



ExMC/1606/Inf
July 2020

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

TITLE: Notification of issue of IEC Administrative Circular AC/23/2020

CIRCULATED TO:

**IECEX Management Committee, ExMC, IECEX Executive, IECEX Accepted
Certification Bodies (ExCBs) and Testing Laboratories (ExTL)**

IEC and the International Accreditation Forum, IAF, cooperate via a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU. In line with this cooperation, the IEC Conformity Assessment Board, CAB, has determined the need to request the IEC General Secretary's Office to issue a formal IEC Administrative Circular to clarify the situation concerning application of IAF Resolutions 2016-17; 2017-19 and 2018-13.

These resolutions seek to restrict Certification Bodies that are accredited by an IAF Accreditation Body member from issuing non-accredited certificates for activities that fall within their scope of national accreditation. Scope of accreditation includes both scheme and standard.

In this regard, Conformity Assessment activities (scheme and Standards/Specifications) operated within IECEX should NOT be within the scope of accreditation and therefore, these IAF Resolutions should not apply to activities operated within the IECEX.

IECEX Member Bodies and IECEX Member Certification Bodies are asked to note this IEC Administrative Circular and to inform the IECEX Secretariat of any concerns relating to this matter.

Chris AGIUS
IECEX Executive Secretary

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AC/23/2020

Administrative Circular

2020-06-19

To all:

National Committees

Technical committees, subcommittees, systems committees, and technical advisory committees

Officers of the IEC Conformity Assessment System

IAF Resolutions 2016-17, 2017-19 and 2018-13

Dear Sir/Madam,

The IEC Conformity Assessment (CA) Systems operate CA schemes in which profession certification bodies, from around the world, participate. Many of those certification bodies are accredited in their own countries by their national accreditation body. Most of those national accreditation bodies are members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Since 2016, IAF has passed three resolutions, 2016-17, 2017-19 and 2018-13 which apply legal conditions on certification bodies in scopes for which they are accredited.

Following formal dialogue with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), in which IAF confirmed the following:

- “IAF confirms that non-accredited schemes are not covered by IAF Resolution 2018-13.” (Ref: email from IAF Chair, 2020-04-05),
- “Decision 03/2019: When the IEC Scheme is not in the accredited scope of the certification body, the IAF resolutions 2016-17, 2017-19 and 2018-13 do not apply.” (Ref: Confirmed Minutes of the 2019-12-02 IEC-ILAC-IAF Steering Committee Meeting, document Steering/029/RM, 2019-12-12),

the IEC confirms that IAF Resolutions 2016-17, 2017-19 and 2018-13 are not applicable to IEC CA activities including the schemes operated by the IEC CA Systems.

Yours faithfully,

Philippe Metzger
General Secretary & CEO

DHA