



CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

August 2008

Print this page
 Return to normal view

Articles [◀ back](#) | [next ▶](#)

PCIC EU 2008 conference highlights benefits of international certification for petroleum and chemical industry

At the invitation of Petroleum and Chemical Industry Committee Europe ([PCIC EU](#)) Chairman Patrick Leroux of TOTAL, France, IECEx Executive Secretary Chris Agius participated in the fifth PCIC EU conference on 10-12 June 2008 in Weimar, Germany.

The invitation to Agius and presentations about IECEx activities during the conference were clear signs that IECEx, the IEC's system for certification to standards relating to equipment for use in explosive atmospheres, plays a more and more important role in the petroleum and chemical industries.

Two presentations in particular addressed issues related to IECEx and the use of equipment in explosive atmospheres.

The first presentation, entitled "Ticket to the Global Market – Global Certification", by Rudolf Pommé of [KEMA Quality BV](#), Mario Colpa and Frédérique Plumeré of [BACAB SA](#) and Karel Neleman of [BARTEC Nederland BV](#), laid out the advantages of the IECEx system, explaining that the system's ultimate goal was to facilitate international trade in equipment and services for use in explosive atmospheres while maintaining the required safety level.

The keyword is confidence, the presenters said – confidence of the manufacturer in the assessment process and confidence of the end-user in equipment covered by IECEx certification.

The presentation then focused on national differences in International Standards inherited from national regulations, on the benefits of eliminating the differences and on how to overcome them. Manufacturers, engineers, certification bodies, governments and the global community would certainly profit from less or no national differences, the presenters said.

The presenters concluded that international certification systems definitely shorten the way to global market for manufacturers and that the common goal for all should be to eliminate national differences and increase the number of countries that adhere to international certification systems like IECEx.

This presentation was one of the two tutorials offered for the first time as part of a PCIC EU conference, providing a more in-depth understanding of a topic than can be derived from a paper presentation.

The second presentation by Marino Kelava (Secretary of [IEC SC 31J](#)), Josip Deškin and Ivica Gavranic of [Ex-Agency](#), Zagreb, Croatia, was entitled "Practical experience with inspection in plants at risk of explosive atmospheres".

The presenters explained IECEx, international standardization and the European Union [ATEX Directives](#) in the light of practical examples of plant inspections and faulty equipment. In general, both IECEx and ATEX use the same harmonized international standards as the basis for their conformity assessment.

PCIC EU 2008 also included a series of presentations by other experts that covered the following topics:

- safety at the workplace
- experiences from users with regulations and standards
- electrical and instrumentation engineering practices



- equipment, systems and components
- operation, maintenance, repair, asset management and qualification of personnel.

In congratulating the PCIC EU organizing team, especially its Secretary Terence Hazel of Schneider Electric, for a most successful PCIC EU 2008 conference, Chris Agius commented, "The fact that IECEx was the topic of so much discussion during this prestigious event is testament to the fact that the high level of industry involvement in the formation and management of IECEx, by way of the many Ex experts that serve on its Management and Technical Committees and Working Groups, has ensured that IECEx maintains high standards of credibility while serving the practical day-to-day needs of industry and assurance for Regulators."

PCIC Europe is the European forum for exchanging experience about the practical applications of electrical and instrumentation technology in the petroleum (oil, gas), chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Experts from users, engineering companies, manufacturers, regulators, certifying bodies and international standardization organizations present papers at PCIC EU conferences with the intention of informing the attendees about their experience and recent progress.

PCIC EU is affiliated with PCIC, an affiliation of [IEEE](#) in the United States.

For more information about PCIC EU visit: <http://www.pcic-europe.eu>.

For more information about PCIC US visit: <http://www.ieee-pcic.org/>.

For more information about IECEx visit: www.iecex.com

Additional Information: The 2008 IECEx Industry Symposium to be hosted by UTE (Union Technique de l'Electricité), is planned for 1 October 2008 in Paris, France, as part of the IECEx 2008 series of annual meetings and is set to build on the successful PCIC EU 2008 event. Those interested in attending the Paris Symposium should visit www.iecex.com

RELATED INFORMATION

IEC links

[IECEX](#)

System for certification to standards for equipment for explosive atmospheres

[IEC SC 31J](#)

Classification of hazardous areas and installation requirements

External links

[PCIC EU](#) :

Petroleum and Chemical Industry Committee Europe

[PCIC US](#) :

Petroleum and Chemical Industry Committee USA

[ATEX Directives](#)

European Union Directives on equipment intended for use in potentially explosives atmospheres

[KEMA Quality BV, The Netherlands](#)

[BARTEC Nederland BV](#)

[BACAB SA, Switzerland](#)

[Ex Agency, Zagreb, Croatia](#)



Copyright © IEC 2008. All Rights Reserved.