

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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

#### Ex Management Committee (ExMC)

IECEx Mark of Conformity - points for discussion during the ExMC Sydney 1999 meeting.

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#### Introduction

The CAB has requested that ExMC develops a proposal for the administration and issuing of the IECEx Mark

The following attachments have been included for initial discussion during the Sydney meeting:

- **Attachment 1** - Request from ExMC Secretary to CAB Chairman, June 1999
- **Attachment 2** - E-mail comments from CAB Secretary with comments from IEC General Secretary

### **IECEX Mark of Conformity request from IECEX Management Committee ExMC June 1999**

#### **Background**

From its inception the IECEX Scheme (IEC Scheme for the conformity assessment of electrical equipment for use in explosive atmospheres) was designed with the intention of facilitating international trade of Ex equipment by providing a Full Product Certification Scheme that enables worldwide acceptance of:

- One Standard
- One Certificate
- One Mark

Participation in IECEX is open to any IEC Member Country that adopt international Ex Standards (prepared by IEC/TC 31) at national level without any national variations and give equivalent treatment to the IECEX Certificate of Conformity as their countries own national certification. Certification Bodies participating in IECEX are known as Accepted Certification Bodies (ACBs) and issue IECEX Certificates of Conformity and license to use an IECEX Mark of Conformity.

While most IECEX participating countries national Ex Standards are close to IEC, complete elimination of national differences is some time away. Therefore the scheme provides for participation at an interim level. This interim level of participation enables participating Certification Bodies and Test Laboratories to perform testing and assessment with an IECEX Assessment and Test Report being issued which can be used for achieving national certification from other participating countries, similar to the IECEE CB Scheme. To ensure equity within the scheme, ACBs from countries participating at the interim level are not permitted to issue IECEX Certificates of Conformity nor a license to use the IECEX Mark.

The benefit in participating at the interim level is the acceptance of Test and Assessment results by ACBs from other participating countries, for the purpose of issuing local national certification.

Given the diversity of Ex standards, prepared by TC 31 coupled with the various stages of maturity between the IEC Ex standards, widespread elimination of national differences will take longer for some standards more than others.

#### **Current Situation**

Membership of the IECEX Scheme currently comprises 19 countries with the majority joining the scheme at the interim level. Participation at this interim level also requires countries to identify their national differences, convey these to the IEC ExMC Secretariat and undertake to eliminate the differences within a time frame agreed upon by ExMC.

The task of identifying national differences have provided the opportunity for some countries re-evaluate their position and consider whether the national variations, most of which origins are historic, are still valid.

In one instance, this re-evaluation of national differences, has resulted in a complete revision of the country's regulatory standards covering Ex equipment, to such an extent, it is preparing for the full acceptance of the IEC 60079, 61241 and 61779 series of Explosion Protection Standards.

Separate to the complete adoption of IEC Ex Standards, the scheme provides for participation on a standard by standard basis, meaning that a country may participate within IECEx at the interim level for one IEC standard while participating at the full level for another. An example of where this is likely to occur is with the new IEC 61779 series of Gas Detector Standards, for which the strong participation in the preparation of the 61779 series, within IEC SC31J by many countries, has meant that the need for each country to introduce national differences has either greatly reduced or even eliminated.

Therefore it is envisaged that the first round of countries qualifying for participation at the full level may be during next year.

### **Proposal for an IECEx Mark of Conformity**

To date the IECEx management Committee, ExMC has focused its work on developing rules and procedures for participation in the scheme at the interim level (referred to by the rules as the Transitional Level). This work has seen the introduction various elements of the scheme, including:

- Detailed procedure for the assessment of applicant Certification Bodies and Test Labs.
- Criteria for the appointment of IECEx Assessors
- Development of Technical Guidance documents to assist IECEx Assessment teams
- Appointment of IECEx Assessment teams for all 19 countries
- Operational documents such as standard Assessment and Test Report forms
- Introduction of the IECEx Internet Web site

ExMC have undertaken limited work associated with the introduction of an IECEx Mark of Conformity and little consideration as to its design.

In consideration of an IECEx Mark many issues need to be considered, including:

- Design of the Mark
- Ownership
- Means of Registration
- Policing
- Costs

With ExMC planning to hold its next meeting in Sydney during September this year, I would appreciate any guidance regarding issues associated with the mark. During the development stages of IECEx the then IECEE MC arranged for legal advice concerning ownership and registration with various possibilities being suggested. An IECEx operational document has been prepared based on this advice and is available for your perusal.

The main issue I have at this stage is the design of an IECEx Mark. One of the main challenges for the introduction of any mark is recognition by users of the scheme. As it has been some time since IECEx members have given any consideration to a design, I intend placing this matter on the agenda for the next ExMC Sydney meeting and would like to propose a number of options to ExMC, rather than spending valuable meeting time discussing possible designs.

### **Questions**

## **1 Incorporation of IEC Logo in IECEX Mark**

Given the issue of Mark recognition, mentioned above, one design I would propose, to ExMC, would be to utilise the well recognised IEC logo with the extension of Ex to appear something like below:



My question at this stage is do you see any reason why IECEX cannot use this design or even similar that incorporates the IEC logo?

## **2 Ownership and Registration of an IECEX Mark**

As the previous legal opinion concerning the IECEX Mark, was obtained some time ago, have there been any recent issues, say within the past 2-3 years, raised within IEC concerning registration and ownership of a Mark that ExMC should be aware of?

## **3 Costs**

It has been envisaged that each Member Body of IECEX would register the Mark in their own country as a means of them maintaining some form of control over its use or possible misuse. Therefore apart from the costs borne by each Member Body in registering the Mark are there any other costs from IEC that need to be addressed?

## **4 Other Issues**

Are there any other issues that ExMC should be aware of when considering the rules and procedures concerning the issuing of licenses to use an IECEX Mark?

## ATTACHMENT 2

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Challen\_Margaret/CO@IEC.iec.ch  
[SMTP:Challen\_Margaret/CO@IEC.iec.ch]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 August 1999 7:15 PM  
**To:** Chris.Agius@qas.com.au  
**Cc:** Challen\_Margaret/CO@IEC.iec.ch; Christine.Kane@qas.com.au;  
ra/CO@IEC.iec.ch; rk/CO@IEC.iec.ch  
**Subject:** IEC logo/IECEX mark

Dear Chris

I discussed your questions on the proposed Ex mark with Mr Amit this a.m and he advises as follows:

ExMC should fully discuss and develop a proposal which must then be approved by the CAB and then submitted by the CAB to the CB for approval. He personally does not see any problem with using the IEC logo but CB would make the final decision.

There would not appear to be any further legal aspects in addition to those covered in the earlier discussions.

He agrees with your point 3 that each member body should register the mark within their own country and this should be done within a defined time frame .

ExMc must discuss the liability and legal consequences related to the issue of the mark.

Within IEC, the policy of marks has been discussed and will probably be rediscuss some time in 2000.

In conclusion, a full discussion and detailed proposal on the mark is encouraged and CAB will take it from there.

Re ILAC MRA docs I have just received them from Judith and will e-mail them to you now.

Regards

Margaret