



ExMC/1666/INF
November 2020

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION SYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION TO STANDARDS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES (IECEx SYSTEM)

To: Members of the IECEx Management Committee, ExMC

INTRODUCTION

During the 2018 Meeting of the IECEx Management Committee, ExMC, the following Decision was recorded relating to the implementation timeframe for mandatory adoption of ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Decision 2018/26

The Meeting approved the implementation date of the new ISO/IEC 17025 in accordance with Recommendation #4 in ExMC/1407/R.

Recommendation 4 (As referenced in Decision 2018/26)

That ExMC decide that IECEx will follow the same timeframe as ILAC with the final date for all ExTL and ATFs to comply with the latest edition of ISO/IEC 17025 being 30 November 2020. Further, that new applications for ExTLs and ATFs after 30 November 2019 must include compliance with the latest edition.

However we now note the attached Formal Notice from ILAC of the decision to delay the mandatory implementation of ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 Edition to 1 June 2021. Given that ExMC took decision 2018/26 to align with ILAC's agreed implementation date, it stands to reason that IECEx also follows the deferent to 1 June 2021 as well.

The Secretariat has consulted both the Officers of the IECEx Assessment Group, ExAG and the IECEx Chair who also support this position.

Therefore, please note that in line with Decision 2018/26 to align implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 with ILAC the Date for mandatory implementation has been changed to

1 June 2021

We ask all ExTLs and their associated ExCBs to note this change of date and for our ExTLs to be ready to meet this revised date, if not already prepped

A copy of the latest notification from ILAC is attached for your reference.

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*Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the
recognition of ISO/IEC 17025 during a Three-Year Transition**

Laboratories wishing to demonstrate their technical competence can do so via conformity with the international standard ISO/IEC 17025 'General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories'. Conformity with this standard also means that the laboratory operates a management system generally in accordance with the principles of ISO 9001.

In 2017, ISO published a revision to ISO/IEC 17025 (previously published in 2005) to ensure that requirements continue to meet the demands of the modern market place. As a consequence, it has been agreed that laboratories that demonstrate conformity through third-party accreditation will need to transition their processes to the new version within a defined timeframe. ILAC, in consultation with ISO, agreed that a three year period* from the date of publication shall be allowed for this transition.

During this transition period, it is important to note that both ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 are equally valid and applicable. Accreditation to either version of the standard granted by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the ILAC Arrangement should be recognised by the market place, and it is therefore strongly recommended that specifiers recognise both versions until after the 3-year transition period* has closed.

**June 2020 revision: The end of the transition period has been extended from November 2020 to 1 June 2021. ILAC and ISO have agreed to this extension to ensure all laboratories are able to be transitioned following the restrictions imposed as a result of the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.*

ILAC Chair

ISO/CASCO Chair