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**Co-ordination of
Notified Bodies Electrical Equipment for
use in potentially explosive atmospheres
on Council Directive 94/9/EEC**

EOTC/00/003

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European ATEX Notified Bodies Group

Interpretation/Clarification Sheet N° 99/11/075/CS Edition 1.0

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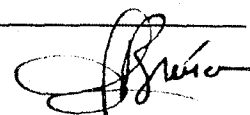
*Step refers to ExNB Rules

■ authorised

Chairman : M. BRÉNON

Date of application : 10/11/99

Signature :



SUBJECT : Marking of associated apparatus according to EN 50020

Questions : 1 *Is it acceptable to assign to associated apparatus both, the letter G (Gas) and the letter D (Dust) ?*

2 *What are the conditions to be applied ?*

Answers : 1 Yes.

2 A special condition for safe operation or, alternatively, a respective warning in the manufacturer's instruction manual shall state, that only apparatus/devices marked category 1 D (or 2 D) may be connected to the intrinsically safe circuit of the associated device and other requirements as special conditions for safe use.

Background : Intrinsically safe devices/circuits cat. ia are often mistaken by the end users to be uncritical for operation in areas endangered by combustible dust.

It is assumed that no problems arise for ordinary explosive dust/air mixtures as far as ignition by arcs or sparks is concerned.

The minimum ignition energy of combustible dusts is well above those of flammable gases (even for gases of Group IIA).

Special consideration is needed with respect to thermal ignition of dust layers also in case of small components which may have very high temperatures even if supplied by IS circuits.

Such components are, under certain conditions, safe with respect to flammable gases even if their surface temperature is higher than the ignition temperature of the explosive gas atmosphere. For dust layers this does not apply.

Installation of so-called « simple apparatus » or other equipment and accessories for IS systems for potentially explosive gas atmospheres, which have not been tested for their suitability for potentially explosive dust atmospheres, might be the consequence of omitting the above proposed warning.