



ExMC/1048/CD
August 2015

**INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION SYSTEM FOR
CERTIFICATION TO STANDARDS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN
EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES (IECEx SYSTEM)**

Circulation: IECEx Management Committee (ExMC)

**Title: Proposal from US – *Transparency and Sufficient Information in
ExCB and ExTL Assessment Reports***

INTRODUCTION

The attached proposal from the USNC/IECEx is presented for discussion and consideration during the 2015 ExMC Christchurch meeting.

Members are requested to consider the proposal ahead of the ExMC meeting.

Chris Agius
IECEx Secretariat

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August 3, 2015

VIA E-MAIL TRANSMISSION

Mr. Chris Agius
Secretary IECEx
Level 33 Australia Square
264 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Subject: USNC/IECEX Proposal for Christchurch ExMC Agenda - *Transparency and Sufficient Information in ExCB and ExTL Assessment Reports*

Dear Mr. Agius:

Background:

As Chairman Dr. Arnhold noted in his 2014 opening address in The Hague "...the key ingredients of the success of the IECEx System have been the trust, the levels of participation and the value of peer assessment and proficiency testing." And the basis for that trust is the assessment, surveillance and re-assessment of ExCBs and ExTLs operating in the IECEx Equipment Scheme, as documented in the confidential documentation supporting the findings of the assessment and the assessment report which is voted on by the ExMC.

However, on a more frequent basis lately, assessment reports have been questioned by Ex MC, and Member Bodies. Lack of confidence in peer assessment reports could lead to lack of confidence in the System. The result of incomplete information being provided is the risk of negative ballots, which could have been resolved by simply providing just a little more information. According to IECEx OD 003-2, a review of the final assessment report prior to circulation to ExMC for voting is limited to the IECEx Secretariat, which raises the question of whether additional review is required prior to the report being provided to National Member Bodies.

Question:

Should an independent review team be considered to conduct a review of the ExCB or ExTL summary report prior to being circulated for balloting to assure sufficient information is included for National Member Bodies to make a determination relative to acceptance?

Answer:

The US proposes that an independent review group be established to review the final assessment report prior to circulation to ExMC National Member Bodies for approval. This would require the development of an Operational Document to describe the independent review and the minimum content of the final assessment report. An ExMC Working Group should be established to develop the Operational Document. The terms of reference of the Working Group would be to create an Operational Document that describes what constitutes an independent review team, and to consider the following items:

- Establish the qualifications/credentials for those serving on the independent review committee,
- Determine how members are to be appointed, the number of members required and their term of office, perhaps six (6) people serving a 2-year term, replacing one third of the group every year to maintain continuity.
- Determine the role and responsibilities of members in terms of what they are reviewing, the required response time when assigned tasks and what is to be done if a members fails to fulfil their role or response time requirements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Joel Solis, Secretary
USNC/IECEX