



IEC SYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION
TO STANDARDS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT
FOR USE IN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES



CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL COMPETENCE



Ron Sinclair
The Baseefa
Experience

- Baseefa was the first ExCB to be accepted for all ten Units of Competence
- What issues has this thrown up ?
- How is the Scheme developing ?
- The future ?

- Diversity
- Location of Candidates
 - Location of examination centres
- Variation in scope for each candidate
 - By protection concept
 - By equipment type
 - By voltage range
 - Etc.

- Question Bank
- Ownership
- Development costs
- Individual ExCB or Central IECEX ?
- How to manage centrally ?
- How to categorise and select to prepare individual examination papers ?

- Question Bank
- Catering for local variations
 - Expert in IP15 ?
- Recognising specific additional local requirements within the Scheme
 - An individual contractor may request a wider scope to be examined relating to local conditions
 - Can this be recognised by additional specific local questions ? How ?

- Question Bank
- Pass Mark ?
- Currently 100%, 70%, 70% for the three sections.
 - Absolute requirement for 100% or discretion ?
 - Is getting 30% of answers wrong an indication of competence ?

- Employment Records
- Candidates more willing to take exams than complete employment data
- Training
- Can the examination follow directly after training (testing mainly short term memory) ?
 - Separation of training from supervision of the examination and final competency assessment is a given, but time separation is not

- **Acceptance and Specification of the Scheme**
- Already some users are specifying personnel must have an IECEx Certificate, even though none are available.
- Users are asking for companies with IECEx certified personnel
 - Conflict with the on-line certificate system referencing individuals only

- Exponential growth in numbers
 - Mirroring growth for Product Certification
- Need to automate the Question Bank process to produce individually tailored examinations
 - Centrally or at ExCB ?
 - Robust programming from Geneva ?
- Need to minimise the administrative processes
 - Both original assessment and repeat assessments have to be “slick” to contain the costs