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NSAI Standards

Irish Standard
I.S. EN 50628:2016

Erection of electrical installations in underground mines

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I.S. EN 50628:2016

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National Foreword

I.S. EN 50628:2016 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN 50628:2016, Erection of electrical installations in underground mines

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 50628

July 2016

ICS 29.260.20

English Version

Erection of electrical installations in underground mines

Construction des installations électriques dans les mines souterraines

Errichten elektrischer Anlagen im Bergbau unter Tage

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on 2016-05-23. CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
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Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

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European foreword

This document (EN 50628:2016) has been prepared by CLC/TC 31 “Electrical apparatus for potentially explosive atmospheres”.

The following dates are fixed:

• latest date by which this document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement	(dop)	2017-05-23
• latest date by which the national standards conflicting with this document have to be withdrawn	(dow)	2020-05-23

This document will be read in conjunction with the European Standards for the specific types of protection listed in the EN 60079 series of standards.

This document will also be read in conjunction with EN 1127-2.

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Introduction

When electrical equipment is to be installed in underground workings where an explosive atmosphere is likely to occur, protective measures are applied to avoid the ignition of firedamp either under normal operation of the electrical installation or under fault conditions.

Mines can be either gassy or non-gassy depending upon the mineral/material being extracted and whether or not firedamp can occur in the workings. It is usual practice to consider all coal mines as gassy mines. Non-coal mines can however, also be susceptible to the occurrence of firedamp e.g. if they are mining minerals/materials in the vicinity of oil bearing strata or unworked coal seams which are to be disturbed by the mining process, or are susceptible to outbursts of flammable gas.

Due to the fact that in underground workings firedamp is one of the major mining hazards that is to be considered all pieces of electrical equipment need to be selected with regard to this hazard. If there are other significant explosive atmospheres than firedamp the hazard occurring from these explosive atmospheres needs to be taken into account.

Directive 2014/34/EU extends the definition of potentially explosive atmosphere to include combustible dust as well as firedamp. Extensive research[1)] has shown that the minimum ignition energy (MIE) of coal dust/ air mixture is several hundred times higher than that of a firedamp/ air mixture and that the maximum experimental safe gap (MESG) for coal dust particles is more than double that for firedamp. It is therefore reasonable to assume that equipment, protective systems and components that are designed, constructed and maintained for use in firedamp/ air mixtures are also suitable for use in coal dust/ air mixtures.

Unlike Group II it will be assumed that in Group I industry nearly all underground workings need to be assessed where an explosive atmosphere is likely to occur and classified accordingly as hazardous areas. A zone classification for such underground workings is not possible because the degree of exposure of such an underground working does not depend on local parameters but on time parameters. In accordance with 2014/34/EU (ATEX-Directive) the exposure of the installed equipment may change from normally acceptable firedamp concentration in the mine air (hazardous condition 2; M2 equipment sufficient) to elevated methane concentration (hazardous condition 1; M1 equipment required, M2 equipment to be de-energized) and vice versa.

Areas of a coal mine could be non-hazardous according to national regulations. In such areas equipment that is not ATEX approved may be used, too subject to the risk assessment and specific local rules where national regulations require.

In non-gassy mines it can be possible that in certain regions in the underground workings explosive atmospheres can occur. In these cases national regulations will apply.

In mines where the atmosphere, in addition to firedamp, may contain significant proportions of other flammable gases than firedamp, the installed Group I equipment complies also with the subdivision of Group II corresponding to the other significant flammable gases.

In any underground working, irrespective of the size, there may be numerous sources of ignition apart from those associated with electrical equipment. Precautions will be necessary to ensure safety from other possible ignition sources, but guidance on this aspect is outside the scope of this standard.

Underground mining activities cause other special problems to the electrical installation as well as those arising from firedamp. Rough environmental conditions evoked by climate – temperature and humidity e.g. – rock pressure caused by depth, geometric dimensions of the underground workings, the winning process itself and other similar circumstances require therefore special specifications to the electrical installation in underground mines.

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1) Survey on the use of flameproof enclosures in coal dust and methane atmospheres, G. A. Lunn, SM/97/01.

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1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the safety requirements for the erection of new electrical installations.

This European Standard is supplementary to other relevant harmonized standards, for example HD 60364 series and the EN 61936 series as regards electrical installation requirements.

This European Standard also refers to EN 60079-0 and its associated standards for the construction, testing and marking requirements of suitable electrical equipment.

EN 60079-14 gives the specific requirements for design, selection and erection of electrical installations in explosive atmospheres.

NOTE EN 60079–14 can apply to electrical installations in mines where explosive gas atmospheres other than firedamp can be formed and to electrical installations in the surface installation of mines.

This European Standard applies to:

a) electrical installation in underground workings of mines;

b) electrical installations and parts of electrical installation above ground, which are directly connected with the underground workings in functional and safety relating matters because of being part of the underground working process:

   These are in particular:

   - safety and monitoring devices relating to the power distribution of the underground workings,
   - communication system of hoisting and inclined haulage plants,
   - intrinsically safe electrical installations of above ground installation being part of underground workings,
   - remote control systems if they shall fulfil increased requirements relating to functional safety,
   - electrical installation and electrical equipment of ventilation systems and shaft casings above ground being endangered by firedamp of the underground ventilation,
   - firedamp drainage systems;

c) electrical installation in underground workings outside mining if it is demanded of the competent national authorities.

National regulations of the mining authority shall remain unaffected.

This standard applies to installations at all voltages mentioned in Clause 10.

Requirements above both columns are requirements for all underground workings.

Gassy mines	**Other mines**
Requirements within left column are requirements for underground workings in the coal mining industry which could be endangered by firedamp.	Requirements within right column are requirements for underground workings of the coal mining industry not likely to be endangered by firedamp and for underground workings of non-coal mining industry.

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