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

**TITLE: IECEx Assessment Report for an extension of scope for Simtars Australia, an Accepted Certification Body (ExCB), and an Accepted Ex Testing Laboratory (ExTL), within the IECEx System Equipment Scheme 02, to include, IEC 60079-26,**

**IEC 60079-28 and IEC 60079-33 in their scope.**

**Circulation to: Members of the IECEx Management Committee, ExMC**

**INTRODUCTION**

This document contains the IECEx Assessment Report for Simtars Australia, an Accepted Certification Body (ExCB), and an Accepted Ex Testing Laboratory (ExTL) within the IECEx System, Equipment Scheme 02, to include the following Standards within their scope.

| **Number** | **Title** | **Scope** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IEC 60079-26 Ed. 2 | Explosive atmospheres - Part 26: Equipment with equipment protection level (EPL) Ga | Extension |
| IEC 60079-28 Ed. 2 | Explosive atmospheres - Part 28: Protection of equipment and transmission systems using optical radiation | Extension |
| IEC 60079-33 Ed. 1 | Explosive atmospheres - Part 33: Equipment protection by special protection 's' | Extension |

The report is hereby submitted for voting by the ExMC.

***This document is hereby submitted for ExMC approval via correspondence using the IECEx on-line voting system.  ExMC Members are requested to submit their vote via the IECEx On-line*** [***Ballot System***](https://www.iecex.com/ballot) ***by the closing date 2020 09 25***

***Please refer to OD 050 for guidance on the “IECEx On-line voting system.”***

***Chris Agius***

**IECEx Secretariat**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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IEC System for certification to standards relating to equipment for use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx System)

IECEx Assessment Report Form

IECEx Assessment Report Form for use by IECEx Assessment Teams to report Assessments conducted according to the IECEx Assessment Procedures of

1. Operational Document IECEx OD 003-2 for the Certified Equipment Scheme
2. Operational Document IECEx OD 016 for the Certified Service Facility Scheme
3. Operational Document IECEx OD 022 for the IECEx Conformity Mark Licensing System

IECEx ExCB/ExTL assessment report for

Simtars Australia

2 Robert Smith Street  
REDBANK QLD 4301

Australia

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

CONTENTS

[1 Assessment information 5](#_Toc40883769)

[1.1 Type of Body covered by this assessment: 5](#_Toc40883770)

[1.2 Type of assessment: <retain appropriate marks> 5](#_Toc40883771)

[1.3 Details of body 5](#_Toc40883772)

[1.3.1 Country 5](#_Toc40883773)

[1.3.2 Name of body 5](#_Toc40883774)

[1.3.3 Name and title of nominated principal contact 5](#_Toc40883775)

[1.4 Assessment information 5](#_Toc40883776)

[1.4.1 Members of the assessment team 5](#_Toc40883777)

[1.4.2 Place(s) of assessment 5](#_Toc40883778)

[1.4.3 Assessment date(s) 5](#_Toc40883779)

[1.5 Scope 5](#_Toc40883780)

[1.5.1 ExCB scope for equipment certification scheme 5](#_Toc40883781)

[1.5.2 ExTL scope 6](#_Toc40883782)

[2 Common information 7](#_Toc40883783)

[2.1 Legal entity of body 7](#_Toc40883784)

[2.2 Financial support 7](#_Toc40883785)

[2.3 History 7](#_Toc40883786)

[2.4 Documentation 7](#_Toc40883787)

[2.4.1 Quality manual 7](#_Toc40883788)

[2.4.2 Procedures 7](#_Toc40883789)

[2.4.3 Work instructions 7](#_Toc40883790)

[2.4.4 Records (including test records where relevant) 7](#_Toc40883791)

[2.4.5 Document change control 7](#_Toc40883792)

[2.5 Confidentiality 7](#_Toc40883793)

[2.6 Publications (Hard cover and Electronic) 7](#_Toc40883794)

[2.7 Recognition and agreements 7](#_Toc40883795)

[2.8 Internal audit and periodic management review 7](#_Toc40883796)

[2.9 Contracting, subcontracting, use of other labs and use of other locations 7](#_Toc40883797)

[2.10 Training and competence 7](#_Toc40883798)

[2.11 Complaints and appeals (including appeals to IECEx) 8](#_Toc40883799)

[2.12 Special facts to be noted 8](#_Toc40883800)

[2.12.1 Supporting documentation 8](#_Toc40883801)

[2.13 Recommendations 8](#_Toc40883802)

[3 ExCB for IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme 9](#_Toc40883803)

[3.1 Assessment references 9](#_Toc40883804)

[3.2 ExCB persons interviewed 9](#_Toc40883805)

[3.3 Associated ExTL(s) 9](#_Toc40883806)

[3.4 Associated certification functions 9](#_Toc40883807)

[3.5 National marks and certificates 9](#_Toc40883808)

[3.6 Standards accepted 9](#_Toc40883809)

[3.7 National differences to IEC standards 9](#_Toc40883810)

[3.8 Organisation 10](#_Toc40883811)

[3.8.1 Names, titles and experience of the senior executives 10](#_Toc40883812)

[3.8.2 Name, title and experience of the quality management representative 10](#_Toc40883813)

[3.8.3 Name and title of signatories for certification 10](#_Toc40883814)

[3.8.4 Other employees in ExCB activity 10](#_Toc40883815)

[3.9 Organizational structure 10](#_Toc40883816)

[3.10 Administration 10](#_Toc40883817)

[3.10.1 Administrative structure 10](#_Toc40883818)

[3.10.2 Indemnity insurance 10](#_Toc40883819)

[3.11 Resources 10](#_Toc40883820)

[3.12 Committees (such as governing or advisory boards) 10](#_Toc40883821)

[3.13 Certification operations 11](#_Toc40883822)

[3.13.1 National approval/certification methods 11](#_Toc40883823)

[3.13.2 Certification policy 11](#_Toc40883824)

[3.13.3 Application for certification 11](#_Toc40883825)

[3.13.4 Certification decision 11](#_Toc40883826)

[3.13.5 Suspension and cancellation of certificates 11](#_Toc40883827)

[3.14 Certificates issued 11](#_Toc40883828)

[3.15 National accreditation 11](#_Toc40883829)

[3.16 Assessment of manufacturers and issue of QARs 11](#_Toc40883830)

[3.17 Comments (including issues found during assessment) 11](#_Toc40883831)

[4 ExTL for IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme 12](#_Toc40883832)

[4.1 Assessment references 12](#_Toc40883833)

[4.2 ExTL persons interviewed 12](#_Toc40883834)

[4.3 Associated ExCB(s) 12](#_Toc40883835)

[4.4 Organisation 12](#_Toc40883836)

[4.4.1 Names, titles and experience of the senior executives 12](#_Toc40883837)

[4.4.2 Name, title and experience of the quality management representative 12](#_Toc40883838)

[4.4.3 Other employees in ExTL activity 12](#_Toc40883839)

[4.5 Organizational structure 13](#_Toc40883840)

[4.6 Resources 13](#_Toc40883841)

[4.7 Test reports issued 13](#_Toc40883842)

[4.8 National accreditation 13](#_Toc40883843)

[4.9 Calibration 13](#_Toc40883844)

[4.10 Proficiency 13](#_Toc40883845)

[4.11 Comments (including issues found during assessment) 13](#_Toc40883846)

# Assessment information

## Type of Body covered by this assessment:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ExCB for IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme | ✓ |
| ExTL for IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme | ✓ |
| ExCB for IECEx Certified Service Facilities Scheme | ✓ |
| ExCB for IECEx Conformity Mark Licensing System | ✓ |

NOTE 1 ExCB - IECEx Certification Body

NOTE 2 ExTL - IECEx Testing Laboratory

## Type of assessment: <retain appropriate marks>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pre-assessment for candidate body |  |
| Initial assessment for candidate body |  |
| Surveillance |  |
| Re-assessment |  |
| Scope extension | ✓ |

## Details of body

### Country

Australia

### Name of body

Simtars Australia

### Name and title of nominated principal contact

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **E-mail address** |
| Geoff Barnier | Principal Engineer - Certification | geoff.barnier@Simtars.com.au  Tel: +61 7 3810 6399  Fax:+61 7 3810 6366 |

## Assessment information

### Members of the assessment team

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role (modify as necessary)** |
| Thierry Houeix (INERIS) | Lead assessor |

### Place(s) of assessment

2 Robert Smith Street  
REDBANK QLD 4301  
Australia

### Assessment date(s)

20 April – 20 May 2020 by Remote Assessment

In light of the travel restrictions associated with COVID-19, this assessment was conducted as a remote assessment under the provisions of new IECEx OD 060.

## Scope

### ExCB scope for equipment certification scheme

| **Number** | **Title** | **Scope** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IEC 60079-26 Ed. 2 | Explosive atmospheres - Part 26: Equipment with equipment protection level (EPL) Ga | Extension |
| IEC 60079-28 Ed. 2 | Explosive atmospheres - Part 28: Protection of equipment and transmission systems using optical radiation | Extension |
| IEC 60079-33 Ed. 1 | Explosive atmospheres - Part 33: Equipment protection by special protection 's' | Extension |

### ExTL scope

The ExTL scope is the same as for the ExCB.

# Common information

## Legal entity of body

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Financial support

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## History

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Documentation

### Quality manual

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

### Procedures

The new standards have been incorporated into the Simtars manual and use documented procedures. The documents were checked during the assessment and found to meet the requirements of the IECEx

### Work instructions

Work instructions are included in the documents mentioned above.

### Records (including test records where relevant)

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

### Document change control

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Confidentiality

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Publications (Hard cover and Electronic)

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Recognition and agreements

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Internal audit and periodic management review

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Contracting, subcontracting, use of other labs and use of other locations

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Training and competence

There is a competency matrix for the IECEx Scheme. Interviews were undertaken with staff to ensure that they had the required level of understanding.

## Complaints and appeals (including appeals to IECEx)

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Special facts to be noted

### Supporting documentation

Copies of additional supporting information for this assessment have been provided to the applicant and the IECEx Secretariat. These are included in a site assessment report and include:

* Details of issues raised and how these have been resolved
* Assessors’ notes

## Recommendations

Based on the assessment performed on 20 April – 20 May 2020, Simtars Australia is recommended for continued acceptance in the IECEx scheme as :

* An ExCB in the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme with scope extension for   
  IEC 60079-26, IEC 60079-28 and IEC 60079-33.
* An ExTL in the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme with scope extension for  
  IEC 60079-26, IEC 60079-28 and IEC 60079-33

As this assessment was conducted as a remote assessment tests were not witnessed on site however, the experience and knowledge of SIMTARS as verified during the assessment by way of:

* Review of Documentation and past records;
* Detailed interviews with staff

Given that this assessment was conducted as a remote assessment, it is also noted that SIMTARS will be due for a 5 year re-assessment in 2021 where a site visit will be expected.

This is according to the scope of the standards listed in this document including the extension of scope.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Thierry Houeix |  |
| Lead Assessor |  |

Date: June 2020

# ExCB for IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme

## Assessment references

1. IECEx02IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme covering equipment for use in explosive atmospheres – Rules of Procedure
2. OD003-2Assessment, surveillance assessment and re-assessment of ExCBs and ExTLs operating in the IECEx 02, IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme
3. OD005-1IECEx Quality System Requirements for Manufacturers – Part 1: Guidance on the establishment and maintenance of a quality system
4. OD005-2IECEx Quality System Requirements for Manufacturers – Part 2: Audit Checklist.(This is available in a Word format for use by ExCBs)
5. ISO/IEC 80079-34 Edition 1, Explosive atmospheres – Part 34: Application of quality systems for equipment manufacture
6. OD009 Issuing of CoCs, ExTRs and QARs
7. IECEx Document OD 025Guidelines on the Management of Assessment and Surveillance programs for the assessment of Manufacturer’s Quality Systems in accordance with the IECEx Scheme
8. OD0026IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme – Guidelines for the qualification of Lead Auditor and Auditors, in accordance with the IECEx System
9. ISO/IEC 17065, General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems
10. IECEx Document OD17 Drawing and documentation guidance
11. IECEx Technical Capability Documents (TCD)
12. ExTAG decision sheets (DSs)

NOTE The latest editions of the above documents were applied

## ExCB persons interviewed

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Position |
| Bipin Parmar | Principal Engineer |

## Associated ExTL(s)

The ExTL is integral with the ExCB.

## Associated certification functions

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## National marks and certificates

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Standards accepted

See clause 1.5 of this report

## National differences to IEC standards

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Organisation

### Names, titles and experience of the senior executives

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Experience**  **Ex/Overall** |
| Nicolai Ahlstrand | Executive Director Simtars | Senior executive experience  Commenced Simtars 2016 |

### Name, title and experience of the quality management representative

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Experience** |
| David Turner | Director ETCC | SEQEB Quality Manager 1980 – 1987  Quality Management Consultant 1987 – 1995  Simtars Quality Manager 1995 – 1997  Simtars ETCC Manager/Director 1997 – 2000 and 2013 - present |

### Name and title of signatories for certification

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Comments** |
| Geoff Barnier | Principal Engineer - Certification | 30 years in Ex |

### Other employees in ExCB activity

| **Name** | **Title/responsibility** | **Experience in Ex** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bipin Parmar | Principal Engineer | QAR/FAR auditing, 29 years |
| John Ellis | Assessment Officer | QAR/FAR auditing, 22 years |
| Gunter Lenicek | Senior Engineer | QAR/FAR auditing, 25 years |
| Crispin Cannon | Independent Verifier | 20 years |
| Mario Dona | Independent Verifier | >20 years |
| Ralph Wigg | Independent Verifier | >39 years |

## Organizational structure

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Administration

### Administrative structure

Sufficient administrative assistance is provided

### Indemnity insurance

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Resources

Simtars Australia appears to have an adequate number of staff for the current level of business including technical staff knowledgeable in the new Standards for their scope extension.

## Committees (such as governing or advisory boards)

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Certification operations

### National approval/certification methods

Simtars has ANZEx national accreditation by JAS-ANZ for product certification scheme rules (MP87 parts 1 and 2) against ISO/IEC 17065. The scope can be shown on:

<https://www.jas-anz.org/accredited-bodies/organisation/cb2e4c9d-c9b3-e411-be4f-005056b24e56/information>

### Certification policy

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

### Application for certification

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

### Certification decision

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

### Suspension and cancellation of certificates

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Certificates issued

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## National accreditation

Application for National accreditation for standard involved in this scope extension has been made. The next surveillance will include IEC 60079-28 and IEC 60079-33. Due to the fact it is not today included, annual IECEx surveillance is required.

## Assessment of manufacturers and issue of QARs

Simtars already carry out QAN assessment of electrical equipment. This will be extended to cover QARs of products in accordance with IEC 60079-28 and IEC 60079-33. A training session for QA auditors will be undertaken when a product requiring compliance to IEC 60079-28 or IEC 60079-33 will be assessed.

## Comments (including issues found during assessment)

Minor issues were found which were cleared to the satisfaction of the assessment team during the assessment.

No issues requiring action remained.

# ExTL for IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme

## Assessment references

1. IECEx02 IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme covering equipment for use in explosive atmospheres – Rules of Procedure
2. IECEx OD003-2 Assessment, surveillance assessment and re-assessment of ExCBs and ExTLs operating in the IECEx 02, IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme
3. IECEx OD009 Issuing of CoCs, ExTRs and QARs
4. ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Edition 2,General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
5. IECEx Document OD17 Drawing and documentation guidance
6. IECEx Technical Capability Documents (TCD)
7. ExTAG decision sheets (DSs)

NOTE The latest editions of the above documents were applied.

## ExTL persons interviewed

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position** |
| Bipin Parmar | Principal Engineer |
| Anilesh Rai | Testing Officer |

## Associated ExCB(s)

The ExTL is integral with the ExCB

## Organisation

### Names, titles and experience of the senior executives

| **Name** | **Title** | **Experience** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nicolai Ahlstrand | Executive Director Simtars | Senior executive experience  Commenced Simtars 2016 |

### Name, title and experience of the quality management representative

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Experience** |
| David Turner | Director ETCC | SEQEB Quality Manager 1980 – 1987  Quality Management Consultant 1987 – 1995  Simtars Quality Manager 1995 – 1997  Simtars ETCC Manager/Director 1997 – 2000 and 2013 - present |

### Other employees in ExTL activity

| **Name** | **Title/responsibility** | **Experience in Ex** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bipin Parmar | Principal Engineer | 29 years |
| Anilesh Rai | Senior Engineering Officer | Ex testing > 8 years |
| Ahmad Abdullah | Engineering Officer | Ex testing > 2 years |
| David Soady | Senior Engineering Officer | Ex testing > 26 years |
| John Ellis | Principal Assessment Officer | Ex testing > 20 years |

## Organizational structure

See Annex A

## Resources

The assessment revealed that SIMTARS have enough trained people to perform the assessments and tests in accordance with the new Standards relating to the scope extension. The general matter of resources was also covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Test reports issued

The assessment noted long standing experience in assessment work for Ex s via the Australian Standard AS 1826.

The nominated SIMTARS personnel have performed more than 8 different tests in order to qualify for Optical Radiation according to IEC 60079-28.

Interviews were performed with SIMTARS personnel to determine their knowledge and understanding of the new Standards and it was determined that they have sufficient knowledge of the techniques used for IEC 60079-26, IEC 60079-28 and IEC 60079-33

As this is a scope extension assessment, the issue of number of test reports issued was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## National accreditation

Simtars is accredited by NATA to ISO/IEC 17025 for a range of laboratory testing. The scope can be seen on:

<https://www.nata.com.au/entity_scope/?AccNo=2681&q1=gcq&str=&&BEName=TR>

For the moment, the two standards subject of this scope extension assessment (IEC 60079-33 + IEC 60079-28) is not included in their NATA scope. However, AS 1826 which is close to IEC 60079-33 is included. It was also confirmed by Simtars that they will be included them in their annual surveillance.

## Calibration

Not relevant as this is a scope extension assessment. This was covered in the reassessment visit carried out on 10 /11 November 2016, ExMC/1315/R.

## Proficiency

Simtars partakes in the Proficiency testing organised by PTB.

## Comments (including issues found during assessment)

As this assessment was conducted as a remote assessment tests were not witnessed on site however, the experience and knowledge of SIMTARS as verified during the assessment by way of:

* Review of Documentation and past records;
* Detailed interviews with staff

Minor issues relating to the assignment and management of Independent Verifiers for IEC 60079-33 were found which were cleared to the satisfaction of the assessment team.

No issue requiring action remained after the off-site assessment