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Redline Version

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**IECEX Assessment Group (ExAG) – Membership and
Terms of Reference**

FOREWORD

This publication is directly related to the IECEX Basic Rules (comprising IEC CA-01 and the IECEX Supplement IECEX 01-S) and provides details concerning the structure, membership, and terms of reference of the IECEX Assessment Group, (ExAG).

This ~~first~~ Edition 2.0 of IECEX 06 takes effect immediately upon publication.

Document History

<u>Date</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<u>2019</u>	<u>Original Issue (Edition 1.0)</u>
<u>2023 10</u>	<u>Edition 2.0</u> <u>Updated to reflect decisions of 2023 ExAG Meeting and to include editorial and grammatical corrections</u>

This Redline Version is provided to illustrate the differences between this Edition and the previous Edition and displays new text as green underlined text and deleted text as ~~red struckthrough~~ text.

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INTRODUCTION

The IECEx is a single global certification framework based on IEC International Standards. It caters for countries whose national standards are either identical to those of the IEC or else very close to IEC Standards. The IECEx is truly global in concept and practice, reduces trade barriers caused by different conformity assessment criteria in various countries, and helps industry to access open-up new markets.

The aim of the IECEx System and its Schemes is to ease international trade of Explosion Protected Equipment (termed Ex equipment) by eliminating the need for duplication of testing and certification, while preserving safety. IECEx operates as an International Certification System covering products and services associated with the Ex industries.

Where do you commonly find Ex equipment?

Flammable gases, vapours and combustible dusts create potentially explosive atmospheres. Ex equipment in such areas include:

- Automotive refuelling stations or petrol stations
- Oil refineries, rigs and processing plants
- Oil and gas tankers, drilling ships and FPSO (Floating Production Storage Offloading vessels)
- Chemical processing plants
- Printing industries, paper and textiles
- Hospital operating theatres
- Aircraft refuelling and hangars
- Surface coating industries
- Underground coal mines
- Sewerage treatment plants
- Gas pipelines and distribution centres
- Grain handling and storage and processing (flour-milling industry)
- Woodworking areas
- Sugar refineries
- Light metal working, where metal dust and fine particles can appear

More information

Further information is available from the IECEx website: www.iecex.com, (containing free copies of the IECEx Rules and Procedures), from any of the IECEx Certification Bodies or directly from the IECEx Secretariat via the coordinates shown on the IECEx website.

IECEX Assessment Group, (ExAG) – Membership and Terms of Reference

1 Scope

This publication contains the Membership and Terms of Reference of the IECEX Assessment Group, hereinafter referred to as "ExAG", as the dedicated IECEX maintenance and consultative group for matters relating to the IECEX Assessment of ExCBs, ~~and~~ ExTLs and ATFs across all IECEX Schemes.

This publication is directly related to the IECEX Basic Rules (~~c~~Comprising IEC CA 01 and the IECEX Supplement IECEX 01-S)

This publication is supplemented by the following ~~subordinate~~ publications that apply as relevant to specific activities associated with the assessment and qualification of IECEX Certification Bodies (ExCBs), Additional Testing Facilities (ATFs) and IECEX Testing Laboratories (ExTLs), ~~that operating~~ within all IECEX Certification Schemes.

IECEX 02, *IECEX Certified Equipment Scheme covering equipment for use in explosive atmospheres – Rules of Procedure*

IECEX 03, *IECEX Certified Service Facilities Scheme – Rules of Procedure*

IECEX 04, *IECEX Conformity Mark Licensing System – Regulations*

IECEX 05, *IECEX Scheme for Certification of Personnel Competence for Explosive Atmospheres – Rules of Procedure*

2 Normative references

The following publications ~~contain provisions, which~~, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of these Rules. ~~At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid.~~ The Ex Management Committee (ExMC) shall decide the timetable for the introduction of new or revised editions of the publications.

IEC CAB-P02 *Peer Assessment Fundamentals*

ISO/IEC 17024, *Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO/IEC 17065, *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*

3 Definitions

ISO/IEC 17000, IECEX 02, IECEX 03, IECEX 04 and IECEX 05 specify ~~give~~ the basic definitions.

4 IECEx Assessment Group, ExAG

4.1 Terms of Reference

To act as the dedicated IECEx maintenance and consultative group for matters relating to the IECEx Assessment of ExCBs, ~~and~~ ExTLs and ATFs across all IECEx Schemes.

4.2 Structure

The IECEx Assessment Group (ExAG) reports to the ExMC but may consult directly with Committees reporting to the ExMC including:

- ExTAG
- ExSFC
- ExPCC

The officers of the ExAG ~~are shall have~~ a Convener and a Deputy Convener each appointed by the ExMC for with an initial three (3) year term and are eligible to serve a second three (3) year term.

The Convener and Deputy Convener of the IECEx Assessment Group are members of the IECEx Executive.

The IECEx Secretariat shall provide secretarial services to the group.

4.3 Membership

The ExAG shall comprise Lead Assessors plus up to fifteen (15) experts nominated by IECEx Member Bodies and appointed by the ExMC. The ExMC shall ensure that a balance of interest across all IECEx Schemes is maintained.

~~As start up for the Group, members of previous ExMC WG4 that fit this criteria and wish to continue shall comprise part of the membership.~~

The ExAG shall meet on an as-needs-basis.

4.4 Responsibilities

Responsibilities as directed by the ExMC ~~and~~ include but are not limited to the following:

- Ensure on-going alignment with the Peer Assessment fundamentals of CAB (reference is CAB Policy documents, for example, eg IEC CAB-P02)
- Develop and maintain criteria for the qualification of Assessors and Lead Assessors in consultation with the IECEx Scheme Committees
- Review and approval of assessor applications for all schemes, with newly appointed assessors to be reported to ExMC for noting
- Periodic review of the existing pool of assessors for all IECEx Sschemes
- Maintenance of Assessment Procedures for all IECEx Schemes.
- Maintenance of report forms and records used in assessments
- Maintenance of IECEx Assessmenters' Guide(s)
- Development and delivery of assessor training
- Provide a consultative forum for recommendations on issues found during assessments
- Development of common interpretations, for example for ISO/IEC 17025
- Maintenance of checklists such as those for ISO/IEC 17024, 17025 and 17065.
- Other actions or roles agreed by the ExMC
