**ExTAG Chairman’s Report to ExMC – September 2019**

This is a brief summary of the ExTAG Meeting that took place on 23th of September 2019 in Dubai under the kind hospitality of ESMA.

We held the usual ExTAG training session on Monday morning covering the following presentations and discussions:

Mr. Amos (IECEx Secretariat, Business Manager) gave an update on the IECEx system which includes reporting on CoC monitoring by the IECEx Secretariat on past period, reminders, useful readings and updated information about the new IEC platform.

Mr. Roy (IECEx Secretariat, Compliance Manager) introduced the new role of the Compliance Manager of the Secretariat. He then came back in more details about past period activity, noting the improvement (-45%) of number of out of date QAR between 2018 and 2019. The next focus will be on management of suspended certificate.

Mr. Gauthier (LCIE, ExTAG Secretary) gave a presentation about participation to Proficiency Testing programs. This includes the objectives, the overview of the process and also the expected feedback from the provider and actions from ExTLs.

Mr. Ludlam (FM Approvals, Secretary of SC31G) presented the current status about battery testing. He remind some fundamental knowledge and also gave an overview of the recent work and future improvements under consideration for next edition of the standard.

These presentations were preceded by an overview given by the Executive Secretary on the IECEx Secretariat operations, reminding responsibility and composition of the Secretariat team.

It was a really successful training workshop and was much appreciated with important guidance provided to the members that should be share within their own organizations.

I remind that all presentations are available on the dedicated meeting [website](https://www.iecex.com/meeting-and-events/2019-annual-meetings-of-the-iecex-system-general-information-dubai-united-arab-emirates/meeting-documents/green-papers/).

Our formal session was held on Tuesday, and after approval of the last meeting report, we began with a discussion regarding the ExTAG Secretary position. We recommend to the ExMC to approve that the IECEx Secretariat would handle the position until review of the rules regarding the modification from ExTAG Secretary to ExTAG Deputy Chair position.

We then received a report from the IECEx Executive Secretary on the growth of the schemes and of the developments as well as details about membership, statistics and website. The IECEx Executive Secretary advised that this will be covered in more detail during this ExMC meeting.

We then had technical exchanges with the aim of ensuring a consistent approach by all ExCBs and ExTLs. We discussed the following topics:

* Spark Assessment for the combination of resistive, capacitive and inductive Parameters
* Calibration of Humidity Chambers
* Use of new IEC Standard IEC 62784
* Measurement uncertainty
* Scope applications for IEC 62990-1

In the closed session, which took place in the second half of the morning, it has been discussed the co-operation between IECEx bodies.

Members noted their obligations according to IECEx rules and procedures, especially regarding response to the market, maintenance of QARs and management of suspended certificates.

The following technical issues were also discussed:

* Requirements of IEC 60079-11 to Battery Packs comprising multiple Batteries
* Document requests from Issuing ExCBs by Receiving ExCBs. The IECEx OD-017 may be revised to provide guidance.
* Identification of Ancillary Devices and Marking Identification. An ad-hoc group was created to consider this matter.
* Results from the IECEx Proficiency Testing Scheme
* Proposed Amendment to IECEx 02
* Industry Feedback/Request regarding Assemblies
* IEC 60079-15 application: topic for which a draft decision sheet will be prepared.

We then received reports on the status of activities in the ExTAG Working Groups:

* WG 01 looks after preparation and maintenance of ExTRs.

It was especially agreed to consider the inclusion of date of tests performance within the ExTRs in order to comply with requirements of IEC/ISO 17025 and expectations of some accreditation bodies.

* WG 03 is responsible for OD 017 on Documentation and Drawing Requirements.

It was noted the publication of a revised document and the continuation of the work to take into account additional comments.

* WG 06 is responsible of rules of procedures for Testing at Other Locations

It was discussed and agreed the proposed revision of OD 024 and the creation of a specific register to be available on the IECEx website, along with the need of revision to OD 033 to include OD 024 and ATF references.

* WG 10 deals with Proficiency testing.

Mr. Tim Krause gave a presentation on the progress and results of the recent proficiency testing programs and the current work for new programs. It was also presented the proposed revision of OD 202, on which the members agreed.

* WG 14 is looking at policies Certification of Ex Equipment Assemblies

After presentation of the report it was agreed to keep the group active with adjustment of its scope.

* ExTAG AdhocWG1 is dealing with Modular concept for electrical Ex Equipment

After some discussion it was agreed by the member to recommend ExMC to proceed for the publication process of this new OD proposal

* ExTAG WG 12 is dedicated to the requirements for Retention of Records

The convenor explained that some comments were received and this could be an opportunity to start a revision work of the document. The member agreed on this proposal.

I would like to thank all convenors and members of these working groups for their effort and work on all these essential matters.

We then worked on the ExTAG decisions sheets.

After noting the current list of DS and draft decision sheets which were withdrawn by the originator the since last meeting, members went through the list of Decisions Sheets under the 5 year reconfirmation maintenance procedure (4 were retained and 2 withdrawn).

We then discussed the proposed revision of OD035. The members agreed to recommend that ExMC approves the publication with the minor changes proposed during the meeting.

Regarding the draft Decision Sheets under consideration, they have been discussed during the meeting. Many inputs were noted by members. The results are to:

* published 2 new decision sheets
* slightly revised 3 proposals before to proceed for publication on Chairman approval
* transfer one proposal to the relevant IEC Maintenance Team

**The following points are specifically referred to ExMC at this time:**

1. ExTAG support the alignment of the rules with others IECEx Committees by modifying the position of *ExTAG Secretary* to *ExTAG Deputy Chair*, with IECEx Secretariat handling the position until review of the rules.
2. ExTAG recommend ExMC to assign the task of revision of :
   1. OD 012 regarding uncertainty
   2. OD 033 to include OD 024 and ATF references
   3. OD 207 relative to retention of records
3. ExTAG supports the proposed revised edition of :
   1. IECEx 02 (ExMC/1517/DV)
   2. OD 024 (ExTAG/553/CD)
   3. OD 202 (ExTAG/574/CD) with consideration of US comment
   4. OD 035 (ExMC/1514/DV) with addition during ExTAG meeting
4. ExTAG recommend ExMC to proceed to the publication process for the new OD proposal relative to Modular concept for electrical Ex Equipment (ExTAG/583/R).

**Additional information:** I also recommend ExMC to get in contact with organization IMO/IACS, as there could be common interest with IECEx.

***J. Gauthier***

***ExTAG Secretary***