INTERNATIONAL IECEx CERTIFICATION: THE WAY TO SAFETY COMPLIANCE IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

IEC SYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION
TO STANDARDS RELATING
TO EQUIPMENT FOR USE
IN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES
(IECEx)

INTERNATIONAL IECEx CERTIFICATION: THE WAY TO SAFETY COMPLIANCE IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

Modern day industrial automation has increased the need for electric equipment in hazardous areas. These are places where flammable liquids, vapors, gases or combustible dusts could present a fire or explosion hazard. They are also called "Hazardous Locations" or "Explosive Atmospheres" or Ex Areas. The use of equipment, especially electrical, in these areas is generally highly regulated.

It is in the interest of industry and governments to ensure that Ex Areas and the personnel working in them are as safe as possible.

The IECEx has put in place a number of Conformity Assessment Schemes which provide assurance that equipment and systems are manufactured and operated according to the highest International Standards of safety.

FASTER ACCESS TO MARKETS - IMPROVED SAFETY - INSTANT VERIFICATION

The use of the IECEx Conformity Assessment System and its Schemes provides clear advantages for industry and governments:

Cost savings – reduced need for additional testing and certification resulting in faster access to new markets

Improved Safety – the assurance that equipment is manufactured and operated according to strict International Standards

Instant Verification – the possibility to verify all issued IECEx Certificates instantly on www.iecex.com

Certifications are delivered by an approved IECEx Certification Body (ExCB) in any of the IECEx member countries (full list available on: www.iecex.com)

Hereafter some of the industries that are covered by the range of IECEx services:

- Oil + Gas refineries, Off-shore platform rigs and processing plants
- Automotive refuelling stations or petrol/gas stations
- Chemical processing plants
- Coal mining
- Printing industries, paper and textiles
- Aviation, refuelling and hangars
- Gas pipelines and distribution centres
- Grain handling and storage
- Woodworking areas
- Sugar refineries
- Metal surface grinding, especially aluminium dusts and particles.
- Surface coating industries
- Waste treatment, sewerage plants

The following IECEx Certification services exist and are all available online:

IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme
Providing assurance that products listed on the IECEx Certificate conform to the International Standards also listed on the same IECEx Certificate.

This system provides an:

■ IECEx Test Report (ExTR)
■ IECEx Quality Assessment Report (QAR)
■ IECEx Certificate of Conformity (CoC)

To obtain this certificate, the manufacturer prepares his application and submits it to the relevant IECEx Certification Body (ExCB). Samples of the equipment will be tested by the laboratory of the ExCB and a factory inspection will be organized. On-going periodic audits (factory inspections) ensure that the stringent standards are being maintained by the manufacturer, over time.

IECEx Certified Service Facilities Scheme
Assesses and certifies that organizations and workshops that provide repair and overhaul services to the Ex industry do so respecting the strict requirement of IEC International Standard 60079-19. This ensures that unique Ex safety features are not compromised during the Repair or Overhaul Process. The system includes on-site audits prior to issuing the IECEx Certificate and periodic audits to ensure Repair and Overhaul processes continue to comply with requirements and provides a:

■ Facility Assessment Report (FAR)
■ IECEx Service Facility Certificate of Conformity (CoC)

IECEx Conformity Mark Licensing System
This International Mark Licensing System provides immediate evidence that products bearing this ▶

Conformity Mark, illustrated below, are covered by an IECEx Certificate of Conformity.

IECEx Conformity Mark.

IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies Scheme
This newly launched scheme provides companies with independent proof that a person holding an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competency has the qualifications and experience necessary to implement the International Ex Standards. This can be especially important for contracting staff.

To obtain an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competency, a person prepares an application and submits it to an approved IECEx Certification Body.

The person will undergo knowledge tests and an assessment of qualifications and experience before receiving an IECEx certificate. Regular re-assessment ensures that the certified person maintains their competencies.

IECEx Certificates of Personnel Competency are available for public view on the IECEx internet website, www.iecex.com

As with all IECEx Certificates, this is valid across international borders.

You can find further information about the IECEx System and its Schemes, as well as rules, operational manuals, procedures, and a list of the IECEx Certification providers on: www.iecex.com

PARTICIPATE IN IECEx, HELP CONNECT Ex INDUSTRIES GLOBALLY

Customers are free to utilize only one or the full range of IECEx Certification Systems. A customer who holds an IECEx Equipment Certification is NOT obliged to also hold an IECEx Facilities Certification

The IECEx connects Ex industries globally and to do so effectively, invites countries to become members of the system. Member countries have the opportunity to network amongst each other, and the right, but not the obligation, to participate in decisions and matters dealing with the IECEx.

For further information, please consult the IECEx website: www.iecex.com

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The World of IEC

The IEC is the world leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as "electrotechnology". The IEC also administers three global conformity assessment systems, IECEE, IECEx and IECQ, for testing, certification and approval of equipment, systems and components to its International Standards. Wherever you find electricity – from generation, transmission and distribution, through industrial automation, healthcare, transport, multimedia in the home, to the battery in your phone – you will find the World of IEC supporting the environment, safety, performance and efficiency.

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