

## IECEX gearing up for launch of Certified Persons Scheme

**IECEX**, the IEC System for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres, is making rapid progress in setting up its Certified Persons Scheme, which was announced at the end of 2008 and expected to be operational later this year.

Certification programmes for personnel already exist in industry, in particular in the service sectors. Healthcare personnel, safety professionals and financial planners, to name but a few, are regularly submitted to independent assessments of education, training, experience, knowledge and skills to demonstrate their professional abilities and be granted certification.

For the Ex industry, this is a first. The IECEX Certified Persons Scheme is indeed the world's first international scheme for the certification of persons associated with equipment, installations and servicing used by Ex industries, e.g. oil and gas, coal mining, chemical plants and so forth.

IECEX WG (Working Group) 12, which is in charge of setting up the new Scheme, met in Singapore last June to refine the series of rules and procedures documents developed earlier this year at the Frankfurt meeting (see the [March 2009 e-tech](#)). In addition to the main document establishing the Scheme, IECEX 05, *Rules and Procedures for the IECEX Certified Persons Scheme*, several Operational Documents were finalized. They cover the assessment qualification process of certifiers to issue IECEX Certified Persons Certificates, the standard procedures to be adopted by IECEX certifiers and the detailed list of "Competency Outcomes" for the 10 Competency Units that make up the IECEX Certified Persons Scheme.

These draft documents are currently under final approval by the ExMC, the IECEX Management Committee. Final discussions and approval were on the agenda at the 2009 IECEX annual meetings that took place 31 August-4 September 2009 in Melbourne, Australia.

To date, IECEX has received numerous requests for IECEX Certificates of Personal Competency from industries ranging from oil and gas producers to equipment manufacturers, consultants and installation inspectors, all seeking access to the IECEX Certified Persons Scheme.

The new Scheme is planned to be operational later this year with the first certificate expected to be issued very early next year.

The outcome of the IECEX 2009 annual meetings, including a progress report on the Certified Persons Scheme, will be included in the October 2009 *e-tech*.



The IECEX Certified Persons Scheme is the world's first international scheme for the certification of people working in explosive environments

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