

	Technical Note	22 December 2010
	<i>Portable in-field functional testing</i> GEN022	

Product: Portable Instruments
Subject: Portable in-field functional testing

Due to increased awareness of the BS EN60079-29 2007 standards and recent changes in the scope of the ATEX directive 94/9/EC, it has become necessary for Crowcon to confirm the company understanding of the relevant parts relating to in-field functional testing, otherwise known as Gas Testing or Bump Testing.

An overview of the relevant sections of the standards is shown below, these are not direct copies from the standards, but paraphrase the information contained. For verification, a copy of the standard should be obtained and viewed in conjunction with the below interpretations:

EN60079-29-1:2007: Section 4.4 part c

The manual should include recommendations for initial checking and calibration on a routine basis including instructions for the use of the field calibration kit, if provided. For portable apparatus, these instructions shall include the requirement and method for performing a functional check with gas before each day of use.

EN 60079-29-2:2007: Section 9.2.1

Inspection and field check – standard states that an inspection and field-check are recommended to be completed daily, by the person operating the apparatus. Strongly recommended this is completed before each day of use.

EN60079-29-1:2007: Section 5.4.26

Field Calibration Kit – if a field calibration kit is provided, calibration should be undertaken as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Harmonisation

On the 1st November 2010, EN60079-29 part 1 has been harmonised under the ATEX Directive. This has effectively changed the recommendation of gas testing, to a requirement to test. It should however be noted that this is applicable only to flammable gases and sensors.

All new manuals shipped after the 1st November 2010 will include an addition stating: *'From the 1st November 2010, EN60079-29 part 1 has been harmonised under the ATEX directive 94/9/EC. Therefore to comply with the ATEX directive, portable apparatus sensing flammable gases should have a functional check with gas before each day of use. The instructions for this test are included in the main body of this manual.'*

I hope that the information included above assists in the explanation of this important change in regulation.

For further information contact customersupport@crowcon.com