

USA IEC-based Zone requirements

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) announces the recent issuance of the new ANSI/UL 60079 series of hazardous locations standards for safety, comprising the following documents:

- ANSI/UL 60079-0: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 0: General Requirements (December 2002)
- ANSI/UL 60079-1: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 1: Flameproof Enclosures "d" (December 2002)
- ANSI/UL 60079-5: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 5: Powder Filling "q" (December 2002)
- ANSI/UL 60079-6: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 6: Oil-Immersion "o" (December 2002)
- ANSI/UL 60079-7: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 7: Increased Safety "e" (December 2002)
- ANSI/UL 60079-11: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 11: Intrinsic Safety "i" (December 2002)
- ANSI/UL 60079-15: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 15: Electrical Apparatus with Type of Protection "n" (December 2002)
- ANSI/UL 60079-18: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Gas Atmospheres - Part 18: Encapsulation "m" (December 2002)

This series of ANSI/UL hazardous locations safety standards contains all of the U.S. national differences submitted by the USNC/IECEX committee to the IECEX Scheme in July of 2002. As such, this series of safety standards replaces ANSI/UL 2279, Electrical Equipment for Use in Class I, Zone 0, 1 and 2 Hazardous (Classified) Locations -- representing the latest evolution in UL's efforts towards more closely harmonizing the U.S. Zone requirements with the applicable IEC 60079 series of Zone requirements, along with furthering the U.S. position internationally under the IECEX Scheme.

As part of these U.S. efforts associated with the IECEX Scheme, as of October 2002, UL is now accredited as an Ex Certification Body (ExCB) and Ex Testing Laboratory (ExTL) under the IECEX Scheme. This provides the U.S. its first and only such accredited body able to accept and issue Ex Test Reports (ExTRs) and IECEX Certificates of Conformity for certification in 22 countries across Asia Pacific, Europe and North America that are actively participating under the Scheme.

(Note -- The IECEX Scheme is a conformity assessment scheme based on IEC safety standards that offers single international test reports (ExTRs) for acceptance in all participating countries -- eliminating the need for duplicate testing. These ExTRs can be taken to participating countries to obtain certifications to whatever the requirements may be -- whether local, regional, or global. See <http://www.ul.com/hazloc/iecex/> for additional details on the Scheme.)

The ANSI/UL 60079 series of safety standards represents the first joint publication between UL and The Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society (ISA). Amendments to these standards will be jointly developed by UL's 60079 STP (formerly UL's 2279 STP) and ISA's SP12 committee -- under the coordination of the UL/ISA Correlating Committee -- and will be made only after processing according to the Standards writing procedures by ISA and UL.

If you are interested in global certification in accordance with the new ANSI/UL 60079 series, please contact hazloc@ul.com.