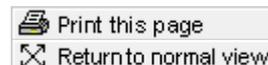




NEWS RELEASE



IEC launches Mark of Conformity for the Ex Industry

Geneva, Switzerland, 2008-02-14 – The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)'s specialist conformity assessment system dealing with equipment for use in explosive environments – [IECEX](#) – has today launched a new mark of conformity – the Ex Mark.

This new Ex safety mark – which will be granted by approved IECEx certifiers (ExCBs) located in IECEx participating countries for equipment that is covered by an IECEx Certificate of Conformity and hence has been tested and manufactured under systems that are under ongoing surveillance by ExCBs – will help governments, safety regulators, and industry have greater assurance that the equipment being operated or supplied for use in areas where flammable gases and vapours and combustible dusts (termed explosive atmospheres) meets the world's most respected and vigorous safety standards as established by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).



The Ex Mark features the familiar IEC logo as well as a distinctive Ex logo type.

Explosive or 'Ex' environments include grain silos, hospitals, petrochemical installations, petrol pumps – any situation where the equipment being operated could be exposed to a potential explosive environment, where combustible substances are used or stored, or where there is or might be a rich, gaseous inflammable environment. People come into contact with Ex environments on a daily basis, for example at automotive refueling stations, aircraft refueling, surface coatings such as paint applications, and food processing, to name just a few.

Commenting on the launch of the Ex mark of conformity, IEC General Secretary & CEO Ronnie Amit said: "The specialist Ex market can truly benefit from the long experience of IEC in the field of developing the world's best safety standards and putting the tests in place to show conformity."

With the annual value of the Ex market put at tens of billions of US dollars in new equipment alone (not including the Ex Services market such as repair and overhaul), the IEC has launched this new mark of conformity to enable a very specialized market help differentiate itself and to facilitate commerce in a heavily regulated market place.

According to IECEx Executive Secretary Chris Agius, the Ex Mark will build on the strong reputation of the IEC and IECEx. Says Agius: "The Ex Conformity Mark will be granted by the IEC National Certification Bodies working in the IECEx scheme. They have the skill sets and extensive experience to ensure that testing and certification of the Ex equipment meets the rigorous criteria set out in the IEC International Standards and is done according to the single set of international testing and certification procedures of the IECEx Scheme. Further, these IECEx Certification Bodies are all assessed and themselves monitored under the IECEx assessment program, based on the proven 'Peer Assessment' Model."

The new IECEx Conformity Mark is the latest of the range of International Conformity Assessment Services that IEC offers under the IECEx Scheme which now include:

- **IECEX Certified Equipment Program -**
 - IECEx Certificates of Conformity (CoCs)
 - IECEx Test and Assessment Reports (ExTRs)
 - IECEx Quality Assessment Reports (QARs)
- **IECEX Certified Services Program -**
 - Covering Ex Repair and Overhaul Workshops

■ **IECEX Conformity Mark System**

For more information on the new Ex Mark or any of the range of IECEX Conformity Assessment Scheme services, please contact: Chris Agius, IECEX Executive Secretary.

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