**ExTAG Chairman’s Report to ExMC – September 2021**

This is a brief summary of the ExTAG Meeting held in webinar format on 31st August and 1st September 2021.

Jasmin Omerovic and I welcomed all members/observers and thanked the organization team (Christine Kane, Maria Brodel and Chris Agius) for the preparation of the meeting.

After approval of the agenda and last meeting reports including our action list, we received a verbal report from the Secretary on the overview of the IECEx Equipment Scheme activities since the last meeting in 2020, including noting the re-arrangement of public information, the new animated video and introduction of blogs and news, etc.

During the section **Technical Items for general discussion** three items were discussed:  
- Leakage Current Ratings: I gave an introduction about the technical background and the group proposed to discuss that topic with TC 31 respective the WG 43 directly.

- Increasing ambient temperature: Mr. Justin Gavranich introduced the topic. After the discussion the group agreed to form an AdHoC group and to discuss the concerns with TC 31 directly

- Subcontracting of tests: Mr. Chris Agius introduced the topic to remind the members the main rules and requirements of the process. Important to know is that all arrangements have been approved by ExMC. Further concerns should be forwarded to ExMC WG 02.

**For the closed session** no requests were received in advance and therefore the section was skipped.

For the next matter we received **reports on the status of activities of ExTAG Working Groups:**

* WG 01 (preparation and maintenance of ExTRs): The Convener Paul Kelly gave his report and proposed Scott Kiddle to take over the WG 01. The report was discussed. It was stated that further clarification is needed regarding linking Decision Sheets to ExTR blanks. ExTAG thanked Paul Kelly for the excellent work throughout this long period of time and agreed with the proposal. Mr. Kiddle accepted the new position as Convener.
* WG 03 is responsible for OD 017 on Documentation and Drawing Requirements: The report of the Convener Mr. Webb was noted.
* WG 04 Uncertainty of measurement: The group was invited by the Convener Mr. Stubbings to consider the new draft OD 012. ExTAG endorses the draft with some additional comments and recommends its approval to ExMC .
* WG 06 is responsible of rules of procedures for Testing at Other Locations: Chris Agius (Convener) reports on the changes in Ed. 4.0 of OD 024 which includes the online register. Further comments will be included in the discussion for the next update of the OD024.
* WG 10 deals with Proficiency Testing: The Convener Mr. Tim Krause reported the progress and results of the last and current Proficiency Testing Program. The group comments the revision of OD 202 and requests to specify the definition of subcontracting and tests without an asterisk in the TCD.
* ExTAG WG 12 is dedicated to the requirements for Retention of Records: The Convener (Mr. Jasmin Omerovic) reminded of the revision of OD 207 and identified the changes.
* WG 14 is looking at policies on Certification of Ex Equipment Assemblies: The Convener Paul Kelly informed the members about the activities. A discussion among TC 31 AG 55 on the topic of “Conditions of Safe Use” and the implementation in certificates and the expectation of the market were discussed. The WG 14 is to be reactivated.
* ExTAG AdhocWG1 is dealing with Modular Concept for Electrical Ex Equipment: The OD 034 was reminded for noting.

I would like to thank all the Convenors and members of these WGs for their effort and work on all these essential matters.

The next topics include the work on the **ExTAG Decisions Sheets.** The Deputy Chair gave a presentation on the relevance and use of ExTAG Decision Sheets. The group noted the list of withdrawn draft Decision Sheets (2) and the new published Decision Sheets (8) since the 2020 meeting.

The list of Decision Sheets falling under the 5 years review (2015) were introduced by Jasmin Omerovic and me. We explained the process of the review and the results (in total 19 Decision Sheets) and after discussion, the group agreed to withdraw the DS 2015/017 and 2015/001A. DS 2015/14 will be recorded and DS 2015/006 will be reviewed.

The process for the preparation and approval of Decision Sheet were reviewed (OD 035). The Deputy Chair Jasmin Omerovic introduced the draft revision.

Three proposed Decision Sheets in progress were introduced:  
- Field modular approach for Ex-equipment (Mike Slowinske): ExTAG agreed to proceed the draft DS for publication incorporating a small change.  
- IEC 60079-6 High voltage testing (Jim Munro): The meeting indicated in-principle-support for the approach provided in the existing draft but also noted the need to take account of any feedback from the IECEx OD 035 process.  
- Information relevant of particular protection Ex 60079-46 into the quality management system (Thierry Houeix): Members considered the draft Decision Sheet and agreed that it proceeds through the IECEx OD 035 process with ExTAG WG14 given the opportunity to comment.

The last items of the IECEx TAG meeting include discussion about the acceptance of electronic files for drawings, to make clear reference to ISO/IEC 17021-1 (to be considered in ExMC WG1 and ExMC WG5).   
  
Further details of the work could be given by the Chair and the Deputy Chair on request. All documents of the meeting are on our Website and can be downloaded.

The ExTAG members agreed on the preference to convene the next meeting of ExTAG at the same time of year and location (if hybrid or face-to-face) as the next ExMC meeting.

***Many thanks for your attention***

***Frank Lienesch***

***ExTAG Chair***