

No.35 Inspection and Maintenance of Electrical Equipment Installed in Hazardous Areas for Ships other than Tankers

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1. Introduction

Electrical installations in hazardous areas possess features specially designed to render them suitable for operation in such atmospheres. It is essential for reasons of safety in those areas that, throughout the life of such installations, the integrity of those special features is preserved; they therefore require INITIAL inspection and either:

1. regular **PERIODIC INSPECTIONS** thereafter or
2. continuous supervision by skilled personnel and when necessary, maintenance.

It is recommended that the periodic inspection and maintenance of electrical equipment in hazardous areas be performed in accordance with the guidelines contained in the standard IEC60079-17 - Part 17 by means of **DETAILED INSPECTIONS**, **VISUAL INSPECTIONS** and **CLOSE INSPECTIONS**, whose periodicity is given below.

IEC60079-17: *Part 17: Inspection and Maintenance of Electric Installations in Hazardous Areas (other than mines)*, is to be regarded as a guide for owners (or their representatives), builders and Surveyors. It covers factors directly related to the inspection and maintenance of the electrical equipment comprising certified safe type electrical apparatuses, installed within hazardous areas. Application of this standard, either totally or in part, is the responsibility of builders regarding new installation and of owners (or their representatives) for equipment maintenance. This standard does not include conventional requirements for electrical installations nor for testing or certification purposes.

Note:

Correct functional operation of hazardous areas installations does not mean, and should not be interpreted as meaning that the integrity of the special features referred to above is preserved.

2. Periodicity of inspections

DETAILED INSPECTIONS, as defined in IEC60079-17 – Part 17, should at least be carried out on all the electrical apparatus and installations before they are brought into service, e.g. during new construction surveys or when modifications and/or repairs are made.

VISUAL INSPECTIONS, as defined in IEC60079-17 – Part 17, should at least be carried out during annual surveys.

CLOSE INSPECTIONS, as defined in IEC60079-17 – Part 17, should at least be carried out at special and intermediate surveys and should cover inspection of relevant electrical equipment installed in hazardous areas.

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