



ExTAG/736/Inf  
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**INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC) SYSTEM FOR  
CERTIFICATION TO STANDARDS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN  
EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES (IECEX SYSTEM)**

**Title: ExTAG/736/Inf Proposal from Guenter Gabriel convenor MT 60079-26  
regarding a questionnaire to IECEx ExCBs and ExTLs on how often the  
method of combining EPLs Gb to achieve EPL Ga has been used in  
conformity assessments.**

**Circulated to: ExTAG – IECEx Testing and Assessment Group**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This document is a Proposal received from Guenter Gabriel convenor MT 60079-26 regarding a questionnaire to IECEx ExCBs and ExTLs on how often the method of combining EPLs Gb to achieve EPL Ga has been used in conformity assessments.

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# IECEX ExTAG meeting 2024

Questionnaire from the  
IEC TC31/MT 60079-26

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# Background

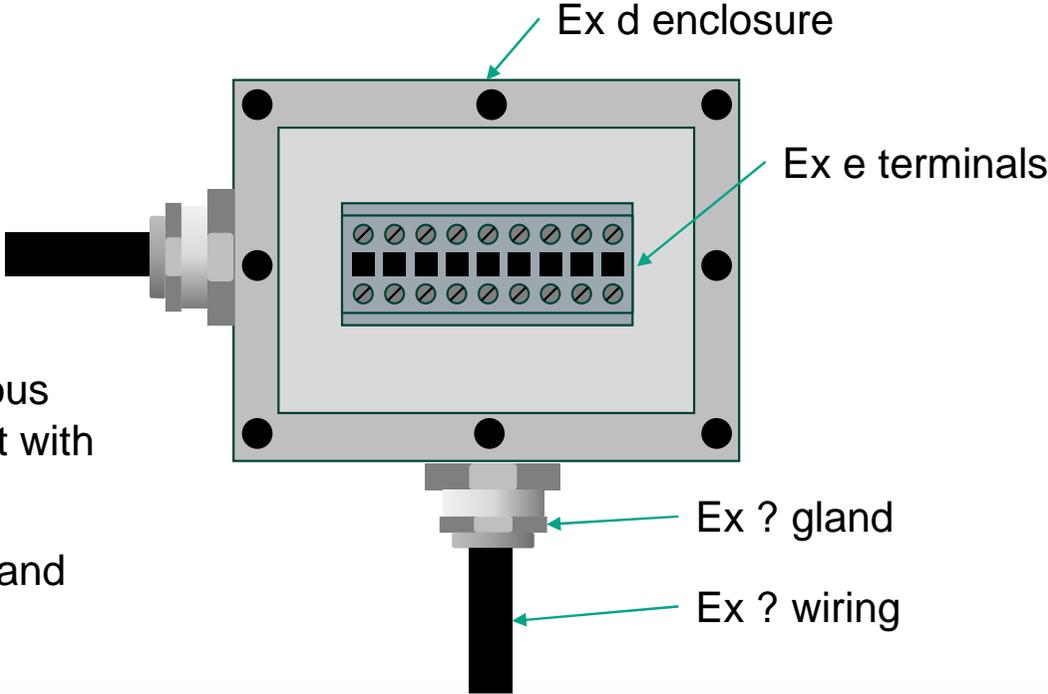
IEC TC 31/MT60079-26 is working on the fifth edition of IEC 60079-26.

## Title: **Equipment with Separation Elements or combined Levels of Protection**

The application of the standard for equipment with combined Levels of Protection has led to solutions that the MT60079-26 does not consider to be explosion proof and therefore not safe.

During the revision of the standard, the MT identified serious deficiencies with regard to the requirements for equipment with combined Levels of Protection.

We wonder how such combinations have been assessed and approved in the past.



# Background

The combination of Levels of Protection was introduced at a time when only the Intrinsic Safety standard provided means for equipment to be used in a Zone 0 area (Ex ia).

With the introduction of the Equipment Protection Level (EPL) in IEC 60079-0:2007, Levels of Protection were introduced in all Types of Protection, allowing equipment also to be designed to EPL Ga (e.g. “da”, “ma”, “sa”).

As a result, the focus on "Ga" equipment was removed in the 4th edition of IEC 60079-26 (title & scope of the standard were changed<sup>1)</sup>). However, the requirements for "Combined Levels of Protection" remained, leading MT members to ask for examples of such equipment during the preparation of Edition 5.

<sup>1)</sup> Title of the 3rd edition: Equipment with Equipment Protection Level (EPL) Ga

# Questionnaire

## Question

Have you ever assessed equipment with combined Levels of Protection according to IEC 60079-26?

If your answer is yes, we would ask you for the following

- Please provide the IECEx certificate number(s) for such equipment
- Please tell us about the challenges you have faced in applying the requirements of the standard
- We appreciate any input, that helps us to improve the standard

## What we will do with your input

We will present the result to the MT and have it recommend how this part of the standard should be improved in the next edition.

Thank you very much

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