



# **IECEX OPERATIONAL DOCUMENT**

**IEC System for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for use  
in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEX System)**

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**IECEX Scheme for Certification of Personnel Competencies for Explosive  
Atmospheres –**

**Application for an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competencies (CoPC),  
documentation and information requirements**





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IEC Central Office  
3, rue de Varembe  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland  
Email: [inmail@iec.ch](mailto:inmail@iec.ch)  
Web: [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

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Email: [csc@iec.ch](mailto:csc@iec.ch)  
Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11  
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**IECEX Operational Document 502 –****IECEX Scheme for Certification of  
Personnel Competencies for Explosive Atmospheres –****Application for an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competencies (CoPC),  
documentation and information requirements**

This Operational Document, OD 502 sets out requirements for an individual person making application for a Certificate of their Competency.

OD 502 specifies the minimum requirements of knowledge and skills that an individual must meet as a prerequisite for making application for assessment. The details in this document are intended to provide guidance for the preparation of the necessary evidence to be provided to demonstrate that the minimum level has been attained.

**Document History**

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**Address:**

IECEX Secretariat  
286 Sussex Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia

**Contact Details:**

Tel: +61 2 8206 6940  
Fax: +61 2 8206 6272  
e-mail: [chris.agius@iecex.com](mailto:chris.agius@iecex.com)  
<http://www.iecex.com>

## INTRODUCTION

This IECEX Operational Document details information and documentation requirements for applications from individuals for an IECEX Certificate of Personnel Competencies.

Competency of personnel working in explosive atmospheres is necessary. The potential for accidents in Ex areas is increased if personnel are not competent for the activities with which they are involved. The need for competency is included in many legal documents (legislation), but is often not clearly defined.

Competency depends on knowledge, skill, experience and training. Measurement of competency is a difficult task and requires specific assessment methods. Competency needs to be maintained so periodic monitoring of a Certified Persons performance is required. This may require additional documentation being provided to the ExCB on occasions.

## **Application for an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competencies (CoPC), documentation and information requirements**

### **1 Scope**

This Operational Document describes the documentation and information required for an application by an individual to an ExCB for an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competency (CoPC) and to maintain Certification.

This Operational Document must be read in conjunction with the Rules of Procedure of this IECEx Certification Scheme given in IECEx 05 and the other relevant Operational Documents, OD 503, *ExCB procedures for issuing and maintaining IECEx Certificates of Personnel Competency (CoPC)* and OD 504, *Specification for Units of Competency assessment outcomes*.

### **2 Scope of Certification**

#### **2.1 Unit of Competency**

The applicant is to detail the Units of Competency for which they wish to be assessed. The selection is from those competencies listed in OD 504 and currently are:

Unit Ex 001 – Apply basic principles of protection in explosive atmospheres

Unit Ex 002 – Perform area classification of Hazardous Areas

Unit Ex 003 – Install explosion-protected equipment and wiring systems

Unit Ex 004 – Maintain equipment in explosive atmospheres

Unit Ex 005 – Overhaul and repair of explosion-protected equipment

Unit Ex 006 – Test electrical installations in or associated with Hazardous Areas

Unit Ex 007 – Perform visual and close inspections of electrical equipment in or associated with Hazardous Areas

Unit Ex 008 – Perform detailed inspection of electrical installations in or associated with Hazardous Areas

Unit Ex 009 – Design electrical installations in or associated with Hazardous Areas

Unit Ex 010 – Perform audit inspection of electrical installations in or associated with Hazardous Areas

#### **2.2 Language of Certificate**

The applicant will advise if the Certificate is to be additionally supplied in a language other than English. The translation requirements are the responsibility of the ExCB.

#### **2.3 Limitation of scope**

The applicant may, in conjunction with the ExCB, request a restriction of the scope of the Certificate of personnel Competency according to the requirements given in 2.3.1 to 2.3.5. Unless otherwise stated, the scope of the Certificate of Personnel Competency will include all aspects of the standards and no restrictions will apply. The applicant will be assessed according to all the requirements of the Unit of Competency being requested.

### 2.3.1 Types of protection

If the nature of the work is restricted to specific types of protection then they are to be nominated and listed on the certificate. The assessment will be restricted only to the required outcomes of the Unit of Competency for these types of protection.

The types of protection permitted to be nominated are:

- "d": flameproof enclosure
- "e": increased safety
- "i": intrinsic safety
- "m": encapsulation
- "n": non-sparking
- "o": oil immersion
- "p": pressurization
- "q": powder filling
- "t": protection by enclosure
- Optical radiation
- Gas detection

### 2.3.2 Product types

If the nature of the work is restricted to specific product types then they are to be nominated and listed on the certificate. The assessment will be restricted to only the required outcomes of the Unit of Competency for these product types.

The product types permitted to be nominated are:

- Rotating machines
- Switchgear
- Instrumentation
- Communication equipment
- Heating equipment
- Trace heating
- Power transformers

### 2.3.3 Groups

Where the application is not intended to extend to all forms of hazardous material they may be restricted to one or a combination of:

- Group I: Mines subject to firedamp
- Group II: Explosive gas atmospheres
- Group III: Explosive dust atmospheres

### 2.3.4 Voltages

Where the applicant does not have the appropriate qualifications and experience to work with all voltages then the restricted range of voltages permitted shall be shown on the Certificate of Personnel Competency.



### **2.3.5 Other limitations**

During the assessment process the ExCB may determine that there are other limitations that should apply to the application. In this case the ExCB shall discuss with the applicant the limitation to be applied and ensure it is clearly shown on the Certificate of Personnel Competency.

## **2.4 Evidence of education and training**

### **2.4.1 General qualifications not specific to Explosive Atmospheres**

The evidence provided will demonstrate the level of technical education (or equivalent) attained, relevant to the application, through documents such as Degree, Diploma, College Certificates, Trade tests and Professional Institute recognition etc. Copies of these documents shall be provided in the original language and in the language required by the ExCB. The applicant shall be responsible for any translations and provide the contact details of the organisations that issued the document.

### **2.4.2 Documentation specific to Explosive Atmospheres**

Documents demonstrating any training undertaken on subjects and topics relevant to the Explosive Atmospheres Unit of Competency applied for shall be provided. These documents may be Certificates issued by an independent organisation or trade association or may be a formal internal programme of training set by and endorsed/countersigned by the relevant employer. Copies of these documents shall be provided in the original language and in the language required by the ExCB. The applicant shall be responsible for any translations and provide the contact details of the organisations that issued the document.

## **2.5 Work experience both Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Areas**

### **2.5.1 Work experience in or associated with Non-Hazardous Areas**

A brief resume will be provided in a chronological order with latest experience first. The résumé should provide details of the Employer, type of industry, position and responsibility. Sufficient information should be provided to enable an evaluation of the basic underlying concepts expected for the applicable Unit of Competency.

Work experience may require a restriction relating to product types. In this case the resume will need to specifically identify these aspects.

### **2.5.2 Work Experience in or associated with Hazardous Areas**

A resume will be provided in a chronological order with latest experience first.

Sufficient information shall be provided identifying:

- Employer and type of industry
- Position and responsibility within these organisations
- Protection techniques used
- Standards and Codes of Practice used
- Duties undertaken
  - Hazardous Area classification
  - Installation and circuit design
  - Equipment selection
  - Equipment installation
  - Equipment inspection

- Equipment maintenance
- Equipment testing and commissioning
- Equipment repair

Work experience may require a restriction relating to both types of protection and product types. In this case the resume will need to specifically identify these aspects.

### **2.5.3 Validation**

Validation of the work experience may be provided by employers or clients.

It is essential that validation can be provided for those Units of Competency the Applicant wishes to be assessed against. Contact details for the employers or clients must be provided for validation. The Certifying Body shall assess which validation methodology shall be used based on the review of the information provided.

## **3 Application form**

### **3.1 Application Form**

The applicant shall obtain a copy of the official application form from the ExCB to which they wish to make application.

In preparing the application the applicant shall specifically note the available competencies given in 2.1 and any limitation of scope as detailed in 2.3.

Annex A contains a sample application form for guidance.

### **3.2 Personal details of the applicant**

The applicant shall provide sufficient personal detail to ensure they can be correctly identified. There shall be sufficient evidence to show that the person conducting the work is the same as identified on the Certificate of Personnel Competency. The certified person shall notify the issuing ExCB of any change to these details.

### **3.3 Details to be provided**

The details given in 3.3.1 to 3.3.5 shall be provided.

#### **3.3.1 Name**

The family name and all given names in full are to be provided.

#### **3.3.2 Private address**

The full address at which the person normally resides. In addition the applicant is to advise the address to be used for any correspondence.

#### **3.3.3 Telephone contact and email**

A telephone number and/or email address. This will be used for all contact during the processing of the application (until the Certificate is issued). This information will be used by the ExCB and anyone acting on behalf of the ExCB processing the application. This information will not be made available to any other party.

### **3.3.4 Date of birth**

Date of birth and a statement of the evidence to be provided for validation, e.g. birth certificate, passport or affidavit.

NOTE The evidence should normally accompany the application and original documents will be returned.

### **3.3.5 Photograph**

Passport size portrait photograph which is current and at least passport quality, in colour and with a white background. This is to be updated at each ongoing assessment. The photograph is to be supplied with the application form or in electronic .jpg format 150\*200 pixels.

### **3.3.6 Declaration**

The following declarations are to be made by all applicants for a Certificate of Personnel Competencies:

- I am aware of and familiar with the requirements for the IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competency. Should my application for certification be accepted, I understand that these requirements shall be fulfilled.
- I declare that I will comply with existing requirements for the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies Scheme, will not misrepresent the scope of certification and agree to pay the expenses in connection with my application.
- I have no current application pending with any other ExCB.
- I declare that all information provided with this application is true and correct.

## **4 Recertification**

Updated information relating to Clause 3 will be required by the ExCB at the time of recertification. As a minimum a new photograph is to be provided at each recertification.

**Annex A**

**Typical Application Form**

<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PERSONNEL COMPETENCY (CoPC)</b> This form is used as a basis for an application for a new Certificate / renewal of Certificate		
To be sent to	<input type="checkbox"/> New Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal / change / of Certificate or recertification of Certificate no.:
(ExCB address)	Applicant name and postal address	
Applicant employer and postal address	Email address	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)
	Telephone	Telefax
	Cell phone	
License number (where applicable)		
Invoice address	Units of competency (Ex 001)	
	Limitations regarding types of protection, product types, groups and voltages	
See attachments for additional information regarding education, training and experience		
<p><b>DECLARATION</b></p> <p>I am aware of and familiar with the requirements for the IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competency. Should my application for certification be accepted, I understand that these requirements shall be fulfilled.</p> <p>I declare that I will comply with existing requirements for the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies Scheme, will not misrepresent the scope of certification and agree to pay the expenses in connection with my application.</p> <p>I have no current application pending with any other ExCB.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Date</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Applicant signature</b></p>		



INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

3, rue de Varembé  
PO Box 131  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 919 02 11  
Fax: + 41 22 919 03 00  
[info@iec.ch](mailto:info@iec.ch)  
[www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)