



CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

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IECEX – Protecting capital investments in Ex areas

One sector of activity that doesn't get much publicity while being essential to the Ex industry: repair and overhaul.

In today's world, it is often cheaper to replace a product or a piece of equipment than to have it repaired. Product life cycles are shorter and shorter. If your mobile telephone breaks, you buy a new one.

Not so in the Ex industry. Equipment and machinery used by companies operating in hazardous areas have a much higher capital cost than the same equipment used elsewhere.

Take a light fitting, for instance. You can buy a domestic light fitting for USD 5 to USD 10 in any shop. The same light fitting for an Ex site would cost from USD 500 to USD 1 000, a hundred times more. That is only a small piece of equipment. Just think of the costs involved for an electric motor operating in an Ex environment. Once purchased and installed, the equipment has to last many years.

Because of this, repairing the equipment is cheaper than replacing it.

Repair rather than replace

The stringent safety parameters in force for the Ex industry also apply to the repair and overhaul sector. This is where [IECEX](#), the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres, plays a crucial role.

After putting in place a scheme for the certification of Ex equipment, IECEX went a step further and devised a new scheme addressing the assessment and certification of repair and overhaul facilities. Since its launch in late 2007, the IECEX Certified Service Facilities Scheme has expanded rapidly. The demand comes not only from industry but also from the workshops themselves. The IECEX certification offers them a competitive advantage and ensures a commonality of views and languages with their customers from the Ex sector.

Cyclelect of Singapore joins list of Certified Service Facilities

[Cyclelect](#) is one of the companies that provides repair and overhaul services to several industry sectors. Long established in Singapore, its workshop deals with the repair and overhaul of electrical motors, pumps and air-conditioning systems, among others.



Cyclelect has recently been granted its first IECEX Certificate for the repair and overhaul of rotating machinery. Until now, the motor repair jobs came mainly from the marine field. However, the company is seeking to extend its services to the Ex industry sector, oil and gas in particular.

The company did some market research and learned that IECEx had the certification that exactly met its needs. Then next step was to approach a CB (Certification Body) that would perform the assessment and deliver the certification, in this case the Singaporean office of [UL](#) (Underwriters Laboratories).

A first for Singapore, a first for UL

The rest is history. UL Assessors from the IECEx-approved UL facility performed the initial assessment in late 2009 and issued the certificate of conformity in May 2010. This IECEx certificate is a first for all involved: for Cyclect obviously, the first repair and overhaul workshop in Singapore to be granted IECEx Certified Service Facility Certification, but also for UL, delivering its first certificate for the repair and overhaul sector, which follows on from UL's long standing role as an ExCB (an IECEx Certification Body) operating in the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme.

About Cyclect

Cyclect Electric Company was founded in 1943 in Singapore. It started as a small corner shop where six engineers provided marine repair services. The company grew rapidly. By 1970 it had secured several high profile business ventures: a contract with the British Navy to service its naval vessels and appointment as service agent for ASEA (now [ABB](#)). A joint venture with a Japanese engineering firm also allowed the company to improve and expand its marine services and capabilities.

In the 1970s, the company, renamed Cyclect, moved to bigger premises and purchased an open yard and a workshop. The staff grew to 100 people

Over the years, Cyclect garnered a reputation as a leading service provider of various engineering services for the marine, manufacturing and process industries. In the 1980s, its growth resulted in regionalization, with Cyclect offices established in China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei and Japan.

In 2000 the company relocated once more, this time to a modern factory, equipped to service the ever growing number of clients in the petrochemical, pharmaceutical and chemical industries and the marine and oil and gas sectors.

The company is still growing and attracting new customers. The IECEx Service Facility Certificate is providing a solid and essential basis to enter the Ex repair and overhaul market.

About UL

Underwriters Laboratories is an independent product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing standards for safety for more than a century. UL evaluates more than 19 000 types of products, components, materials and systems annually with 20 billion UL Marks appearing on 66 000 manufacturers' products each year. UL's worldwide family of companies and network of service providers includes 68 laboratory, testing and certification facilities serving customers in 102 countries. UL is one of the IECEx-accredited ExCBs for equipment and service facility certification.

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