**ExTAG Chairman’s Report to ExMC – September 2018**

This is a brief summary of the ExTAG Meetings that took place on 18th and 19th of September 2018 at Cannes under the kind hospitality of French national committee.

We held the informal ExTAG training session on Tuesday morning covering the following presentations and discussions:

Mr. Amos gave an update on the IECEx system which includes reporting on CoC verifications on past period, reminders, useful readings and updated information about the new IEC platform under construction with an overview of improvements expected.

Mr. Munro introduced the main changes implemented in the edition 3.0 of ISO/IEC 17025 and how this would be implemented in the IECEx 02 scheme including the proposed transition period.

Mr. Sinclair and Ms. Holdredge gave a presentation about verification and calibration of climatic chambers. It was noted discrepancies on approach from ExTLs and that IECEE CTL WG is also working on this matter.

Mr. Houeix presented the 2nd edition of ISO/IEC 80079-34 just published in the end of august this year. He detailed the main changes and reminded that the transition period shall be defined during this ExMC meeting.

I remind that all presentations are available on the dedicated meeting [website](https://www.iecex.com/meeting-and-events/2018-annual-meetings-of-the-iecex-system-cannes-france/meeting-documents/presentations/).

It was a really successful training workshop and was much appreciated with the active participation of members during discussions.

Our formal session was held on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday, We began with a report from the IECEx Executive Secretary on the growth of the schemes and of the developments as well as details about membership, statistics and website. The IECEx Executive Secretary advised that this will be covered in more detail during this ExMC meeting.

We then had technical exchanges with the aim of ensuring a consistent approach by all ExCBs and ExTLs. We discussed the following topics:

* Spark Assessment for the combination of resistive, capacitive and inductive Parameters.
* Calibration of Humidity Chambers
* Construction requirements for flameproof enclosures with an internal source of release
* Use of new IEC Standard IEC 62784

We then received reports on the status of activities in the ExTAG Working Groups:

* WG 01 looks after the preparation of ExTR formats.

It was especially agreed that the IECEx Executive consider the proposal regarding the definition or clarification of document ownership as part of their development

* WG 03 is responsible for OD 017 on drawings and documentation guidance.

It was agreed that an opportunity be provided for a further one month period for any final comments to the Convenor on the new proposal, with the Convenor to determine a final version to be submitted to the ExMC for approval by correspondence to publish

* WG 10 deals with Proficiency testing.

Mr. Tim Krause gave a presentation on the progress and results of the recent proficiency testing programs and the current work for the definition of the next programs.

* WG 14 is looking at policies Certification of Ex Equipment Assemblies

After presentation of the report and discussions it was agreed to recommend ExMC that DS 2015/001A be allowed to continue to be used prior to its withdrawal and be withdrawn on publication of Edition 2.0 of IEC TS 60079-46.

I would like to thank all convenors and members of these working groups for their effort and work on all these essential matters.

We then worked on the ExTAG decisions sheets.

After noting the current list of DS, members reconfirmed the list of Decisions Sheets under the 5 year reconfirmation maintenance procedures, with a reviewing where later editions of referenced standards have been published.

It was also consider the need to have the best practice papers prepared by the PTP provider published as DS according to IECEx OD035 process.

We then discussed the proposed revision of OD035. The members agreed to recommend that ExMC approves the publication with the minor additional change proposed during the meeting.

Regarding the draft Decision Sheets under consideration, they have been discussed during the meeting. Many inputs were noted by members. The results are to:

- published 5 new decision sheets

- not published 3 proposals

- establish an adhoc WG regarding the modular concept introduced in a draft DS

It should be highlighted that the DS relative to the application of standard IEC 60079-28 has now been approved. This is an important improvement in regards of consistency within ExTLs and ExCBs.

Five other proposals were subjected to preliminary discussions and would be circulated over the usual 6 week period according to OD 035.

In the closed session, which took place in the second half of the morning, it has been discussed the co-operation between IECEx bodies.

Members noted their obligations according to IECEx rules and procedures, especially regarding response to the market, maintenance of QARs and management of suspended certificates.

Technical issues were also discussed, relative to Battery Packs comprising multiple batteries and risk of ignition from lithium batteries. It was agreed that draft Decision Sheets for the subjects would be prepared following discussion and then be circulated for comments.

**The following points are specifically referred to ExMC at this time:**

1. Members agreed that the matter concerning withdrawal of the DS 2015/001A be referred to ExMC for decision, considering that no consensus was reach during ExTAG meeting.
2. ExTAG supports the proposed revised edition of OD 035 relative to IECEx Proficiency Testing Program circulated as ExTAG/490B/CD with the minor additional change proposed during ExTAG Meeting and agreed to recommend to the ExMC that the draft Operational Document proceed to publication.
3. ExTAG recommends that ExMC considers the document ExTAG/500/CD relative to CoCs for Ex Equipment against performance standards for further guidance to ExTAG on this matter