

IECEX making progress on Certified Persons Scheme



Members of Working Group 12 at their meeting in Frankfurt

In early February 2009, the German Member Body of IECEx, [DKE](#) (Deutsche Kommission Elektrotechnik Elektronik Informationstechnik im DIN und VDE) hosted a meeting of IECEx Expert WG (Working Group) 12 in Frankfurt. The meeting was set up to continue work on the Operational Procedures for the newly-introduced IECEx Certified Persons Scheme.

This new Scheme adds to the suite of services offered by [IECEX](#), the IEC System for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres.

The IECEx System now provides the following International Certification Schemes:

- IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme
- IECEx Certified Service Facility Scheme, e.g. Repair and Overhaul
- IECEx Conformity Mark Licensing System
- IECEx Certified Persons Scheme

Gerhard Imgrund of DKE, the German national organization responsible for the creation and maintenance of standards and safety specifications covering the areas of electrical engineering, electronics and information technology and the IEC CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) officially welcomed the delegates.

The main items on the agenda were the new IECEx 05 Rules and Procedures Document and supporting Operational Documents, all of which relate to the IECEx Certified Persons Scheme. These will be issued to Member Countries of the IECEx System for consideration by their national industry and stakeholder groups.

The key aspects of this new IECEx Certified Persons Scheme are:

- **Assessment.** A single assessment process for people who have been certified as meeting competency requirements associated with the implementation of Standards for Ex equipment. Note that IECEx itself does not conduct or offer training
- **Certification.** A certificate will be issued using the well known and established IECEx On-Line Certificate System
- **Certification status.** A special credit card-sized ID certification card is issued as immediate proof of certification status
- **Assessments and certification.** These are conducted by IECEx-approved Certification Bodies that meet the IECEx strict requirements, including those laid out in ISO/IEC 17024, *Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*, and IECEx Scheme specific requirements

The level of interest and support from industry for this new IECEx Scheme continues to grow and strengthen, especially within the oil and gas and coal mining sectors where increased outsourcing of tasks is a major driver.

Ralph Wigg, Convenor of IECEx WG 12, comments, "Industry has seen this Certified Persons Scheme as a means of validating a person's claimed level of competency to operate in the highly specialized field of Ex and is a logical extension to the assessment and certification of equipment and services."

The new IECEx Certified Persons Scheme is set to commence during 2009 with a number of IECEx Certification Bodies already preparing their internal systems for approval by IECEx.



Gerhard Imgrund of DKE, Germany

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