

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES –

Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety "i"

INTERPRETATION SHEET 4

This interpretation sheet has been prepared by subcommittee 31G: Intrinsically-safe apparatus, of IEC technical committee 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres.

The text of this interpretation sheet is based on the following documents:

DISH	Report on voting
31G/293/DISH	31G/296/RVD

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

The wording in the intrinsic safety standard, IEC 60079-11 (2011), with respect to the enclosure requirements for intrinsically safe apparatus for Group III where the separation is accomplished by meeting the requirements for clearance or creepage distances of Table 5 or Annex F, according to Subclause 6.1.3a), is ambiguous. This observation may lead to different interpretation by different test laboratories.

This issue was discussed at the Busan, Republic of Korea meeting of the MT in October 2018. The MT agreed at that meeting that this interpretation should also be applied to IEC 60079-11:2011.

Because the title of Subclause 6.1.2.3 is "Apparatus complying with Annex F", an interpretation has been made that the additional tests required by 6.1.2.3a) only apply when Annex F is used. The potential for compromising infallible creepage and clearance distances exists when Annex F is applied, but also exist when Table 5 is applied.