



ExTAG/149/CD
September 2008

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

Title: Conformity Assessment of Material's Physical Properties

Circulation: ExTAG Members, IECEx Officers

INTRODUCTION

This document will be presented by Baldor Electric Company for discussion/
consideration during the ExTAG Paris Meeting.

**For
Michel Brenon
ExTAG Secretary**

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U.S. National Committee of the IECEx

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29 August 2008

E-MAIL TRANSMISSION

Mr. Michel Brenon
Secretary IECEx TAG
LCIE S.A.
33 Avenue du General Leclerc
92260 Fontenay-aux-Roses

Subject: Conformity Assessment of Material's Physical Properties

Dear Mr. Brenon:

Inasmuch as the subject paper is an Item for Discussion by ExTAG, the USNC/IECEE offers the following public comment.

At its 2007 Annual Meeting in Denver, the ExTAG formed ExTAG Adhoc1, *Material Data*, to “establish a suitable process for addressing conformity assessment issues with materials for which physical properties are not directly under the control of the IECEx Certificate holder.”

The IECEx Certificate holder, usually the manufacturer of the Ex equipment, often has little control over the properties of materials used to fabricate critical portions of the product. The problem is most apparent with polymeric and elastomeric materials that do not have the defined content that is common with metallic materials. ExTAG Adhoc1 is working to develop a suitable IECEx process that can be used to demonstrate to the equipment certifiers that the manufacturer has an adequate level of “control” over the critical properties of materials used in the construction of the Ex product. Currently, the ExTR can easily demonstrate compliance of the sample during the type test, but it is much more difficult to demonstrate during a QAR that the processes employed continues to result in a product that is “identical” to that which was type tested. It is this end result that is needed to demonstrate the desired confidence in equipment Certified using the IECEx Scheme.


There are existing ExTAG Decisions on CTI (ExTAG DS 2008/002) and Resistance to Light (ExTAG DS 2008/); but no decisions on similar properties such as TI, RTI, or Surface Resistivity that ExTAG Adhoc1 is currently researching. Unfortunately, the two

existing Decisions draw different conclusions to essentially the same problem and there are no Decisions on the other identified properties.

The US respectfully requests that ExTAG withdraw ExTAG DS 2008/002 and ExTAG DS 2008 004 pending the outcome of the work of ExTAG Adhoc1 which is to result in a uniform IECEEx approach for material properties.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit these comments. We look forward to participating in the discussion at the ExTAG meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Solis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joel" and last name "Solis" clearly distinguishable.

Joel Solis
Secretary, USNC/IECEEx

WL/js

cc Mr. Chris Agius, Secretary IECEEx