



Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) Program and the IECEX System

Kevin Robinson

Director - Office of Technical Programs and
Coordination Activities



NRTL Program - History

- ❖ Congress created OSHA in 1970
- ❖ OSHA Created the OSH Act
- ❖ Early NRTL Definition
- ❖ Lawsuit filed against OSHA
- ❖ 29 CFR 1910.7 was established in 1988
- ❖ <http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/>



NRTL Program Specifics

- ❖ Product Surveillance programs
- ❖ NRTL certification mark signifying product meets product safety compliance
- ❖ 37 different product categories require testing:
 - Electrical products (the largest category)
 - Fire detecting and extinguishing equipment
 - Equipment utilizing Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)
 - Equipment intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres



OSHA's Role in the Program

- ❖ NRTLs are not part of any government agency
- ❖ OSHA does not set or develop testing standards
- ❖ OSHA conducts no testing
- ❖ OSHA does not require registration of certified products



OSHA's Role in the Program

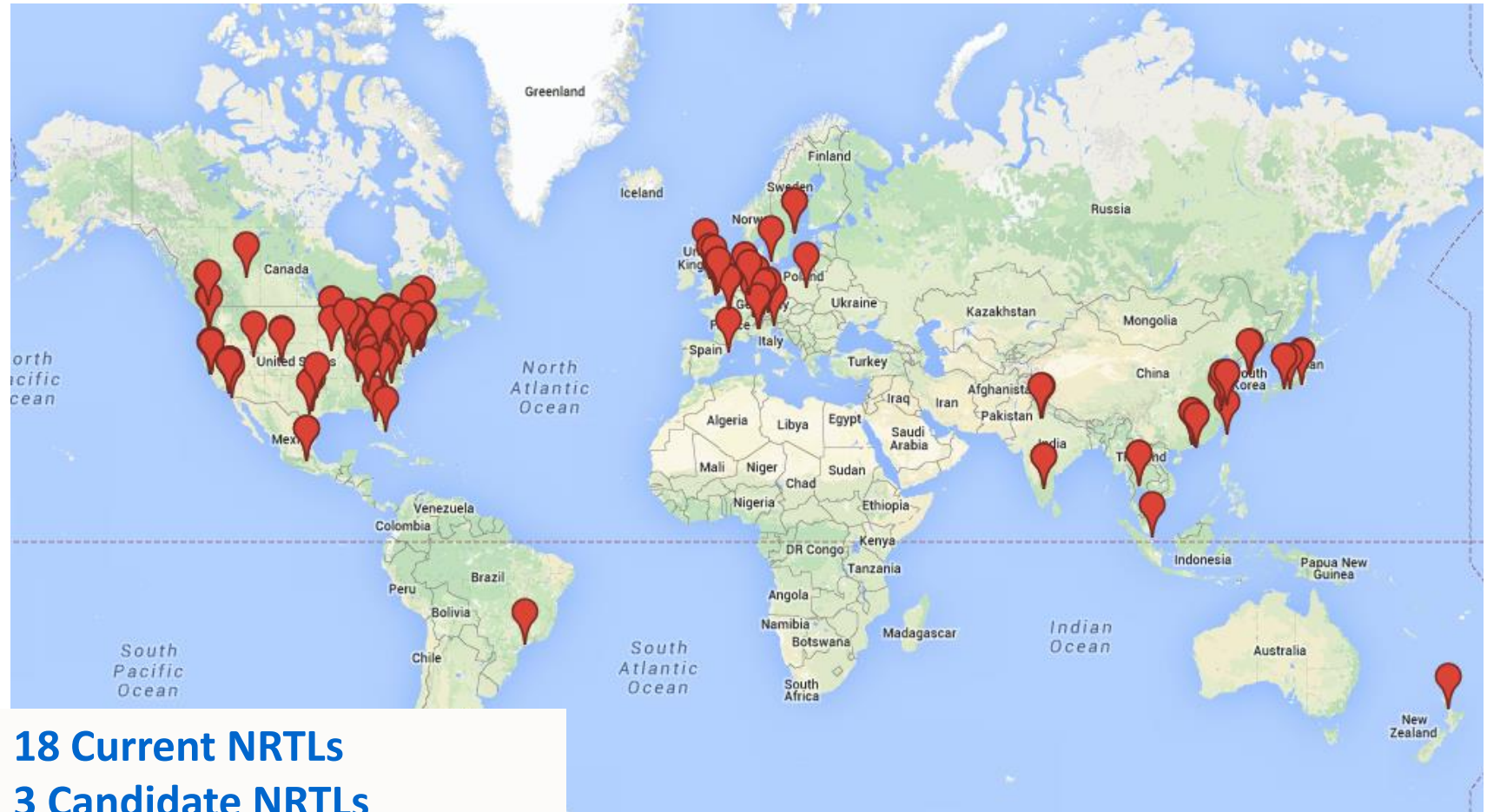
- ❖ OSHA establishes minimum performance standards that NRTLs must meet.
- ❖ OSHA Recognizes third party private sector organizations to conduct testing and certification.
- ❖ OSHA conducts assessments at each NRTL site to ensure compliance with OSHA requirements and policies.

IECEx World Symposium: A Capital Idea

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NRTL Locations



18 Current NRTLs
3 Candidate NRTLs
Approximately 160 Sites



NRTL Program Update

- ❖ In 2012, OSHA initiated a complete rewrite of the NRTL Program Policies and Procedures document (NRTL Directive)
- ❖ Alignment with ISO 17025 & 17065
- ❖ Will allow the acceptance of data produced under IECEx
- ❖ Anticipated publication Late 2017/Early 2018



Draft Directive Text

- ❖ If the certification body accepts inspections and test data from organizations that function as part of the IECEX System, the certification body recognized by OSHA shall:
 - be recognized by OSHA for a test standard that is harmonized with the one being accepted under the IECEX System;
 - retain control of, and responsibility for, the product certification scheme;
 - physically inspect (i.e. perform a hands-on inspection of) each product model or type



Draft Directive Text (Continued)

- review each IECEX test report (ExTR) to determine that the correct test standards have been used and that any United States deviations have been applied;
- use documented procedures for evaluation and interpretation of results;



Draft Directive Text (Continued)

- determine that components used comply with critical component acceptance requirements; and
- ensure compliance with the surveillance requirements (4 times per year for HazLoc equipment)



Contact Information

Kevin Robinson

**Director - Office of Technical Programs and
Coordination Activities**

Phone: 202-693-1911

E-mail: robinson.kevin@dol.gov

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