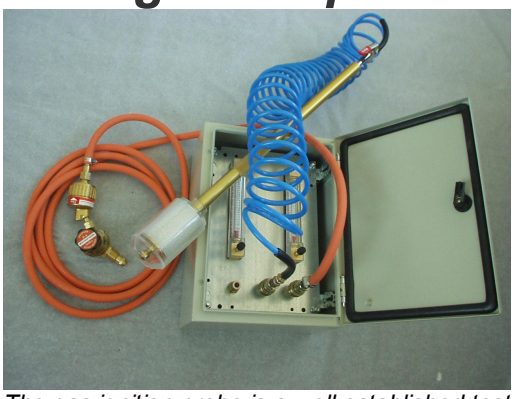
Wolfson Electrostatics

for technology in electrostatic hazard control

Gas ignition probe



The gas ignition probe is a well established test method for the classification of FIBC fabrics and other materials for use in flammable atmospheres

Due to the growing number of serious industrial fires and explosions caused by uncontrolled static electricity, International Standards are now in place giving clear guidelines for material properties such as resistivity and electrostatic charge decay. New ATEX requirements and associated European and international Standards require materials intended for use in sensitive flammable atmospheres to be rigorously tested with respect to electrostatic ignition hazards.

Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBC's or 'Big Bags' as they are often known) can only be used in or near flammable atmospheres if it can be firmly determined that they are incapable of producing incendiary electrostatic discharges. Such atmospheres may include dust clouds produced by the contents of the FIBC's themselves or solvent vapours present from the process in which they are being used.

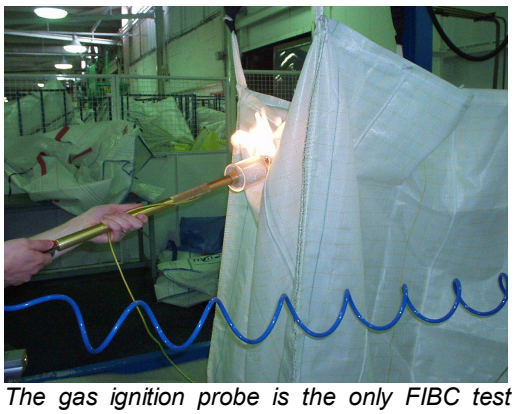
It is currently internationally recognised that all FIBC's used in such situations should be certified and tested using the gas ignition probe technique described in International Standard IEC 61340-4-4. This is achieved using a known concentration of ethylene and air supplied to the probe via a sensitive gas flow control unit. Wolfson Electrostatics and other test houses have undertaken certifications and audits according to this Standard for a number of years and we now offer the gas ignition probe and associated components for sale as an item of commercial test equipment.

The equipment includes:

- Rugged hand-held gas ignition probe with gas-mix head and manual trigger
- Gas-control unit including flow meters housed in metal cabinet
- Gas supply lines fitted with quick-fit connectors
- Full instruction manual

The gas ignition probe is safe and easy to use and is designed to operate in both an industrial and laboratory environment. A calibration unit producing low energy high-voltage sparks is also available as an accessory. The calibration unit can be used to set up and check the ignition energy of the chosen gas mixture prior to use of the probe.

It should be noted that compressed gas and regulator is not supplied with this equipment. The probe can be used with ethylene, propane and air.



The gas ignition probe is the only FIBC test method universally accepted

For further details on instrumentation from Wolfson Electrostatics please contact:

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