from the IEC webstore and can be found in the "history" tab of the page for each document.

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

Draft	Report on voting
31/1958/FDIS	31/1968/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

A list of all parts of the IEC 60079 series, under the general title *Explosive 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 [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

## 1 Scope

This part of IEC 60079 specifies the general requirements for construction, testing and marking of Ex Equipment and Ex Components intended for use in or associated with explosive atmospheres.

The standard atmospheric conditions (relating to the explosion characteristics of the atmosphere) for Ex Equipment are:

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

This part of IEC 60079 and other documents supplementing this document specify additional test requirements for Ex Equipment operating outside the standard temperature range, but in some cases, further additional consideration and additional testing is required for Ex Equipment operating outside the standard atmospheric pressure range and standard oxygen content. Such additional testing is particularly relevant with respect to Types of Protection that depend on quenching of a flame such as 'flameproof enclosures "d"' (IEC 60079-1) or limitation of energy, 'intrinsic safety "i"' (IEC 60079-11).

NOTE 1 Although the standard atmospheric conditions above give a temperature range for the atmosphere of  $-20\text{ °C}$  to  $+60\text{ °C}$ , the normal ambient temperature range for the Ex Equipment is  $-20\text{ °C}$  to  $+40\text{ °C}$ , unless otherwise specified and marked. See 5.1.1. It is considered that  $-20\text{ °C}$  to  $+40\text{ °C}$  is appropriate for many items of Ex Equipment and that to manufacture all Ex Equipment to be suitable for a standard atmosphere upper ambient temperature of  $+60\text{ °C}$  would place unnecessary design constraints.

NOTE 2 Requirements given in this document result from an ignition hazard assessment made on equipment. The ignition sources taken into account are those found associated with this type of equipment, such as hot surfaces, electromagnetic radiation, mechanically generated sparks, mechanical impacts resulting in thermite reactions, electrical arcing and static electric discharge in normal industrial environments.

NOTE 3 Where an explosive gas atmosphere and a combustible dust atmosphere are, or can be, present at the same time, the simultaneous presence of both often warrants additional protective measures. Additional guidance on the use of Ex Equipment in hybrid mixtures (mixture of a flammable gas or vapour with a combustible dust or combustible flyings) is given in IEC 60079-14.

NOTE 4 Any short-term thermal excursions that occur as a result of electrical current excursions above normal rated currents, such as those that occur during the starting of motors, are not considered to create a significant possibility of ignition of an explosive atmosphere due to the relatively short duration of the event and the convection that occurs during the event.

IEC 60079 does not specify requirements for safety, other than those directly related to the reduction (mitigation) of ignition hazards.

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 document.

NOTE 5 Although outside the scope of this document, such equipment would typically be subjected to an ignition hazard assessment that identifies and lists all of the potential sources of ignition by the equipment and the measures to be applied to prevent them becoming effective. See ISO 80079-36.

This document is supplemented or modified by the following parts of the IEC 60079 and ISO/IEC 80079 series:

- IEC 60079-1: *Gas - Flameproof enclosures "d"*
- IEC 60079-2: *Gas and dust - Pressurized enclosure "p"*
- IEC 60079-5: *Gas - Powder filling "q"*
- IEC 60079-6: *Gas - Liquid immersion "o"*
- IEC 60079-7: *Gas - Increased safety "e"*
- IEC 60079-11: *Gas and dust - Intrinsic safety "i"*
- IEC 60079-13: *Gas and dust - Equipment protection by pressurized room "p" & artificially ventilated room "v"*
- IEC 60079-15: *Gas - Type of protection "n"*
- IEC 60079-18: *Gas and dust - Encapsulation "m"*
- IEC 60079-25: *Gas and dust - Intrinsically safe electrical systems*
- IEC 60079-26: *Gas and dust - Equipment with Separation Elements or combined Levels of Protection*
- IEC 60079-28: *Gas and dust - Protection of equipment and transmission systems using optical radiation*
- IEC 60079-29-0: *Gas - Gas detection equipment - General requirements and test methods*
- IEC 60079-29-1: *Gas detectors - Performance requirements of detectors for flammable gases*
- IEC 60079-29-4: *Gas detectors - Performance requirements of open path detectors for flammable gases*
- IEC/IEEE 60079-30-1: *Gas and dust - Electrical resistance trace heating - General and testing requirements*
- IEC 60079-31: *Dust - Protection by enclosure "t"*
- IEC 60079-33: *Gas and dust - Special protection "s"*
- IEC 60079-35-1: *Caplights for use in mines susceptible to firedamp - General requirements - Construction and testing in relation to the risk of explosion*
- IEC TS 60079-39: *Gas - Intrinsically safe systems with electronically controlled spark duration limitation*
- IEC TS 60079-40: *Gas - Requirements for process sealing between flammable process fluids and electrical systems*
- IEC TS 60079-46: *Gas and dust - Equipment assemblies*
- IEC TS 60079-47: *Gas and dust - Equipment protection by 2-wire intrinsically safe Ethernet concept (2-WISE)*
- IEC 62784: *Dust - Vacuum cleaners and dust extractors providing EPL Dc*
- ISO 80079-36: *Gas and dust - Non-electrical equipment for explosive atmospheres - Basic method and requirements*
- ISO 80079-37: *Gas and dust - Non-electrical equipment for explosive atmospheres - Non electrical Type of Protection constructional safety "c", control of ignition source "b", liquid immersion "k"*

This document, along with the additional parts of IEC 60079 and ISO/IEC 80079 mentioned above, is not applicable to the construction of

- electromedical apparatus,
- shot-firing exploders,
- test devices for exploders, and
- shot-firing circuits.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60034-1, *Rotating electrical machines - Part 1: Rating and performance*

IEC 60034-5, *Rotating electrical machines - Part 5: Degrees of protection provided by the integral design of rotating electrical machines (IP code) - Classification*

IEC 60079-1, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 1: Equipment protection by flameproof enclosures "d"*

IEC 60079-26, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 26: Equipment with Separation Elements or combined Levels of Protection*

IEC 60086-1:2021, *Primary batteries - Part 1: General*

IEC 60192, *Low-pressure sodium vapour lamps - Performance specifications*

IEC 60216-1, *Electrical insulating materials - Thermal endurance properties - Part 1: Ageing procedures and evaluation of test results*

IEC 60216-2, *Electrical insulating materials - Thermal endurance properties - Part 2: Determination of thermal endurance properties of electrical insulating materials - Choice of test criteria*

IEC 60243-1, *Electric strength of insulating materials - Test methods - Part 1: Tests at power frequencies*

IEC 60243-2, *Electric strength of insulating materials - Test methods - Part 2: Additional requirements for tests using direct voltage*

IEC 60423, *Conduit systems for cable management - Outside diameters of conduits for electrical installations and threads for conduits and fittings*

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

IEC 60664-1, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage supply systems - Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*

IEC 60947-1, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 1: General rules*

IEC 62626-1, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear enclosed equipment - Part 1: Additional requirements for enclosed switch-disconnectors in accordance with IEC 60947-3 - Isolation of electrical equipment during repair and maintenance work in specific applications*

ISO 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic - Determination of hardness - Part 2: Hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD*

ISO 178, *Plastics - Determination of flexural properties*

ISO 179 (all parts), *Plastics - Determination of Charpy impact properties*

ISO 262, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads - Selected sizes for bolts, screws, studs and nuts*

ISO 273, *Fasteners - Clearance holes for bolts and screws*

ISO 527-2, *Plastics - Determination of tensile properties - Part 2: Test conditions for moulding and extrusion plastics*

ISO 965-1, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads - Tolerances - Part 1: Principles and basic data*

ISO 965-3, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads - Tolerances - Part 3: Limit deviations for screw threads*

ISO 3601-1, *Fluid power systems - O-rings - Part 1: Inside diameters, cross-sections, tolerances and designation codes*

ISO 3601-2, *Fluid power systems - O-rings - Part 2: Housing dimensions for general applications*

ISO 4014, *Fasteners - Hexagon head bolts - Product grades A and B*

ISO 4017, *Fasteners - Hexagon head screws - Product grades A and B*

ISO 4026, *Hexagon socket set screws with flat point*

ISO 4027, *Hexagon socket set screws with cone point*

ISO 4028, *Hexagon socket set screws with dog point*

ISO 4029, *Hexagon socket set screws with cup point*

ISO 4032, *Fasteners - Hexagon regular nuts (style 1)*

ISO 4762, *Hexagon socket head cap screws*

ISO 4892-2, *Plastics - Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources - Part 2: Xenon-arc lamps*

ISO 7380-1, *Fasteners - Button head screws with reduced loadability - Part 1: Hexagon socket button head screws*

ISO 14583, *Hexalobular socket pan head screws*

ISO/IEC 80079-20-1, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 20-1: Material characteristics for gas and vapour classification - Test methods and data*

ANSI/UL 746B, *Polymeric Materials - Long-Term Property Evaluations*

ANSI/UL 746C, *Polymeric Materials - Used in Electrical Equipment Evaluations*

ASTM D5964, *Standard practice for rubber IRM 901, IRM 902, and IRM 903 replacement oils for ASTM No. 1, ASTM No. 2, and ASTM No. 3*

## Bibliography

IEC 60034-11, *Rotating electrical machines - Part 1: Rating and performance*

IEC TS 60034-25, *Rotating electrical machines - Part 25: AC electrical machines used in power drive systems - Application guide*

IEC 60034-29, *Rotating electrical machines - Part 29: Equivalent loading and superposition techniques - Indirect testing to determine temperature rise*

IEC 60050-426, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) - Part 426: Explosive atmospheres*

IEC 60079-2, *Explosive atmospheres - Part 2: Equipment protection by pressurized enclosure "p"*

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