

DIRECTIONAL CONTROLE CETOP 3

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 2014/34/UE ATEX DIRECTIVE

2014/34/UE ATEX EC DIRECTIVE (EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERE)

INTRODUCTION

Since 30/06/2003 products introduced into the market (or started-up) inside the EU, destined to be used in potentially explosive environments, must be in compliance with the 2014/34/UE Directive through special marking. The directive regarding ATEX products 2014/34/UE is therefore the regulation instrument that the European Union uses to obtain legislative harmonisation between the States and guarantee free circulation of goods inside the European Community itself.

The directive affirms that to eliminate obstacles from commerce it is necessary to guarantee a high level of protection and, with this aim, define the essential requirements on the subject of safety and health. The dispositions base themselves on the principle of the "new approach" (NA), for which the essential safety requirements of products must be established depending on the risk evaluation concurrent at the time of their use.

The 2014/34/UE Directive is applied to the manufacture specifications of all those products (electrical and not) destined to be used in potentially explosive environments caused, by the dangers deriving from the presence of dust or gas, with the scope of reducing the risk of use that could be derived.

The term **product** refers to appliances, protection systems, devices, components and relative combinations, as defined in 2014/34/UE Directive.

The term **appliances** intends machines, materials, fixed or mobile devices, control elements, instruments detection and prevention systems. Alone or combined these are destined for production, transport, deposit, measurement, adjustment and conversion of energy, and to the transformation of material and which, by way of the powerful triggering sources, risk causing an explosion. As a consequence, even intrinsically safe appliances re-enter within the field of application of the directive.

The combination of two or more appliance parts, as well as any other components, makes up a whole unit that can be considered a product and therefore re-enters within the field of application of the 2014/34/UE Directive. If the whole unit requires adequate **installation** (therefore it is not immediately ready for use) the attached instructions should guarantee maintenance of compliance to the 2014/34/UE Directive on installation, without further evaluations of conformity. The installer must follow the instructions correctly.

When a combination of appliances leads to a **plant** this may not re-enter within the field of application of the directive. Each part must be certified and in compliance with the directive (as well as being subject to the relative evaluation of conformity, EC marking, etc.).

The plant manufacturer must therefore presume the conformity of the various components (each supplied with conformity certificate released by the respective manufacturer) and limit their evaluation only to any additional risks that become important in the final combination. Nevertheless, if the plant manufacturer inserts parts without EC marking or components not supplied with the certificate it will be obligatory to carry out further conformity evaluation of the whole unit.

The 2014/34/UE Directive envisions **obligations of the person** who introduces products into the market and/or starts them up, whether they are manufacturer's, his agent's, importer's or any other responsible person. The dispositions and obligations envisioned by the directive for **introduction into the market** have been applied, since 30 June 2003, to every individual product, independently from the date and place of manufacture. It is the manufacturers responsibility to guarantee conformity of all products, where these re-enter within the field of application of the directive.

The directive does not govern the use of the appliances; rather it establishes that the products can only be used if in compliance with safety requirements at the time of their introduction into the market or of their start-up. "**Start-up**" means the first use of the products subject of the 2014/34/UE Directive on EU territory by a final user. Nevertheless, a product that is immediately ready for use and does not need assembly or installation, and whose distribution conditions (deposit, transport, etc.) are not important for performance, is considered started-up at the time of introduction into the market.

Among the main potential causes/sources of triggering an explosion, such as sparks, flames, electric arcs etc., **maximum surface temperature** also plays an important role. The dispositions of the directive establish evaluation criteria for the maximum temperature admissible depending on the type of explosive atmosphere in which the appliance must operate.

For environments characterised by the presence of **gas-air**, some temperature values are supplied to which the appliances must refer. They are indicated by the letter T followed by a number. The criterion to apply is that for which the temperature of the appliance must never exceed 80% of the value indicated for its own category.

For environments characterised by the presence of **dust-air**, to prevent setting on fire of the airborne dust, the surface temperature of the appliances must be decidedly lower than the predictable temperature of catching fire of the air+dust mixture. Therefore, during planning the maximum working surface temperature must be declared directly (in degrees centigrade).

Increases in temperature deriving from an accumulation of heat and chemical reactions must also be taken into consideration. The thickness of the deposited layer of dust must also be considered and, if necessary, limit the temperature, to prevent an accumulation of heat.



ATEX DIRECTIVE	CAP. I • 23
ATEX CLASSIFICATION	CAP. I • 24
SERIES AD3XD...	CAP. I • 25
SERIES AD3XG...	CAP. I • 29

CLASSIFICATIONS OF AREA - MIX - GROUP AND RELATIVE CATEGORY – ACCORDING TO ATEX DIRECTIVES

1

The 2014/34/UE Directive is a “new approach” directive based on risk analysis. Its objective is to minimise the risks deriving from the use of some products indoors or in relation to a potentially explosive atmosphere. The probability of an explosive atmosphere manifesting must be considered not only as “one-off” or from a static point of view: all operative conditions that can derive from the transformation process must be taken into consideration.

- An **explosive atmosphere** for the 2014/34/UE Directive is made up from a mixture of inflammable substances (as gas, vapours, mists and dust), with air, in determined atmospheric conditions in which, after triggering, the combustion propagates together with the unburned mixture.

- An atmosphere susceptible to transforming into an explosive atmosphere because of local and/or operative conditions is defined **potentially explosive atmosphere**.

Explosive atmospheres are not only formed in the presence of obviously dangerous substances such as fuel, solvents etc., but also in the presence of apparently harmless products such as wood dust, metal dusts, flour, grain, sugar etc. Therefore it can concern not only industries in the chemical or oil industry sectors, but also industries in the foodstuffs, textile, manufacturing etc.. It is important to consider that to re-enter within the 2014/34/UE Directive a product must be applied in presence of one or more of the characteristic elements listed above: *presence of inflammable substances and air, in atmospheric conditions that favour the propagation of combustion*. The directive does not define the atmospheric conditions itself. The relative norms indicate a temperature range, but this does not exclude that the products may be planned and evaluated specifically to occasionally function outside of this range, introducing the opportune construction transformations.

To define a **conformity evaluation procedure** adequate for the directive, the Manufacturer must, on the basis of the declared use, establish the products functioning conditions (this means to say, envision the type of working area, the type of explosive mixture with which it will come into contact and the level of probability that an explosive atmosphere verifies itself); successively he must establish to which Group the product belongs and individualise the category inside the Group.

With the Atex 99/92/EC Directive (For the safety of workers) the working conditions in which products in compliance with Atex 99/92/EC Directive will function are indicated here. These are expressed in “**Areas**” and defined according to the level of probability that a potentially explosive atmosphere is verified, respectively for every type of atmosphere (gas-air mix or dust-air mix).

Area 0 and 20 Places in which an explosive atmosphere is constantly present or present for long periods or frequently.

Area 1 and 21 Places in which an explosive atmosphere is probable. It is verified in normal functioning and exercise conditions.

Area 2 and 22 Places in which an explosive atmosphere has low probability of being verified or, if it occurs only lasts for a brief period of time.

GAS-AIR-TYPE EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE (G)

The products destined to work in environments characterised by this type of explosive atmosphere will be respectively indicated for Area **0, 1 or 2** depending on the Group and category of origin (see below) and are marked with the letter G.

DUST-AIR-TYPE EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE (D)

The products destined to work in environments characterised by this type of explosive atmosphere will be respectively indicated for Area **20, 21 or 22** depending on the Group and category of origin (see below) and are marked with the letter D.

GROUP I

Includes the appliances destined to be used in underground jobs in the mines and their surface plants, exposed to the risk of the release of firedamp and/or combustible dust. The subdivision into categories depends on the fact if the power supply must be interrupted or not if an explosive atmosphere manifests due to a mixture of air and gas, vapours mists (D) or a mixture of air and dust (G).

Category **M1 Very high protection level**. These products must be able to remain operative, for safety reasons, in the presence of an explosive atmosphere and present specific performances or protection configurations for breakdown in case of explosion.

Category **M2 High protection level**. The power supply to these products must be interrupted in the presence of an explosive atmosphere. Protection means must be incorporated to guarantee the level of protection during normal functioning and also in oppressive working conditions or resulting from great stress.

GROUP II

Includes appliances destined to be used in different environments (from the mines) in which there is a probability that an explosive atmosphere manifests itself. Their subdivision into categories depends on two factors: the place, where the product will be used and if the probability that a potentially explosive atmosphere, owing to the mixture of air and gas, vapours, mists (D) and the mixture of air and dust (G), comes about in a constant or occasional manner and if it does occur, does this possibility remain for long or brief period of time.

Category 1 Very high protection level. These products must be planned to function in compliance with operative parameters established by the Manufacturer in environments in which there is a high probability that explosive atmospheres are always detected or manifest often or for long periods of time. They must present specific performances or protection configurations for breakdown in case of explosion.

Category 2 High protection level. These products must be planned to function in compliance with operative parameters established by the Manufacturer in environments in which there is a high probability that explosive atmospheres can manifest. Protection against explosions relative to this category must function in a way to guarantee the required safety level even in the presence of functioning defects of the appliances or in dangerous operative conditions, which frequently must be taken into consideration.

Category 3 Normal protection level. These products must be planned to function in compliance with operative parameters established by the Manufacturer in environments in which there is a slight probability that explosive atmospheres can manifest, and however only rarely or for a brief period of time. This type of product belonging to the category in question must guarantee the safety level required in normal functioning conditions.