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**INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION SYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION TO STANDARDS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES (IECEx SYSTEM)**

**Title: Discussion paper from German National Member Body regarding Proficency Testing according to OD 202**

**Circulation to: Members of the IECEx Management Committee, ExMC**

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This document contains a discussion paper prepared by the German National Member Body of the IECEx for discussion during the 2018 ExMC Cannes meeting under agenda item 8.2.3, ExMC/1377B/DA,

Chris AGIUS

**IECEx Executive Secretary**

**September 2018**

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| **Address:****Level 33, Australia Square****264 George Street****Sydney NSW 2000****Australia** | **Contact Details:****Tel: +61 2 46 28 4690****Fax: +61 2 46 27 5285****e-mail: info@iecex.com****<http://www.iecex.com>** |

**Proficiency Testing Program (OD 202)**

According to IECEx ExMC Decision 2014/53 (The Hague MC Meeting), participation in the Proficiency Testing Program is mandatory for all accepted and applicant IECEx TLs and any Additional Testing Locations. This decision was included in the OD 202.

The German MB appreciates this and is considering this obligation as a significant contribution to the reputation and trustworthiness of the IECEx Certified equipment scheme.

However, an obligation is only binding if there are control mechanisms which assure that all respective ExTLs are participating regularly. For this sake reason the German MB is proposing that the Executive is getting an annual report from the secretary about the actual status of the PTP including the participation of individual ExTLs. In case that there are any ExTLs which are not fulfilling their obligation there has to be an escalation of appropriate sanctions. Ex MC shall be informed about such cases. These requirements should also be added at the end of clause 6 of OD202.

Furthermore the German MB considers the wording of clause 12, last sentence as too “soft”. Hence, in the second chapter of clause 12, in the sentence “The IECEx secretariat may take action …” or “Such action may include …” the word “may” should be replaced with “shall”. Especially in the last chapter for the case that the “unsatisfactory results” are causing danger due to the publication of ExTRs and ExCBs for products which are not may not meeting the requirements of the relevant TC31 standards “voluntary” actions of the Ex TL are not acceptable. In such cases the ExTL shall provide a list of appropriate corrective actions to the Secretary who should involve the Executive if necessary. If the corrective actions are accepted, the ExTL will be responsible for the solution of the issue according to an agreed time table and shall report the success of the project to the secretary. Clause 12 should be modified accordingly.