



ExMC/1491/R
2019-05

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

**Title: Working Group WG 8 – ‘Regulatory Acceptance’, Singapore 2019,
Meeting Agenda and Report**

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the report of the 8 May 2019 meeting of ExMC WG 8 held in Singapore as part of the 2019 IECEx series of Operational Meetings.

The report includes the following recommendations which will be presented for ExMC consideration during the September 2019 Dubai Meeting.

Recommendation 1: That ExMC agree that in re-activating this WG8 those attending the May 2019 meeting become Members of WG8 with the Secretary to issue a follow up call to ExMC Member Bodies for nominations of Regulatory experts to join WG8, noting that remote participation in the WG8 work is available.

Recommendation 2: That ExMC supports WG8 work to explore the provision of a dedicated Regulatory User Platform for communication among Ex Regulators, noting the IECQ Avionics User Forum <https://www.iecqhub.org/> as an example.

IECEx Secretariat

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ExMC WG 8 – IECEX ‘Regulatory Acceptance’

REPORT AND MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday 8th May 2019, (09:00 to 12:30) at
IEC APRC, Singapore**

Attendance:

Mr. Frank Lienesch – Convenor	PTB
Mr. Chris Agius	IECEX Executive Secretary
Mr. Heinz Berger	CERTICONSULT
Dr. Jianping XU	IECEX ExTAG Chairman/ NEPSI
Mr Jukka Hannuksela	ABB Motors and Mechanical Inc.
Mr. Evans Massey	ABB Motors and Generators
Dr. Jim Munro	JMIC
Mr. Giovanni H. Borges	Brazilian National Committee
Mr. Thierry Houeix	IECEX Treasurer / INERIS
Dr. Thorsten Arnhold	IECEX Chairman / STAHL
Mr. Marty Cole	IECEX Vice Chairman / Hubbell

Meeting Report + AGENDA

1. Opening by Convenor, Mr Frank Lienesch

The convenor opened the meeting at 0900am welcoming members noting that this is somewhat of a re-activation of the group, as it has been dormant for some time and the issue of addressing needs of the regulators as an important stakeholder.

2. Review of Membership

In reviewing the membership of this group, the meeting agreed that given the re-activation that those attending this meeting be proposed to the ExMC as the membership plus a special call out to Member Bodies to seek nominations via the MBs especially with experts from Regulatory Bodies.

Recommendation 1: That ExMC agree that in re-activating this WG8 those attending the May 2019 meeting become Members of WG8 with the Secretary to issue a follow up call to ExMC Member Bodies for nominations of Regulatory experts to join WG8, noting that remote participation in the WG8 work is available.

Mr Massey noted the challenges in having regulators attending meeting and we should look at use of remote participation via web based links.

The meeting took a discussion on the possible value to the community in considering the provision of a social media platform, controlled by the IECEx, dedicated for the regulatory interest as part of the IECEx outreach to regulatory stakeholders. This maybe considered as an extension to the provision of information on IECEx and related matters.

Recommendation 2: That ExMC supports WG8 work to explore the provision of a dedicated Regulatory User Platform for communication among Ex Regulators, noting the IECQ Avionics User Forum <https://www.iecqhub.org/> as an example.

3. Review

The Convenor gave the meeting a review of the history of this WG8 over the past 10 years noting the origins and work of WG8 especially in the development of the UNECE CROs.

4. Report of UNECE WP.6

The Convenor gave a presentation on the work of UNECE WP.6 noting the excellent cooperation between IECEx and UNECE via the CROs (now called CRA) and the annual conferences jointly run between IECEx and UNECE.

The meeting then took a discussion whether or not IECEx is seen as being supportive of Market Surveillance and Regulatory oversight as conducted by the Regulators noting the various tools available such as "On-Line" Certificate system for immediate checking of certificates and access to a summary of the Test Report and QAR.

The meeting also noted that there is a need to clearly define what is meant by “Market Surveillance” as IECEx is considered to be conducting marketing surveillance by way of on-going checking of Labs and Certification Bodies plus on-going sample checking of issued Certificates. The meeting also noted the process used by IECEx when receiving an inquiry or complaint and the mechanism of the ExTAG group to deal with matters when there is a disagreement among bodies.

The meeting resolved that it would be beneficial for a brief document to be available that summaries the process of dealing with matters of non-compliance that may be brought to the attention of the IECEx.

ACTION: The Secretariat to prepare an IECEx Informative Guide that outlines the current features and facilities of IECEx and how it can interact with National Regulatory arrangements in light of concerns over non-compliance matters and deal with market surveillance issues.

5. Upcoming work/next steps

- Cooperation with market surveillance
- Promotion of the new CRA

The Convener introduced the new United Nations CRA (Common Regulatory Arrangements) as Edition 2.0 to the current United Nations CRO (Common Regulatory Objectives), noting that the new United Nations CRA publication is an update of the October 2010 edition of the CRO.

The Convenor further noted that the new CRA includes reference to latest IECEx offerings and also the IECEx Proficiency Testing Program.

The meeting noted that this CRA is proceeding for publication.

In separate discussions the meeting noted that there would be value in including a clear statement that indicates if there are any questions concerning an IECEx Certificate such inquiries should be brought to the attention of the manufacturer and ExCB. If the ExCB is not responding or helpful then the matter should be brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

6. Other Business

6.1 OIML / IECEx Cooperation

The Secretary informed the status of the cooperation with OIML and the newly formed Joint Working Group of OIML/IECEx and that the first meeting of this new group is planned for September 2019 during the IECEx Dubai meetings.

The Secretary informed that we are at an early stage and that there are a number of possibilities for cooperation which will be explored and referred back to the ExMC.

6.2 ILAC/IAF MoU

The Secretary informed the meeting of recent discussions between IEC and IAF concerning IAF Resolution 2018/013 concerning the issue of unaccredited certificates and that a Joint Communiqué is being finalised between IEC and IAF to clarify that this IAF Resolution does not apply to Scheme operated by IEC.

6.3 View on the IECEx Conformity Mark from a Regulatory perspective

The Convener requested a brief discussion on the issue of the IECEx Mark regarding possible application of the IECEx Mark. The Convener advised that while it is a voluntary Mark having such a Mark can be a useful tool that is available for use by Regulators and Industry but would support a much more simple system.

7. Next meeting of ExMC WG8

Agreed to hold the next meeting with the 2020 series of Operational Meetings in Shanghai and to note the availability of remote participation.

The Convener closed the meeting at 12.15pm.