

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

IEC SCHEME FOR CERTIFICATION TO STANDARDS FOR SAFETY OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES (IECEx SCHEME)

Ex Management Committee, ExMC
Ex Testing and Assessment Group, ExTAG

Draft Revision of Operational Procedures during the Transitional Phase of IECEx

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the ExMC Chairman and Secretary and is based on document ExMC/33/CD (prepared by Mr M. Grilc of CH) and discussions during the ExMC Sydney 1999 meeting.

This document is issued for consideration by ExMC members and for information of ExTAG.

ExMC members are requested to consider this document and be prepared to present their country's position at the ExMC meeting in Braunschweig September 2000.

To assist in collating comments ExMC members are requested to submit any comments via e-mail, to the ExMC Secretariat:

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Discussion of ExMC/33/CD during the Sydney ExMC Meeting, revealed the need for a more visible output from the IECEX Scheme during its transitional period. The question of mutual recognition of quality assurance assessments was also raised. This paper proposes two new instruments, as indicated in Table 1, which would increase the value and visibility of the scheme during its transitional period. These new instruments are:

- IECEX Type Examination Certificate
- IECEX Quality Assurance Report

The purpose of these instruments is to allow for the issuing of an IECEX Type Examination Certificate and the mutual recognition of Quality Assurance Reports, amongst participating ACBs, during the transitional phase and before ACBs can issue IECEX Certificates of Conformity. At present, ACBs can issue Assessment and Test Reports (ATRs) which cover product testing and assessment to IEC standards and national differences. However, many ACBs require assessment of manufacturer's quality system or quality plans before issuing their national Ex certificate.

Table 1
Stages of Participation

Item	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
IECEX ATR Assessment and Test Report	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IECEX Type Examination Certificate (new)	No – National Type Certificate Issued	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quality Assurance Report (new)	No – National Arrangements apply	No – National Arrangements apply	Yes	Yes
IECEX CoC + IECEX Mark (Licence Cert)	No – National Arrangements apply	No – National Arrangements apply	No – National Arrangements apply	Yes

Comments

Stage 1 –

- **Stage 1 provides an assessment and test report (ATR) for the conformity of the product with the relevant IEC Standards.**
- **ATR may include assessment to national differences declared by the intended receiving bodies**
- **The ATR is used by the receiving bodies when issuing their own national certification**
- **This facility is intended to eliminate duplication of testing and assessment of products**

Stage 2 –

- **Provides for the issuing of an IECEx Type Examination Certificate by the issuing ACB for acceptance in other countries**
- **Type Certificates are for conformity solely with IEC Standards and do not cover national differences**
- **Issuing ACBs must reside in a participating country that recognises IECEx Type Examination Certificate as equivalent to their own national certification**
- **IECEx Type Examination Certificates do not have a limit to their life**

Stage 3 –

- **ACB's can issue an IECEx Quality Assurance Report (QAR) following assessment of manufacturers quality system**
- **Requirements for Manufacturer's Quality System are currently being developed by ExMC WG5 (document ExMC/52/CD)**

- The receiving ACB will use this QAR to satisfy the manufacturing quality system requirements of its own national certification scheme
- The IECEx QAR will have a standard format (to be developed)
- The IECEx QAR need not be issued by the same ACB issuing the IECEx ATR or IECEx Type Certificate

Stage 4 –

- Provides for the issuing of an IECEx Certificate of Conformity and use of the IECEx Mark (the Full Scheme)
- IECEx Certificates of Conformity indicate both conformity of product types with IEC Standards and conformity of production quality assurance systems with the requirements which the IECEx Scheme will adopt
- The ACB issuing the IECEx Certificate of Conformity must be the same body issuing the IECEx ATR and IECEx QAR
- ACBs issuing IECEx Certificates of Conformity must reside in a participating country that recognises IECEx Certificates of Conformity as equivalent to their own national certification