

ExNB	Co-ordination of Notified Bodies Equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres on Council Directive 94/9/EC (ATEX)	Annex 4.3.3-1 6 th meeting ExNB - Page 1 of 2 -
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European ATEX Notified Bodies Group

Clarification/Decision Sheet N° ExNB/02/110/P	Edition 1.0
<i>Original in English</i>	

Status:	Step*5.2.1	Question	Originator	WG/98/9, initiated by FSA	Date:	16/02/01
	Step*5.2.3	Initial proposal	Proposer:	WG/98/9	Date:	16/02/01
	Step*5.2.4	Responses/Final Draft			Date:	

**Step refers to ExNB Rules*

Subject:	Directive, 94/9/EC Article No.	
	Directive, ESR No.	
	Directive, Module Annex No.	
	Standard, No.	

Authorised by Chairman: M. Shearman		Date:	7/3/03
Date of application:	10/9/2002	Signature:	

<p>Requirements and test procedure for heating equipment of explosion venting devices</p> <p>Question: How shall heating equipment of explosion venting devices be tested?</p> <p>Answer: The worst conditions to be expected shall be the basis for test and assessment of the explosion venting device and shall be described in the certificate (or Annex to it).</p> <p>Explanation: The effectiveness of explosion venting devices depends to a high degree on the activation overpressure. For this reason such explosion venting devices have to be kept free of ice and snow. Normally for that the user is responsible. Today there are manufacturers which supply explosion venting devices with temperature sensors to activate an integrated heating system if a certain temperature-threshold is fallen short of. The function of this heating system is, to prevent - freezing of the flexible part at the sealing surface and - not permissible snow loads on the venting element. Compared with explosion venting devices without such heating systems the following criteria have to be assessed in addition:</p>

This ExNB Interpretation/Clarification Sheet has the sole purpose of clarifying the application of the EN Standards and/or of the requirements of Directive 94/9/EC and related documents. It does not in any way change the content of the standards and/or of the requirements. It remains valid until an official answer is received from the European Commission of the relevant standardization bodies.

- The heating system (temperature sensor, controller, heating wire, cable connections, adequate (sufficient but not over-designed!) design of the electrical power, admissible increase of weight of the venting element by the weight of the heating system to ensure that the efficiency - opening behaviour of the moveable part due to its inertia, mass and activation overpressure - of the explosion venting device is maintained) has to fulfil all relevant requirements on equipment with safety related aspects with respect to the risk of explosion!
- Assessment as electrical equipment concerning own ignition sources (hot surface, short circuit)!

A sufficient maintenance of the pressure venting device regarding dirt, excessive friction or corrosion or material fatigue is necessary in any case to avoid an increase of the activation overpressure!