

Directive 1999/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1999 on minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (15th individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)

## SECTION I

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 1*

#### **Object and scope**

1 This Directive, which is the 15th individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC, lays down minimum requirements for the safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres as defined in Article 2.

2 This Directive shall not apply to:

- a areas used directly for and during the medical treatment of patients;
- b the use of appliances burning gaseous fuels in accordance with Directive 90/396/EEC<sup>(1)</sup>;
- c the manufacture, handling, use, storage and transport of explosives or chemically unstable substances;
- d mineral-extracting industries covered by Directive 92/91/EEC<sup>(2)</sup> or Directive 92/104/EEC<sup>(3)</sup>;
- e the use of means of transport by land, water and air, to which the pertinent provisions of the international agreements (e.g. ADNR, ADR, ICAO, IMO, RID), and the Community Directives giving effect to those agreements, apply. Means of transport intended for use in a potentially explosive atmosphere shall not be excluded.

3 The provisions of Directive 89/391/EEC and the relevant individual Directives are fully applicable to the domain referred to in paragraph 1, without prejudice to more restrictive and/or specific provisions contained in this Directive.

#### *Article 2*

#### **Definition**

For the purposes of this Directive, 'explosive atmosphere' means a mixture with air, under atmospheric conditions, of flammable substances in the form of gases, vapours, mists or dusts in which, after ignition has occurred, combustion spreads to the entire unburned mixture.

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- (1) [OJ L 196, 26.7.1990, p. 15](#). Directive as amended by Directive 93/68/EEC ([OJ L 220, 30.8.1993, p. 1](#)).
- (2) [OJ L 348, 28.11.1992, p. 9](#).
- (3) [OJ L 404, 31.12.1992, p. 10](#).