

# Defining hazardous areas for gas and vapours

## What is said in official texts ?

The IEC international regulation (standard IEC 60079.10) makes a distinction between the following hazardous zones :

- . zone 0,
- . zone 1,
- . zone 2.

## Three types of zone

Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2003, with the new Directives ATEX, three types of zone :

- . zone 0 - 20
- . zone 1 - 21
- . zone 2 - 22.

## Zone 0 - 20

Zone in which an explosive mixture of gas, vapour or dust is continuously present (the gaseous phase inside a receptacle or a closed-off chamber constitutes a zone "0").

## Zone 1 - 21

Zone in which an explosive mixture of gas, vapour or dust is likely to occur during normal operation.

## Zone 2 - 22

Zone in which an explosive mixture is not

likely to occur in normal operation, and if it occurs will only exist for a short time (leaks or negligent use).

## How to determine the zones ?

The plant manager or his employees, controlled by external accredited advisers, are the only people authorized to determine hazardous areas in a location where gas and vapour are present.

To determine these zones, 4 essential questions have to be solved.

## THE THREE TYPES OF ZONE

