

Green Paper for the IECEx MC - Meeting in Paris 2008

On the 2006 ExMC meeting in Shanghai Germany tabled a green paper ExMC (Shanghai/Secretariat 07, document attached). The basis for this document was a statement of the German delegation concerning the status of the IECEx scheme.

It was agreed that the proposal should be discussed at one of the following Officers meetings.

Now, two years later the decision of the officers meeting says that there is no need for a special ad-hoc working group since the intention of such a group is completely covered by the IECEx MC.

Due to the fact that the importance of the statement of the 2006 Shanghai MC is still given Germany proposes that the matter is permanently covered by the WG 01 and for this the scope of that WG is to be modified as follows:

Working Group 1

- Review all relevant rules and operational documents in order to:
 - keep the overall entire documentation system in line with the vision and mission of IEC Ex
 - to ensure clear Wording to avoid misunderstandings or misinterpretation.
- Ongoing technical revision of the IECEx Scheme Rules 02
- Establishment of appropriate internal benchmarks to monitor the operations of IECEx for better transparency
- Drafting and maintaining a quality policy of IECEx.

The Convenor of Working Group 1 will report back to the ExMC at the IECEx annual meeting.

Actual Situation:

From the manufacturers point of view all activities are driven by economics. As you recognize different quality levels from manufacturers around the world it is as well an open secret that you have different quality levels within the global CB and TL community.

As the IEC Ex Scheme has developed itself to one of the leading certification schemes (highest quality system) in the world. It shall be the aim to have only these ExCB`s and ExTL`s as members, which provide the same requested quality level around the world to secure the end-user a consistent product quality wherever he buys the product with an IEC Ex certificate.

If these two statements are recognized as correct, it must be the obligation from the IEC Ex Scheme to ensure the equal quality level around the world, as otherwise it will come to an economic disadvantage between manufacturers as well as, possible safety risks for end-users.

The Scheme has all tools in place to ensure a global system of highest safety and quality. It must be ensured that these tools get used in the sense of the vision and mission of the scheme. It cannot be accepted that 2nd / 3rd tier CB`s and TL`s get accreditation, as the consequence of this, 2nd / 3rd tier manufacturers subsequently get IEC Ex CoC`s (this may have a destabilising effect on the global economic environment and safety).

Now after a period of extensive growth, high recognition and acceptance as a high quality scheme globally, the scheme should consider to prove, if all achievements up-until today are in line with the vision and mission, then this will ensure the future high level.

Therefore it is recommended:

To establish a WG with the task to review all relevant rules and operational documents in order to:

- keep the overall entire regulation system in line with the vision and mission of IEC Ex
- to ensure clear Wording to avoid misunderstandings or misinterpretation.

To have all groups of interest involved, the ad hoc WG should be consist of:

- Ex CB/ExTL
- Regulator
- Manufacturer
- User

Terms of Reference:

- Identify level of confidence in the IECExScheme.
What needs to be done to maintain a high level of confidence?
rules, surveillance, procedures, operations?
- Improvement in Ex CBs and Ex TLs that are identified as not compliant?
- Permanent a survey of stakeholders.
Involving Manufacturers and End users and where possible Regulators.