ExTAG(Washington/ExTAGChairman)06

**ExTAG Chairman’s Report to ExMC – 30 September 2017**

This is a brief summary of the ExTAG Meetings that took place on 25thand 26th of September 2017at Washington under the kind hospitality of US national committee.

Before the Assessors’ Training Workshop on Monday afternoon, we held the informal ExTAG training session covering the following presentations and discussions:

1. The first presentation from Mr Mark Amos, IECEx secretariat, provided an update of current and new web based tools to assist in the creation and maintenance of IECEx On-Line Certificates of Conformity and reminders of key issues.
2. The second presentation from Mr Paul Kelly UL/US, provided guidance about the application of the new IEC TS 60079-46 dedicated to equipment assemblies.
3. The third presentation from Mr Ron Sinclair, SGS Baseefa/UK, addressed test, assessment and certification of non-electrical equipment according to ISO/IEC 80079 series.
4. The fourth presentation from Mr. Krause and Ms. Zater, PTB/DE, focused on status and operation of the IECEx Proficiency Testing Program and associated outcomes.
5. The fifth presentation from Mr. Jim Munro (AU) and Mr. Julien Gauthier, LCIE/FR, ExTAG Secretary, was intended to be a discussion forum dedicated to application of IEC 60079-0 Clause 26.1 applicable to the omission of certain tests judged to be unnecessary.

I would remind that all presentations are available on the dedicated meeting [website](http://washington2017.iecex.com/events/washington/meeting-documents/presentations/). Please also note that a summary of discussions held during the training workshop is also available on the website under reference ExTAG(Washington/Training)05 published as a green paper.

It was a really successful training workshop and was much appreciated with the active participation of members during discussions.

At our formal session on Tuesday, we began with 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 in the 2017 IECEx Report Card (as circulated to ExMC Members as ExMC/1234/R) during 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:

* Use of ISO/IEC 80079-38.

The decision of the last meeting was confirmed to delay the use of ISO/IEC 80079-38 in the IECEx 02 Equipment Scheme for certification purposes until publication of Edition 2, in noting the demand from a number of ExCBs for inclusion in their scope.

* Use of new IEC Standard IEC 62784

Members considered the Discussion Paper circulated as ExMC/1290/CD and comments from Mr Coppler, TC31 Chairman, on more recent discussions of amendment to IEC 62784, including its future maintenance. After discussion, it was agreed that an amendment to the new standard IEC 62784 could resolve the concerns raised and to not use this standard within IECEx scheme until publication of the amendment.

* Assemblies containing both electrical and non-electrical items and use of IEC TS 60079-46

We discussed the question of assessment and certification of Ex Assemblies that incorporate both electrical and non-electrical equipment, noting the provisions of Clause 8 in OD 280 and the requirement of recently published IEC TS 60079-46. We agreed to support the use of IEC TS 60079-46 for certification purpose. We also considered the possible need for revisions of IECEx Rules and ODs and agreed to establish a Working Group (to be convened by Mr Paul Kelly) to consider a possible revision of existing DS 2015/001A regarding the publication of IEC TS 60079-46 and recommendations for transitional period. We also agreed that DS2015/001A will be retained for use by ExCBs until further notice and recommended that scope extension for IEC TS 60079-46 should be an administrative extension for ExCBs already accepted to DS 2015/001A and non-electrical standards IEC 80079-36 and IEC 80079-37.

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

* WG 01 looks after the preparation of ExTR formats.

Mr. Paul Kelly, the convener of the WG, presented the report regarding publication of ExTR formats and current activities. We noted the work done regarding ExTR blank format and especially imbedded hyperlinks for all applicable published Decision Sheets. It was also discussed the route that should follow revision of OD prepared by the WG. It was agreed that a document to clarify the process for preparation, consultation and approval of IECEx Operational Documents, particularly where these are initially proposed and/or prepared by an ExTAG Working Group could be useful. Professor Xu, the ExTAG Chairman suggested that this may be part of next revision of OD 031. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Paul Kelly and other members of the working group for the continuing good work.

* WG 03 is responsible for OD 017 on drawings and documentation guidance.

The group received a report Mr Ron Webb, the convener of the WG, regarding the maintenance of IECEx OD 017 and the Chairman thanked them for their work and suggested that the next edition include guidance for non-electrical standards and etc. It was highlighted that this document is used as a guidance by manufacturers, and should also be used by ExCBs and ExTLs teams.

* WG 10 deals with Proficiency testing.

Mr. Tim Krause, the convener of the WG, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the progress and results of the recent proficiency testing programs, including the number of participant laboratories for each program. He also presented the main changes in the new proposed revision of OD 202. After discussions and comments raised, the members agreed to support the proposed revision, noting that a number of later comments should be considered in a further revision. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Tim Krause and other members of the working group for the continuing good work.

* WG12 is looking at policies related to retention of records.

The group noted the publication of IECEx OD 207 and the chairman thanked Mr. Jasmin Omerovic and other members of the working group for their good work. The members agreed that the WG remains on standby for any further need of revision. It was also questioned the application of the requirements since the publication and agreed that procedure should be in place within ExCBs and ExTLs quality system to ensure for next records to be maintain in compliance with OD requirements.

In noting the current list of DS available, four were published and two were updated since last Umhlanga meeting. We then went through the review of many DS or proposals. We firstly confirmed the existing DS falling under the 5 year review, noting the DS 2012/006 shall be revised to include the OD 005-3, and the DS 2010/008 may need a review considering that IEC 60079-7 has been revised since the issue of this DS.

We also discussed the document OD035 Ed. 2.0, for the preparation and approval of DS. The members agreed that there is a need for guidance in IECEx OD 035 on the process of “formally withdrawing” a draft DS where rejected after circulation. A proposal presented during the meeting would be completed, if need of revision is agreed by ExMC, with other comments before circulation for consideration.

Regarding the draft DSs under consideration, they have been discussed during the meeting. Many inputs were noted by members. The results are to confirm three, forward three others to the originator for review before possible re-circulation, withdraw two proposals (mainly because the members agreed they were not relevant to ExTAG and should be forwarded to IEC TC 31) and wait for TC31 WG22 position before publication of one DS. Four last recent proposals will be circulated through the regular process.

In the closed session, which took place in the second half of the morning, it has been discussed the co-operation between IECEx bodies. After discussions, it was agreed Members agreed that notification (requiring acknowledgment receipt) be issued to all accepted IECEx bodies regarding their obligations under IECEx Rules as they apply to IECEx System as a certification system based on conformity with Standards.

Technical issues were also discussed, relative to 3D printing, risk of ignition from lithium batteries and thermocatalytic sensors. It was agreed that new draft Decision Sheets for those subjects would be prepared following discussion and then be circulated for comments.

Finally, it has been reminded to ExCBs to ensure a good follow-up of QARs and their obligations when managing Certificates that have been “Suspended”. It was also agreed by the members that ExCBs should be in the position to assist with market enquiries regarding products that they have certified, as this is part of their obligations.

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

1. ExTAG supports the nomination of Professor Xu as ExTAG Chaiman.
2. ExTAG suggests that subsequent discussions at the 2017 ExMC meeting consider the ExTAG view that amendment to the new standard IEC 62784 may resolve the concerns raised on this matter.
3. ExTAG supports the use of IEC TS 60079-46 for certification purpose, and agreed that DS2015/001A should be retained for transitional period.
4. ExTAG recommends that scope extension for IEC TS 60079-46 be an administrative extension for ExCBs already accepted to DS 2015/001A and non-electrical standards ISO 80079-36 and ISO 80079-37.
5. ExTAG recommends that guidance to clarify the process for preparation, consultation and approval of IECEx Operational Documents maybe included in next revision of OD 031.
6. ExTAG supports the document ExMC/1259/CD regarding a draft OD Suspension and Cancellation of IECEx Certificates of Conformity, and agreed to recommend to the ExMC that the draft Operational Document proceed to publication.
7. ExTAG recommends that operational document IECEx OD035 be revised to include guidance regarding handling of Decision Sheets that are rejected.
8. ExTAG supports the proposed revised edition of IECEx Operational Document OD 202 relative to IECEx Proficiency Testing Program circulated as ExMC/1292/DV and agreed to recommend to the ExMC that the draft Operational Document proceed to publication (also considering some comments may be incorporated in a further revision).