Ruling

Explosive atmospheres

Part 10.1: Classification of areas—Explosive gas atmospheres (IEC 60079-10-1, Ed.1.0 (2008) MOD) (Ruling 1 to AS/NZS 60079.10.1)

ENQUIRY 1

Should installations where diesel fuel with a flashpoint above 60°C is stored or handled for normal use as a fuel be classified as a hazardous area?

RULING:

No. However:

(a) If the bulk mass of the fuel is being heated by other than solar radiation or is involved in any process that may reduce the flash point below 60°C then hazardous areas need to be assessed.

and

(b) The vapour space in a diesel tank that has previously contained flammable liquids or shares a vent line with other tanks with lower flash point fuels needs to be considered for hazardous area classification due to the potential for vapour from other sources.

ENQUIRY 2:

Does AS/NZS 60079.10.1:2009, Paragraph ZA.5.1 of Annex ZA, apply to diesel fuels?

RULING:

No. Diesel is a combustible liquid and AS/NZS 60079.10.1:2009, Paragraph ZA.5.1 of Annex ZA, applies to flammable liquids.

ENQUIRY 3:

When diesel is sprayed leading to formation of mists, which could form an explosive atmosphere, do AS/NZS 60079.10.1 and AS/NZS 60079.14 apply?

RULING:

AS/NZS 60079.10.1:2009 Clauses 3.2 and 3.3 do not include mists in the definition of hazardous areas. AS/NZS 60079.10.1:2009, Paragraph D6 of Annex D, recommends differentiating mist hazards from normal gas or vapour hazardous areas.

While the zone definitions in AS/NZS 60079.14 include a reference to mists, the definitions are superseded via adoption of the more recent edition of IEC 60079-10-1 as AS/NZS 60079.10.1:2009.

AS/NZS 60079.14 does not apply to mist hazards and this will be further clarified in the next edition of AS/NZS 60079.14.

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