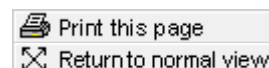




## CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

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### Challenges in regulating Ex equipment -- Malaysia's prospective and perspective

On 3 November 2007, over 220 government and industry representatives from more than 10 countries attended a seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia led by 5 international industry experts who spoke about safety in explosive atmospheres and how it relates to the work of the [IECEX](#) and its various programs.



The seminar was arranged to take advantage of the presence of experts who were attending the IEC TC 31 meeting and a series of associated subcommittee meetings in Malaysia so they could share their knowledge and experience with people who work in oil, gas, petrochemical and dust related industries. It was particularly relevant for local industry as safety in petrochemical installations is necessary to prevent ignition of the ever present flammable gases and vapours that, if ignited, have the potential to create enormous explosions which have, in the past, been attributed to loss of life and damage to installations and equipment which has resulted in damages amounting to millions of dollars.

Apart from identifying the obvious safety benefits of using IEC Standards and the IECEX Scheme, the seminar also provided information on the following:

1. How to take advantage of the programs provided by the IECEX Scheme especially the IECEX Certified Service Facilities Program covering repair and overhaul of Ex equipment.
2. Guidance for applicants seeking IECEX certification of facilities (such as repair workshops) which repair or overhaul equipment for explosive atmospheres including all the steps and processes required for service facilities to gain an IECEX Service Facility Certificate.
3. Fully understand the differences between the European Commission Directive ATEX Scheme and the IEC Scheme for certification to standards relating to equipment for use in explosive atmospheres (IECEX scheme).
4. Identify areas of improvement in installations and the repair and maintenance of Ex equipment.
5. The development of international standards for Ex equipment.

Over 220 experts from government and industry from in excess of 10 countries attended to listen to the 5 speakers present their respective topic and how it related to the work of the IECEX and its programs.

Hj. Mohd. Naguib Mahfadz, CEO of Gas District Cooling (H) Sdn. Bhd. Outlined the challenges faced by the Petronas oil and gas sectors to ensure that, firstly, electrical equipment complying with the appropriate standards was selected and installed correctly and, secondly, electrical equipment was maintained and repaired correctly. He noted that one way to have confidence that equipment was repaired correctly was to engage a repair workshop participating in the IECEX Services facilities program.

Mr Wang Jun, President of CNEx and Director of CQST outlined China's involvement in the IEC, their use of the IEC 60079 series of standards and support for the IECEX Scheme.

Mr Ron Sinclair, Managing Director of BASEEFA, fully explained the differences between the European Commission ATEX Scheme and the IECEX Scheme noting the more rigorous requirements of the IECEX Scheme for ongoing assessment of Ex Certifying Bodies and surveillance of manufacturers.

Mr Ralph Wigg, Ex Solutions International Pty Ltd, fully covered the problems associated with combustible dusts including the need to ensure that only appropriately certified equipment was used and the need to maintain a clean environment and prevent dust build up around equipment.

Mr Wal Robson, representing the IECEX Secretariat, outlined the present two IECEX Schemes the Equipment Certification Program covering equipment for use in explosive atmospheres and the Certified Service Facilities Program covering repair and overhaul of Ex equipment. This included how to achieve IECEX certification for Ex equipment repair workshops and an online demonstration of the IECEX website.

There was a general appreciation of the IECEx Scheme and support for the IECEx Certified Service Facilities program., such that Malaysia has subsequently announced that that they intend to increase their involvement in the work of the IEC by joining the IECEx Scheme.

Further information on IECEx can be found at [www.iecex.com](http://www.iecex.com)



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