



## How to obtain IECEx certification

Month after month, *e-tech* informs you about the latest developments in IECEx, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres. Among the topics discussed are new certification programmes, certificates issued to companies throughout the world and the IECEx Conformity Mark.

What happens behind the scenes before the certificate or the Conformity Mark is actually granted is never or only rarely mentioned. How to apply for certification? What does the application for certification of Ex products or facilities entail? Where, when and how is the IECEx Conformity Mark used? These are just a few of the questions that may come to mind while reading articles about IECEx in *e-tech*.

The IECEx website at <http://www.iecex.com/> is obviously a very good source. In addition to a wealth of information on the IECEx System and the different types of IECEx certification, it provides a series of downloadable guides that explain in detail the steps and processes required to obtain IECEx certification.

Four guides are currently available:

- [Guide IECEx 01A](#) - Brief comparison between IECEx and ATEX.
- [Guide IECEx 02A](#) - Guide for making applications for IECEx Certificates of Conformity under the IECEx Certified Equipment Programme.
- [Guide IECEx 03A](#) - Guidance for applications from service facilities.
- [Guide IECEx 04A](#) - Guidance for making applications for and use of IECEx Conformity Mark

### Comparison between IECEx and ATEX (Guide IECEx 01A)

The guide provides an overview of the major differences between the IECEx System and the European Union [ATEX Directive](#) (Equipment intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres). The document lists major differences between the two systems, taking into account specific items that are commonly raised, such as field of application, standards used, certification procedures, Conformity Assessment, manufacturer surveillance and workplace requirements. The table format makes it easy to use. Feedback from industry has been most complimentary and acknowledges the guide as a useful tool.

### IECEx guides for certified equipment and for service facilities (Guide IECEx 02A and Guide IECEx 03A)

These guides cover two of the Certification Schemes offered by IECEx: the IECEx Certificate of Conformity under the IECEx Certified Equipment Programme, which deals with Ex products, and the IECEx Certification of Service Facilities, which repair or overhaul equipment for explosive atmospheres.

Both guides are constructed on the same model, taking potential applicants step-by-step, from the initial approach made by the client – who to apply to, how to prepare an application, documents needed to make an application, additional requirements – to the complete sequence of stages that lead to actual certification. In both cases, a flow chart and a table sequencing the procedure from A to Z complete the documents.

### IECEx Conformity Mark (Guide IECEx 04A)

This guide was prepared to help applicants wishing to obtain IECEx Conformity Mark licenses as well as to provide guidance on the use of the Mark on products and packaging.



Guide on use of IECEx Conformity Mark

It starts with a brief overview of the IECEx System, which is entirely voluntary, and goes on to describe the rules and procedures that apply to the Licensing System and the application process. The second part of the guide provides information on the Mark itself, dimensions and colours of the symbol, its availability in electronic formats and how it is to be used on products and on packaging or other materials. A sample of the IECEx Conformity Mark is also presented.

### **IECEx Certified Persons Scheme**

This new Scheme, to become operational during 2009, provides a single system for the assessment and qualification of persons working in explosive atmospheres (see [e-tech December 2008](#)). Once the operational procedures are finalized, a further guide (to be known as IECEx 05A) will be prepared.

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## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **IEC links**

IECEx

System for certification to standards for equipment for explosive atmospheres

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#### [IECEx 01A:](#)

Brief comparison between IECEx and ATEX

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#### [IECEx 02A:](#)

Guide for making applications for IECEx Certificates of Conformity under the IECEx Certified Equipment Programme

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#### [IECEx 03A:](#)

Guidance for applications from service facilities

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#### [IECEx 04A:](#)

Guidance for making applications for and use of IECEx Conformity Mark

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### **External links**

[ATEX Directive:](#)

European Commission Directive on Equipment intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres

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