**INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC) SYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION TO STANDARDS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT FOR**

**USE IN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES (IECEx SYSTEM)**

**TITLE: The Twenty Fourth Meeting of the ExTAG held remotely – 6th September and 7th September 2022**

**Circulated to: ExTAG – IECEx Testing and Assessment Group**

**Report of the Twenty Fourth of the 2022 ExTAG**

**held remotely.**

This document contains a Report of the 2022 ExTAG Remote Meeting, as well as an Annex A, “Action List”.

This document has been issued for information to ExTAG Members with a request that members please note the required actions.

***ExTAG Secretariat***

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| **Address:****IECEx Secretariat****Level 33 Australia Square****264 George Street****Sydney NSW 2000****Australia****Web:** [**www.iecex.com**](file://C:\Users\christine.kane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\christine.kane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\christine.kane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\christine.kane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Chris\AppData\christine.kane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\jugauthier\AppData\Local\Temp\notesC9812B\www.iecex.com) |

| **Country** | **Name** | **Organisation** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ExTAG Chair****ExTAG Deputy Chair****IECEx Executive Secretary****IEC TC31 Chair****IECEx Secretariat****IECEx Secretariat****IECEx Secretariat** | Frank LieneschJasmin OmerovicChris AgiusMartin ThedensMark AmosChristine KaneGeoff Slater | PTBULDIECExPTBIECExIECExIECEx |
| **AU** | Geoff BarnierJustin GavranichAjay MairaJim MunroGordana Ostojic | SimtarsEx Testing and CertificationEx Testing and Certification Jim Munro International Compliance Pty LtdTestSafe Australia |
| **BR** | Wilson BonatoGiovanni Hummel BorgesRoberval BulgarelliHenrique BurdEduardo GaleraRuediger Roepke | NCC Certificações do Brasil Ltda.HG InspeçoesConsultant‘Independent’UL do BrasilConsultant |
| **CA** | Brian WhittleKavinder DhillonDorin StochitoiuRob Kohuch | IntertekLab Test Certification Inc.CSA GroupQPS |
| **CH** | Thomas KoehntoppChristopher Hee | Eurofins SGS |
| **CN** | Chen HuangAlice Xiaoguang KouLi Zhongqiang Qiao Lu (aka Lucy Lu)Liu YangHong ZhaoMa ZhenyuProfessor Xu JianpingChao WuQiangqiang XuLijia LiuMerlin BaiQiao QinWang JunWeiyue WangChangqing RuYIN Hong | CCCMTCNEx/CQSTCMExCCQMNEPSINEPSICQMNEPSIEETICHEMCHEMEETIPCECCNEx/CQSTCHEMSQIPCEC |
| **CZ** | Lukas Martinak | FTZU |
| **DE** | Thorsten ArnholdBernd LimbacherNils BleshoyKlauspeter GraffiUlrich JacobsTim KrauseChristian RoderOtto WalchMichael Wittler Maria BrodelRaymond Puppan | R. StahlR. StahlPepperl+Fuchs GmbHTÜV RheinlandTÜV SUD PTBTUV NordR. STAHLDEKRAPTBDKE |
| **ES**  | Sergio DomeneJuan Carlos SanchoAngel VegaYohan Echeverri | LOM (Sergio DC)?LOMLOMLOM |
| **FI** | Jenni Hirvelä | Eurofins Expert Services Oy |
| **FR** | Julien GauthierThierry HoueixMathieu LestéBejamin GoyOlivier CottinBernard PiquetteMichel BrenonAmel Meddour | LCIE Bureau VeritasINERISLCIE Bureau VeritasINERISINERISINERISE and E GCESchlumberger |
| **GB** | Nicholas LudlamRonald SinclairAdrian SmartNeil SulemJohn AllenSimon BarrowcliffRoger JonesTom Stack  | FM ApprovalsSGS Baseefa LtdIntertekElement Materials TechnologyExPCC ChairElementNOVBSI (IEC/TC 31 Sec) |
| **GR** | Nikos Katiforis | KR Hellas Ltd  |
| **HR** | Stipo DerekMarino Kelava | Fiditas Ltd.Fiditas Ltd. |
| **IL** | Ilan Cohen | ITL |
| **IN** | Ajit KarandikarRavi ParanjpeMohit JanoiyaVikram Paranjpe | KarandikarKarandikar KLPLBISKarandikar |
| **IR** | Zahra ShadravananSaman JamshidiSeyed Mohsen Mirsadri Elaheh BaratchiAghil Ahmadi IranAli Mozafari Sabeti Mohammadreza Ashrafi  | MB delegateEPILEPILEPIL\National Iraninan Oil Engineering CompanyNational Iranian Oil Company Iran |
| **IT** | Alessandro FedatoManuela GrassiPaolo Luigi ParaboschiDionisio BucchieriFrancesco Esposito | CESIIMQ S.p.AIMQ EurofinsIQM |
| **JP** | Minari KoganeSungmi Jung Takuro KuboYuuki Muto | TIISTIISTIISEndress+Hauser Gruppe |
| **KR** | Jeong-il KangDongjin KimKi Ho LeeGyeong-jin Giho ShinSang-cheol LeeJong-hyun, KimYong-won ChoiHyonggilDaesik MoonJack Park | KOSHAKTL KOSHAKOSHAKGSKSCKGSKTLKSCKSCICR |
| **MY** | Ariza Binti Mohd YusofM.K SabranVillalan Ramasamy  | SIRIM QASSIRIMDTM |
| **NL** | Marco Erdhuizen Fred LankampKarel NelemanRichard Schuller | QPSCNEX-Global B.VBARTECDEKRA Certification B.V |
| **NO** | Asle KaastadStåle Sandstad  | DNV GL Presafe ASDNV GL Presafe AS |
| **PL** | Krzysztof SinkaDamian Wrobel | KSCPJSH |
| **RO** | Sorin BurianMarius Darie | INCD-INSEMEX PetrosaniINCD-INSEMEX |
| **RU** | Yulia TikhonenkoAnna TimofeevaAlexander Zalogin | NANIO CCVERU IECEx MB NANIO CCVE |
| **SE** | Peter BremerHussni Al-Farra | RISERISE |
| **SI** | Matej Debenc | SIQ |
| **TR** | Ümit SevimOzgur MandaogluMerve OzyukselSezai DoganEcem Gülden | Turkish Standards InstitutionTSE TSETSETSE |
| **US** | Katy HoldredgeScott KiddleMike Slowinske Kevin Wolf David MalohnIgor RakonjacJeremy MaxwellMike Barrett Olha ZvarychVenkataram Ranganathan Duraivelu | UL LLCUSNC/IECEx ChairUL LLCIntertek ULEurofins E&E NAEurofins E&E NA NemkoULUL LLC |
| **ZA** | Paul Meanwell Terine OrsmondRegardt ZeelieEldon KrugerRoelof ViljoenMark Sadler  | IECEx Chair Komatsu MiningMASCMASCMASCMASC |

The Twenty Fourth Meeting of the ExTAG held remotely
06th September 2022 and 07th September 2022

Prior to the meeting Mr. Mark Amos asked the attendees to edit their meeting ID tag to include the full name, the two-digit country code and the name of the organization so he could identify the participants and assign the attendees to their countries and organizations.

The attendees asked Mr. Amos for assistance regarding the changes in the meeting ID. Mr. Amos guided the attendees through the system and explained to go to “your name” in the right hands corner in the ZOOM meeting platform and click on the three white dots in the blues screen. He explained to choose the option “rename” and there it is possible to retype the details. He asked the attendees to do so and thanked.

Moreover, it was agreed between Mr. Mark Amos and Mr. Chris Agius that Mr. Amos would prepare the Decision List and Mr. Chris Agius would share the agenda on the screen.

1 Opening and Welcome

*1.1* Opening and Welcome, *ExTAG Chair*

 The meeting commenced at 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 Tuesday 6th September 2022.

The Chair, Dr. Lienesch, welcomed all attendees, including colleagues, members, and observers to the 24th IECEx TAG meeting.

He then expressed his appreciation for the large number of participants. It demonstrates that the idea of a global approach to explosion protection cannot be destroyed by all the negative circumstances that are happening in the world these days.

He acknowledged the IECEx Secretariat team for the preparation of the meeting and gave a special thanks also in the name of the Deputy Chair Mr. Jasmin~~e~~ Omerovic to Ms. Christine Kane, Mr. Chris Agius and Ms. Maria Brodel for their support over the last year. He also showed appreciation for all colleagues who prepared, checked, discussed etc. the various documents over the last period. He thanked for the effort and the additional work.

He outlined that the success of IECEx TAG depends on a good relationship with our partners and acknowledged the following attendees the IECEx Chair Mr. Paul Meanwell, the TC 31 Chair Mr. Martin Thedens, the TC 31 Liaison to IECEx Mr. Mark Coppler, Members of the IECEx Executive, Members of IEC Conformity Assessment Board, Members of the Conformity Assessment Board CAB, Fellow ExTAG Members and with a special welcome to Delegates those who attending ExTAG for the first time.

He expressed his regret that the meeting could not take place in person and hoped that the next meeting would take place face to face.

He thanked IEC ExTAG Deputy Chair Mr. Jasmin Omerovic for his excellent work and invited him to take the floor.

Mr. Jasmin Omerovic acknowledged and appreciated introductory words and welcomed all colleagues to the week's annual meetings saying good morning, afternoon and evening which ever was appropriate to the attendee’s time zone. He expressed his pleasure to meet everyone even if it is only remote and hoped the next meeting will be different. He welcomed those who was a part of the IECEx TAG success in the past and those delegates and colleagues who attend the meeting for the very first time. He expressed his anticipation for the work of the coming days, the discussions, and decisions which will be taken. He then handed the floor to the ExTAG Chair Mr. Frank Lienesch.

Mr. Frank Lienesch thanked and continued that as the meetings continue to grow, and, to maintain the excellent reporting on the meetings, the IECEx Secretariat is planning to record an audio of this meeting but only for the purposes to enable them to prepare and confirm the report. He emphasised that this was not for any other purpose and would not be available for distribution.

The Chair reminded the meeting of the composition of the membership of ExTAG, as being Accepted ExCBs, Accepted ExTLs and Applicant ExCBs and ExTLs which were accepted to the IECEx Equipment Scheme - IECEx 02. He also welcomed exports from non- ExTAG ExCBs and ExTLs as Observers.

He pointed out that certain rules are necessary for a successful meeting and asked Mr. Agius, IECEx Secretariat, to explain those.

Firstly Mr. Agius welcomed everybody and especially newcomers. He also expressed his hopes about this remote video would be the last one and his anticipation to meeting face to face with the colleagues.

Mr. Agius underlined that the proceedings will be recorded and informed that at the end of agenda items required a decision, Mr. Mark Amos will record a decision in agreement with the ExTAG members. The benefit is that at the end of the meeting the list of confirmed decisions will be completed. In addition, he asked to use the “raise your hand” function provided the ZOOM meeting platform instead of using the chat for contributions. He noted the revised agenda ExTAG/681A/DA that has been circulated and posted on the 2022 meeting website along with all meeting documents. As part of the video recording, the ZOOM system helps to record the attendance list. The attendees were asked to edit their meeting ID tag in order to officially register them as a participant in this session.

2 Approval of the Agenda

**Document noted**:

* **[ExTAG/681A/DA](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4092) –** Draft Agendathe Twenty Forth Meeting of the ExTAG to be held remotely.

The Chair sought approval of the draft agenda advising that the latest version has been circulated and posted on the website.

He reminded that while in the past the ExTAG meeting had provided for a closed session for ExTAG members only, that is representatives of ExCBs and ExTLs, in finalising this agenda as there have been no request for these items requiring a closed session, none would be held.

In conclusion the meeting recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2022/01**

Members approved the Draft Agenda of the 24th ExTAG Meeting as circulated as ExTAG/681A/DA.

3 Report of the ExTAG Remote 2021 Meeting

***3.1*** To note the report of the last meeting held remotely 31st August and 1st September 2021, and subsequent action items from the meeting.

**Document noted:**

* [**ExTAG/664/DL**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/3814) **–** Decision List of The Twenty Third Meeting of the ExTAG

held in webinar format on 31st August and 1st September 2021.

* [**ExTAG/667/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/3996) **–** Report of the Twenty Third of the ExTAG

held remotely.

The Chair asked the meeting to note documents ExTAG/664/DL – *Decision List of The Third Meeting of the ExTAG* and ExTAG/667/R – *Report of The Twenty Third Meeting of the ExTAG* held remotely on 31st August and 1st September 2021. As there were no comments on the Report during the session, or received after circulation, the Chair noted confirmation of the report and moved to the next item.

In conclusion the meeting recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2022/02**

Members noted the Meeting Report and Decision List from the 2021 ExTAG Meeting as circulated as ExTAG/667/R and ExTAG/664/DL.

***3.2***To note a report of the action items by the ExTAG Chair on the ExTAG 2021 Remote Meeting.

**Document for noting:**

* [**ExTAG/682/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4072) **–** Report on actions since 2021 ExTAG Remote Meeting

The Chair provided a status report on the actions arising from the Remote 2021 ExTAG Meeting. He suggested that, as the report had previously been circulated, there was no need to go through each item separately.

He advised that there had been 26 action items in total to be followed-up and that they had mainly been completed, continuing, that those that hadn’t been completed were for discussion later during the current meeting.

Mr. Chris Agius referred the meeting to Action Item 3 and asked Mr. Justin Gavranich, the Convener of the ExTAG WG AdHoc *Increasing Ambient Temperatures*, to give an update on the Action. Mr. Gavranich informed, that the work in that AD HOC Group is still ongoing and so far there are no recommendations of increasing ambient temperatures. However, the informational document ExTAG/652/Inf was circulated and discussed at the TC 31 plenary meeting. TC31 made several recommendations and just repeating them now for the benefit of the Members. TC 31 recommends that the next edition of IEC 60079-0 should promote higher ambient temperatures requirements due to the impact of climate change. TC 31 recommends that ambient temperature range should always be identified and that the option not to identify the ambient temperature range of – 22 to + 40 should be removed. Further noting that the ad hoc working group will be meeting in about 2 weeks’ time and will additionally be taking on board the direction of TC31 informing our recommendations for providing back to the external.

The Chair thanked Mr. Gavranich for his interesting report.

Mr. Chris Agius continued with Action Item 5 on a discussion paper ExTAG/662/Inf *Subcontracting of Tests.* In the name of the IECEx Secretariat he proposed to issue this paper as a more guidance document. Since Ms. Katy Holdredge asked for more clarification whether it is a requirement or optional to assist with the assessors who are doing the audits of the ExCBs and ExTLs, Mr. Agius suggested to issue the paper as an operational document through the management committee rather than a guidance document. Professor Xu suggested to implement the information of ExTAG/662/Inf into OD 032. Moreover, Dr. Jim Munro noted that there was probably no necessity to wait for the Executive Meeting as 032 was to be reviewed soon. Mr. Agius referred to the IECEx ExAG possible for inclusion in OD 032.

He then continued with Action Item 6 on the revision of the TCD has been completed from the ExTAG side and is now referred to the ExMC WG 2.

He continued with action item 9 relating on the revision of OD 017 and suggested to discuss that along with a discussion paper prepared from Mr. Ajay Maira at agenda item 7.2.

The item 11 was to receive a status update from Mr. Schuller from DEKRA on some further proposals for updating the OD 012. Mr. Chris Agius asked Mr. Richard Schuller to give an update. It was noted that the work is in progress and will be submitted in due course.

The action item 12 with a request for the ExTAG WG 06 *Rules of Procedure for testing at other locations* contained in OD 024, to reconvene and will be reporting at agenda item 7.3.

The action item 14 dealing with ExTAG WG 10 and the consideration of tests contained in the TCD that do not have an asterisk. The convenor of WG 10 will report under agenda item 7.4.

The action item 16 relates to work for WG 14 and will be discussed under agenda item 7.7.

Mr. Agius continued with action item 17 on the special conditions for safe use at the last meeting on TC31 AG 55 and noted that a report has been received from the Joint Working Group 50 of TC 31. It states that WG 55 Special Conditions of Use met again in May and will proceed with its recommendations, which will be submitted with the report to TC31 in October. The work is ongoing. The members will be updated in due course.

He continued to action item 20 on a revision of OD 035 which will discussed during the meeting.

The action item 23 on Draft Decision sheet ExTAG/661/CD by INERIS, will be listed on the agenda under item 10.1.

The action item 24 on EXTAG WG 03 on the acceptance of electronic filles for drawings etc., prepared by Mr. Ajay Maira, will be covered under agenda item 7.2.

Mr. Chris Agius completed the status report on the action items and passed the floor to the Chair.

The Chair thanked Mr. Agius for his work and asked the meeting to endorse the report of actions from 2021 meeting as presented in ExTAG/682/R.

**Decision 2022/03**

Members endorsed the report from the ExTAG Chairman on the Action Items from the 2021 ExTAG Meeting as circulated as ExTAG/682/R.

In reviewing the report, members agreed to refer to the ExAG the matter of issuing ExTAG/662/Inf as guidance (possibly as a revision of IECEx OD 032).

4IECEx Equipment Scheme – Overview

The Chair invited the IECEx Secretary, Mr Chris Agius, to provide an overview of the IECEx Equipment Scheme and activities since the last meeting, 2021, including noting **OD 060** *IECEx Guide for Business Continuity – Management of Extraordinary Circumstances or Events* Affecting IECEx Certification Schemes and Activities for Business Continuity.

The Secretary would provide more detailed information when going through the IECEx Report card in detail ([**ExMC/1852/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4049) – IECEx System Report Card – 2022) during the ExMC meeting later in the week. He continued that the report at this time simply provides an opportunity to learn the growth details.

First, Mr. Agius gave a brief presentation about the IEC and IECEx. The IEC is a standardization organization established in 1906 and has two sides to its operations: standards development and conformity assessment. IECEx is one of the conformity assessment systems under the IEC. The governance structure of the IEC consists of a General Assembly, IEC board, and three operational boards, with the Standards Management Board handling standards development and the Conformity System Board handling conformity assessment activities such as IECEx. The IEC Statutes and rules of procedures, which are the governing documents of the entire IEC, were updated at the beginning of this year and reflect the new governance structure. The IECEx was established as a business in 1996 and its value proposition to stakeholders and customers is to provide assurance to industry, commerce, regulators, and consumers that operations involving flammable and combustible materials can continue safely through an internationally standardized approach to testing and certification. The IECEx currently has 96 approved certification bodies across all its schemes and activities, including equipment, services, and personnel competences.

***4.1 Membership***

Mr. Agius discussed the membership of IECEx, which has 36 member countries, each with a seat on the IECEx Management Committee. The number of accepted certification bodies, test laboratories, and recognized training providers are growing, even during challenging times such as lockdowns. The certified equipment scheme has seen growth in membership and certificates issued. An additional certification body has been approved to operate in the CoPC scheme and there are three additional recognized training providers as well.

The following the statistics are listed.

IECEx System Membership, as of 30th June 2022 stands at:

* **36** Countries as members of the IECEx Management Committee, ExMC
* With **four** separate Certification Schemes
	+ IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme (Rules = IECEx 02)
	+ IECEx Certified Service Facilities Scheme (Rules = IECEx 03\*)
	+ IECEx Conformity Mark Licensing Scheme (Rules = IECEx 04)
	+ IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies (CoPC) Scheme (IECEx 05)

 and the IECEx Recognized Training Provider Program (RTPP)

* **IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme**
	+ **62** Accepted ExCBs + 5 Applicants
	+ **68** Accepted ExTLs + 7 Applicants
	+ **10** Accepted ATFs + 1 Applicant
* **IECEx Certified Service Facilities Scheme**
	+ **18** Accepted ExCBs + 2 Applicants
* **IECEx Conformity Mark Licensing System**
	+ **13** Accepted License issuing ExCBs
* **IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies (CoPC) Scheme**
	+ **16** Accepted ExCBs + 1 Nominated Assessment Centres
* **IECEx Recognized Training Provider Program (RTPP)**
	+ **36** Recognized Training Providers (RTPs)

***4.2 Statistics***

As at 30th June 2022 there were **135,621** Issued IECEx Reports, Certificates and Licenses across all the following four IECEx Schemes compared with 121,837at the same time last year (30th June 2021)– this represents an overall growth of **11.3 %.**

Mr. Agius mentioned that the IECEx Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day operations and financial management. They support committees, working groups, and assist with growth and compliance. A new member, Mr. Geoff Slater, has recently taken over the role of compliance manager Mr. Mike Roy and is in charge of managing the ExTRs and QARs and ongoing surveillance.

He then stated that IECEx is a business that needs to understand how its products and services are being used in different areas such as regulatory sphere, contractual arrangements, and voluntary area. The mutual recognition among the certification bodies is an important component of the IECEx as it allows for the recognition of the reports done by each other for the purpose of achieving national certification.

***4.3 IECEx Website and related***

Mr. Agius provided an update on the IECEx website during his presentation. He highlighted the recent additions to the website, which now includes training modules and resources specifically designed for certification bodies and test labs. The website serves as a comprehensive library of published rules, procedures, and decision sheets, as well as a link to the online certificate system.

In addition, Mr. Agius discussed the marketing efforts of the IECEx, which includes the introduction of promotional videos for the equipment, services, and CoPC schemes. These videos can be downloaded from the IECEx website and 16 or more certification bodies have taken the opportunity to brand the videos with their own logos.

Finally, Mr. Agius expressed his gratitude to all the certification bodies, test laboratories, and additional test facilities for their cooperation and assistance in keeping the IECEx business running during the past few years, especially in managing QARs and ongoing surveillance audits. He thanked them for the opportunity to address the meeting and concluded his presentation.

The Chair acknowledged the excellent work done by the IECEx Secretariat team and the growth of the organization by approximately 10 % every year. The promotional videos provided by the IECEx secretariat have made it easier for people to understand the system and have also helped with marketing efforts. The possibility of offering e-learning tools was mentioned but would be considered for a future management committee meeting.

In conclusion the meeting recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2022/04**

Members accepted the report from the IECEx Secretariat on an overview of the IECEx System activities since the 2021 meeting.

5 Technical Items for general discussion within ExTAG

The Chair explained that the purpose of this agenda item was to discuss technical items arising from feedback since the previous ExTAG meeting with the aim of ensuring a consistent approach by all ExCBs and ExTLs.

***5.1 Application of ISO/IEC 80079-38***

The Chair asked Mr. Munro, the Convener of ExMC WG 15, to provide a brief report on the progress of the work regarding Edition 2.0 of ISO/IEC 80079-38, the non-electrical standard.

Mr. Munro reported on the progress of the WG 15 and his role as the Convener and Co-Convener of the maintenance team in SC31M. He discussed the proposal to modify the standard, which included turning some advisory requirements into mandatory requirements and moving others to an informative Annex of the standard. He proposed exploring the involvement of WG 15 in the next maintenance team meeting, which was expected to be held early next year.

The Chair thanked Mr. Munro for his report and the meeting recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2022/05**

Members accepted a verbal report from Dr Munro, as ExMC WG15 Convenor, regarding the status of work on Edition 2.0 of ISO/IEC 80079-38 by ExMC WG15 and MT 80079-38. It is noted that it is likely that the document can be made suitable for certification purposes by clarifying requirements.

6 Performance feedback from ExCBs and ExTLs

The Chair introduced item number 6 on the agenda, which dealt with performance feedback from ExCB and ExTL.

Mr. Agius emphasized the importance of cooperation among the IECEx bodies and highlighted the significance of mutual recognition and cooperation in the equipment scheme. He referred to the clause 10.1 of the IECEx 02 rules, which talks about the acceptance of ExTRs and QARs for national certification. He explained that the mutual recognition provides for a fast-track process through the acceptance of these reports issued by the members, but also noted that the receiving bodies can conduct a technical review, but any additional work must be first discussed with the certification body that issued the reports. Mr. Agius also reminded the members of ExCBs and ExTLs of their responsibility to abide by the rules that they agreed to when they signed up on the application forms.

***6.1 Co-operation between IECEx Bodies***

Mr. Ashrafi, brought up the issue of assessments being done by only one person, suggesting that it would be better to have a team of at least three people for assessments.

The Chair thanked Mr. Ashrafi for his input and asked for any comments on the proposal.

Mr. Agius, responded by saying that the IECEx system has grown and developed over the years, and different types of assessments are now involved. He explained that in some cases, one person can adequately address the needs of an assessment, while in other cases, having more than one person is preferable.

He noted that some audits conducted during the COVID epidemic were, by necessity, conducted by only one assessor using OD 060. He also mentioned that the secretariat is available to assist in assessments and that they are always looking for ways to improve communication and efficiency between certification bodies.

Ms. Holdredge mentioned that they have noticed a decrease in the number of questions they had about test reports over the past year.

The Chair noted this as positive news and asked if there are any further comments.

Mr. Dhillon asked if there is a way to find out what common errors or miscommunications are happening during assessments.

Mr. Agius suggested that the issue could be raised within the ExAG for further discussion.

Ms. Holdredge suggested that the group could make use of some of the practices from the ExCB scheme for gathering information on this issue.

Mr. Agius suggested that the secretariat and the ExAG officers could consider a mechanism for feedback from certification bodies regarding the acceptability of test reports.

The Chair notes this as an action item for the secretariat and the ExAG officers.

Ms. Ostojic and Mr. Munro brought up the issue of inadequate justifications given for waived or not conducted tests in ExTRs. They suggested that this could be an important issue to focus on.

The Chair noted this as part of the action item for the secretariat and the ExAG officers to consider, but Mr. Agius suggested that they focus on the core action of recording feedback from ExCBs regarding issues with ExTRs and QARs from other bodies with respect to general acceptability. The meeting agreed on following actions.

No decision recorded however the meeting noted members remarks and the Chair’s comments about the importance of cooperation and the reminder of the obligations of Clause 10.1 of IECEx 02 on bodies.

ACTION: Secretariat and ExTAG officers are requested to develop and maintain a means of recording feedback from ExCBs regarding issues identified with ExTRs and QARs from other bodies with respect to general acceptability.

7 ExTAG Working Group Status – Review

The Chair introduced item 7, which was a status review of the technical working groups. He noted that the working groups play a crucial role in the main work of the organization. The Chair started the discussion by addressing WG 01, which is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of ExTR's and invited Mr. Kiddle to give an update.

***7.1 ExTAG WG 01, Preparation and maintenance of ExTRs***

**Document for consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/688/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4074) – Report from ExTAG Working Group 01 (WG 01): Preparation of assessment and test report forms (ExTRs)
* [**ExMC/1880/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4055)– Matter raised by US

Mr. Kiddle gave a report on the status of WG 01, which is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of ExTR forms or blanks.

Since the 2021 meeting, WG 01 had one resignation but currently has 12 members. The decisions noted from last year's ExTAG meeting included a change in convenorship and work to clarify the process for inserting the ExTAG decision sheet links into the ExTR blanks. Several updates of blank ExTRs have been made, and Mr. Kiddle extended his thanks to Ms. Christine Kane for her efficient services in posting these on the website.

WG 01 is also following up on the development of new or updated ExTR blanks, including edition 7 of 60079-11 which is not yet available. There has also been work on H2 dispensers in OD 290, and the group has decided not to have the ExTR blank associated with the assemblies ExTR 60079-46 but rather to have a standalone hydrogen annex.

Moving on to the issues for consideration, the first item discussed was the consensus reached between the WG 01 Convener and the IECEx Secretary, Mr. Agius, on the continuation of inserting the ExTAG decision links and new and revised ExTR blanks. There was also a note to consider OD 035 to clarify the process of inserting the decision sheet links in the ExTR blanks, and a US comment (ExMC/1880/CD) was noted.

The second item was an open task that had recently been brought to the group's attention, to determine if embedded decision sheets need to be in prior editions. Mr. Kiddle personally believed that this would be a case-by-case decision.

Lastly, Mr. Kiddle noted that the copyright date on the first page of the revised blank had not been updated and that he would work on updating not only the copyright date but also the header and footer information for future revisions.

Mr. Kiddle thanked the group for their attention and finished his report.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kiddle for his report and invited the audience for comments.

Mr. Maira raised a concern about the process of notification for revisions made to the ExTR proformas. He asked if there was a system in place that would automatically notify the testing laboratories, who use these proformas, when the decision sheet links are modified. He suggested that the notification could be sent out using a mailing list provided by the IECEx.

Mr. Chair thanked the contribution of Mr. Maira and invited Mr. Omerovic to the floor.

Mr. Omerovic responded to Mr. Maira's question about how ExTLs get notified of revisions to the ExTR proformas. He stated that they will be discussing revisions to OD 035 later and that it doesn't include automatic notifications, but they are proposing a more systematic way of ensuring that the references and hyperlinks to the decision sheets are included in the ExTR blanks.

Mr. Kiddle expressed his support for the comments made by Mr. Maira and Mr. Omerovic and stated that he will monitor the progress of OD 035 with the aim of finding ways to enhance and clarify the process. He thanked the group for their work.

Mr. Maira stated that in order for the IT function to be made available, the assistance of the secretariat is likely necessary. This function would allow ExTLs to register for changes in the documents being put on the IECEx website. Mr. Maira noted that this mechanism already exists in the IEC, where notifications of changes in standards or related documents are received on a daily or weekly basis. He expressed hope that the same mechanism can be made available in IECEx.

Ms Holdredge expressed her support for Mr. Maira's proposal, stating that he frequently sees during assessments that bodies will have their own versions of test reports or other documentation, and they have to set up a manual system to monitor the IECEx. He believes that an automatic system would greatly improve the ability of ExCBs and ExTLs to use the latest documentation.

Mr. Agius commented on the issue of notifications for updates to the ExTR proformas. He acknowledged that the current system for notifications is manual but stated that he would take the issue into consideration and investigate possible solutions, including the possibility of regular notifications to the ExCB and ExTL members. He also mentioned that the IECEx website is not connected with the IEC Central Office and therefore not part of the Geneva Office IT provisions. However, he stated that he would consult with the IECEx IT department and come back with a response.

Mr. Agius also mentioned that he agrees with Mr. Kiddle's remarks and that they are closely watching the developments of OD 035. He also mentioned that there is currently an agreed approach between the secretariat and WG 01, but they need to reflect that in OD 035. He also stated that these investigations could coincide with the Secretary's IT solution for the regular notifications of updates to ExCB, ExTL, and ExTAG members regarding the ExTRs.

Mr. Maira expressed his appreciation for Mr. Agius’ suggestion about the automatic notification system for changes in the IECEx rules or ODs. He noted that this would be a very innovative and useful step for the laboratories. He then raised a new issue about the implementation of the revised IECEx ExTR proforma. He pointed out that many laboratories might already have several projects underway using the previous proforma, so he asked the committee, secretariat and assessment group what a reasonable implementation of the new proforma would be. He wondered whether it would need to be implemented instantly or if it could be implemented with the next new project. He noted that changes in the IEC ExTAG decision sheet or document are only applicable from the next project and suggests that a similar approach could be taken for the IECEx ExTR proformas.

Mr. Bleshoy expressed his support for Mr. Agius' proposal for a notification system. He suggested the implementation of a public and private RSS feed or subscribe feature to improve the flow of information, not just for laboratories but also for other stakeholders such as manufacturers who use and have to read decision sheets.

Before closing that agenda item Mr. Mark Amos reminded the group to also take into consideration the US proposal, ExMC/1880/CD, as part of the discussion.

The Chair thanked and asked Mr. Kiddle to introduce the document.

Ms. Kiddle reminded of the decision 2021/12 from the previous year. He also mentioned that both the OD 010 and OD 035 were updated. However, the ExTAG/658A/CD draft for OD 035 did not consider a process for how the WG 01, which is responsible for the blanks, would be notified when a new decision sheet is published. This was seen as a missing piece.

Mr. Agius stated that the maintenance of OD 035 is done by ExTAG, but the final approval is given by the management committee. He suggested that they include the US remarks in the revision of OD 035 and also address the point raised by Mr. Kiddle about the need for a mechanism for notification when a new decision sheet is published. He believes that this may also be covered by the secretariat's review and investigation on the IT side of things. Mr. Amos already has a decision on this matter, and it should be looked at from the ExTAG side.

Mr. Maira addressed a previous comment he had made about the implementation of the new IEC ExTR proforma. He proposed that it should only become applicable for new projects and not for ongoing ones.

This proposal was supported by Ms. Holdredge and Mr. Sinclair. They stated that their organizations have found ways to ensure that they are using the latest versions of the proforma, but they agreed with Mr. Maira's proposal to avoid frequent changes.

The Chair asked Mr. Agius if it was possible to record a decision on this matter, to which he agreed. The members agreed to implement the revised ExTR proformas only at the start of the next project.

The Chair thanked the group for the discussion and acknowledged Mr. Amos for his efforts in preparing the decision related to the matter.

**Decision 2022/06**

Members accepted the report (as circulated as ExTAG/688/R) from ExTAG WG 01 prepared by the Convener, Mr Scott Kiddle.

Members endorsed to the 2022 ExMC meeting the proposal from the USNC as circulated as ExMC/1880/CD and noted that the following ACTION may assist in this matter.

ACTION: Secretariat to investigate automated notifications of revisions of IECEx publications (possibly with subscription provisions for external stakeholders in addition to IECEx bodies).

Members agreed that revised ExTR proformas need only be implemented at the time of the next project.

***7.2 ExTAG WG 03 Documentation and Drawing Requirements***

**Document for consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/684/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4069) **–** Report from ExTAG WG 03 – Documentation and Drawing Requirements + Draft revision of OD 017

* **[ExTAG/683/CD](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4059) –** Discussion Paper from Mr Ajay Maira regarding use of electronic files.

The Chair invited Mr. Miara to present the two documents regarding the WG 03 *Documentation and Drawing Requirements*.

Mr. Maira reported that this document [ExTAG/683/CD](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4059) is being introduced because of the widespread use of electronic files for assessments in the industry. He stated that electronic documents such as CAD files, schematic files, Gerber files, and DXF files are now commonly used by designers instead of traditional paper drawings. He emphasized the need for testing laboratories to recognize and accept electronic files in order to provide compliance based on their examination. The purpose of the paper is to address the issue of ensuring that the information captured in the electronic files is adequate and to prevent the loss or improper storage of electronic files that may cast doubt on the compliance information provided in the test reports. Mr. Maira then stated that he would like to jump straight to the conclusions at the end of the document.

Mr. Maira reported different proposal for managing electronic files which has been developed in consultation with the manufacturer. However, the manufacturer's preferred method of handling these files was not fully aligned with his proposal. The manufacturer preferred to only have electronic files, without any PDF or paper drawings, but Mr. Maira believed that this would not be acceptable to all testing laboratories, who would prefer something more tangible that they could stamp and seal.

1. Mr. Maira proposed that the electronic files used for assessment purposes should be stored securely by the testing laboratory, similar to how they store other internal reports and documents. The electronic file will be referred to as a "related drawing" in the certificate, as it does not have the same file name, division, and date as a traditional PDF or paper drawing. The proposal is that the electronic file be kept securely but designated as a "related drawing" as per IEC 60079-0.
2. The second proposal is to establish a method for clearly pointing to the related drawing in the laboratory's documentation. The proposal is to create a company PDF drawing that includes the traditional title block, including the manufacturer's name, document name, title, revision number, and date, much like what is seen in PDF and paper drawings. The PDF drawing should clearly list the related electronic document file, which is stored securely, and reference the date of creation or the version numbers so that there is no doubt about which electronic file was used to create the 3D drawing. This 3D drawing is considered the scheduled drawing and can be listed in the test report, or in some cases, listed in the certificate. The test report or certificate can then be returned to the manufacturer with a stamp if necessary.
3. Mr. Maira proposed the creation of another PDF drawing, separate from the previous two proposals, to provide further assurance that the electronic file and stamped drawing are indeed in agreement. This PDF drawing would include snapshots from the electronic file, depicting 3-dimensional isometric drawings, plans, elevations, critical cross-sections, and information on printed circuit boards such as the thickness of the board and the copper used. This PDF drawing can be listed in the test report and held securely by the Ex laboratory and can be considered as part of proposal ii) if desired.
4. Mr. Maira also emphasized the importance of having clear information on the software used to create electronic files and the recommended reader software for such files. This is because if the incorrect software is used, some information may be missing from the electronic file. To avoid this, he proposed that there should be clear information on the electronic file design software and the recommended reader, so that users can obtain all the information from the electronic file without missing any important details.
5. Mr. Maira proposed that the test records prepared by the testing laboratory should clearly list the electronic file used, including the revision number, in order to ensure that the information gathered from the electronic file can be easily accessed for review. This is because if someone asks what was measured, the information in the electronic world may not be easily available. By listing the electronic file in the test records in a manner that is consistent with the testing laboratory's standard procedure for keeping test records, this will help to ensure that the test results can be traced back to the original electronic file and that the test records accurately reflect the information gathered from the electronic file.
6. Mr. Maira also addressed the issue of competency of the personnel involved in using the electronic files. He pointed out that a large electronic file may contain a lot of information, and not all testing laboratories may have the same level of competency to fully understand the complete drawing. To overcome this issue, he proposed that the necessary skills should be developed, and the personnel should be equipped with the correct tools to read the electronic files.

Additionally, he emphasized the need for close collaboration between the testing laboratory and the manufacturer to ensure that the necessary information is obtained, and the standards are met. To achieve a uniform process in using electronic files, Mr. Maira proposed that a common platform be used by all parties to record the information.

He thanked and ended his report.

The Chair thanked Mr. Maira for his detailed explanation of the use of electronic files. The Chair acknowledged the widespread use of electronic files and anticipated receiving comments on the topic. He then initiated the discussion by asking a question about implementing digital signatures in relation to electronic files.

Mr. Maira stated that many laboratories and certifying bodies are already using electronic signatures for their documents. He stated that the files created, such as test records and reviewed drawings sent back to the manufacturer, may also be sent back with electronic signatures. For those who are not familiar with electronic signatures, he stated that they can still sign the document by converting it to a PDF and sending it back. He also mentioned that this should be within the rules of IECEx, to establish that the document has been genuinely accepted and assigned by the concerned person.

The Chair noted that the topic of digital signatures was a noteworthy one, mentioning that the accreditation process for laboratories had involved many discussions about the necessity of digital signatures.

Mr. Kiddle thanked Mr. Maira for his timely presentation and acknowledged that he is a member of the WG 03. He expressed concern that Mr. Ron Webb, the Convener for WG 03, was not present on the call. Mr. Kiddle suggested that Mr. Maira's proposals might warrant the formation of an ad hoc group under WG 03 to address this issue.

Mr. Maira responded to Mr. Kiddle's suggestion by stating that he would need guidance from the IECEx secretariat on how to proceed with the paper. He mentioned that the paper was prepared within the provided scope.

The Chair acknowledged that changes to the OD would need to be approved by the ExMC. The Chair invited ExTAG members to provide input and comments on Mr. Maira's work.

Mr. Kiddle expressed support for Mr. Maira's work and offered to assist.

Mr. Barnier expressed his support for Mr. Maira's work. He pointed out that a major issue with electronic files is the difficulty in reading them, especially when accepting overseas test reports for national certification. He explained that they have tried using online readers, but they do not work for older files. He also mentioned the difficulty of installing numerous readers on their network due to security restrictions. He emphasized the need for a useable online reader that can be accessed across different types of files to address the issue of readability and ongoing readability, especially for older jobs.

Ms. Ostojic raised concerns about tracking changes to electronic files during manufacturer assessments. She asked Mr. Maira how this would be addressed during the assessing process, as there is no control over the electronic file.

Mr. Maira responded to Ms. Ostojic's question regarding the tracking of electronic files during manufacturer audits. He referred her to the second point in his proposal ii), which dealt with the identification and tracking of electronic files.

The Chair recognized the difficulty in preventing the manipulation of electronic files. Despite the presence of safeguards, there may still exist individuals with the technical expertise to bypass these measures. Despite this, the Chair maintained a positive attitude and progressed the discussion.

Mr. Maira agreed with the concern raised by the Chair and emphasized the importance of steps ii) and iii) in addressing the issue. He explained that step ii) involves identifying the specific digital drawing and step iii) involves creating additional views to confirm that it is the same electronic file.

Mr. Barnier expressed his concerns about the difficulties in verifying electronic files during audits, particularly with IECEx equipment. He explained that simply having a title and version number is not enough, as he has come across instances where the certification drawings were different from the actual drawings, even though they had the same date and revision number. He highlighted the challenge of finding any modifications or changes, whether intentional or not, in electronic files.

Mr. Bleshoy raised concerns about the definition of "electronic file." He questioned what exactly is meant by the term and pointed out that a PDF document is also considered an electronic file. He emphasized the need for a clearer definition, as it was not clear if the term referred to easily accessible documents or ones that required specialized software to open and view.

Mr. Maira explained that he was referring to electronic files that cannot be easily opened and printed like a regular piece of paper, but rather need to be read in their native format using specific software. He used the example of a DXF file, which requires a program like AutoCAD to be able to be opened and viewed properly. He emphasized the importance of specifying the correct reader and version number in the document so that the electronic file can be easily accessed and read.

Mr. Bleshoy stated that a DXF file, like a printed circuit board, can also be printed using the appropriate software. He pointed out that a PDF cannot be opened without the proper software, but PDF is a commonly available and used format.

Mr. Maira suggested turning to Mr. Thierry Houiex to address the issue.

Mr. Houiex agreed with Mr. Maira's definition of an electronic certification file. He explained that at INERIS, they use electronic certification files, which are usually PDF files that have been signed and blocked with a digital signature. The manufacturer must use these certification files to manufacture their product in accordance with the specifications. Mr. Houiex also supported further discussions on this topic with Mr. Maira and the rest of the group.

Mr. Bleshoy expressed his discomfort with the term "electronic document" without further clarification. He pointed out that the term can be easily extended to include readily accessible documents, and that a DXF file with all the information contained within it can be printed using general purpose software. He highlighted that a DXF file is similar to a PDF, just in a different file format, and raised concerns about the definition being used.

Mr. Barnier agreed with the need for a clearer definition of what an electronic document is. He pointed out that having a better definition would make it easier for everyone involved in the process. However, he also highlighted the challenges that come with electronic documents, such as missing information when viewed with certain readers or difficulties with printing information contained in the files. He suggested that it would be easier if the files were converted to a PDF format and then uploaded for easier viewing and assessment.

Ms. Holdredge expressed her concern regarding the requirement for separate competencies related to the use of software (vi). She suggested that the ability to use suitable software should be integrated within existing competencies, rather than having separate software competency requirements as part of the work.

Mr. Agius recommended in response to Mr. Maira's request for guidance from the secretary. He suggested that a decision be recorded and that the WG 03 be tasked with reviewing Mr. Maira's paper, considering any necessary adjustments for OD 017, and reporting back to ExTAG.

Mr. Kiddle supported Chris's approach to take the matter back to WG 03, either through an ad hoc group or directly through the WG. He felt that the use of electronic files was a challenging issue that needed work to be done.

Mr. Agius asked Mr. Kiddle if he agreed with the approach of bringing the matter back to the full WG 03. The reason behind this was that the members of the WG 03 would have a broader view and would be able to consider the matter in the context of OD 017 holistically.

Professor Xu expressed his general support for the decision regarding the matter discussed and suggested that the corresponding Work Group for IECEx OD 207 could also be involved. He made this statement as a comment.

Mr. Munro suggested that if the decision was to use WG 03, it might be a good idea to include an invitation for key individuals, including Ms. Miara, to join the group for discussions on the topic.

Mr. Bleshoy made a final comment about the electronic files and the need to take into consideration cybersecurity. He pointed out that there have been instances in the past two years where certification bodies have been subject to cyber security attacks and information was stolen. He emphasized the importance of protecting intellectual property, especially when stored electronically. Mr. Bleshoy suggested that cybersecurity should be an initial consideration in the discussion of electronic files.

Mr. Vega suggested that the use of a long-term document format such as PDF/A according to ISO 19005-4 *(Document management — Electronic document file format for long-term preservation)* could be recommended for this type of document. He proposed using a special format of PDF as a recommendation to ensure long-term stability of the documents.

The Chair acknowledged the productive discussion and then officially ended item 7.2.

**Decision 2022/07**

Members accepted the report (as circulated as ExTAG/684/R) from ExTAG WG 03 prepared by the Convener, Mr Ron Webb.

**Decision 2022/08**

Members supported the proposal (as circulated as ExTAG/683/CD) from Mr Maira regarding use of electronic files and agreed to task ExTAG WG03 (with invitation to other experts) to progress this matter (noting the need to first provide clearer definitions in the proposal and to address cybersecurity risks) in a revision of IECEx OD 017 (and possibly IECEx OD 207) that specifies certain types of acceptable file formats.

***7.3******ExTAG WG 06 Rules of procedures for Testing at Other Locations***

**Document for noting:**

* [**OD 024 Edition 4.0**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/1588)– IECEx rules of procedure covering testing, or witnessing testing at a manufacturers or user’s facility
* [**ExTAG/692/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4088) – Report from ExTAG WG06

The Convener of WG 06, Mr. Agius, addressed the meeting with a report on the recent developments in the group. He explained that the WG had recently held a meeting, and there was a good attendance of members. The group reviewed its terms of reference and found that there was no need to request changes. The main tasks of the group were to look at the definition of third-party test facilities in the OD 024, resolve the remaining German comments, and address additional points from Dr. Munro.

Mr. Agius reported that the group came up with a sensible approach to the definition of third-party test facilities. Instead of having separate definitions for different types of test facilities, the group proposed to replace all of them with a single definition of "test facility." This would result in a consistent use of the term throughout the document.

The group also made recommendations for ExTAG to work towards a regime for mutual acceptance of OD 024 assessments and for WG 06 to prepare a standard assessment report template. Mr. Agius showed the group an embedded document that demonstrated the progress made in the group, including a proposal for a new definition of "test facility" (see OD 024, clause 3.9 “for the purposes of this document, the term test facility refers to a manufacturer, user test facility or third-party test facility”).

Mr. Julien Gauthier raised a question about subcontractors and asked whether they should be excluded from the definition.

Mr. Agius responded that the group had agreed that the definition did not include subcontracting and that the discussion of subcontracting was covered under 17025 aspects of the ExTL., but they would consider making it clearer in the document.

Dr. Munro agreed and added that they would take it into consideration. The members noted, that the subcontractors are not included, what is noted in the scope of OD 024.

The Chair asked if there were any additional remarks and, seeing no hands, declared that the group agreed.

Mr. Agius asked for permission to proceed with their plans and report back to ExTAG via correspondence instead of waiting until the next meeting in September. The Chair agreed and declared that a decision had been made.

**Decision 2022/09**

Members accepted the report (as circulated as ExTAG/692/R) from ExTAG WG 06 prepared by the Convener, Mr Chris Agius and supported the planned direction of further work on IECEx OD 024.

***7.4******ExTAG WG 10 Proficiency Testing***

 **Documents for noting/consideration:**

* **[ExTAG/685A/R](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4084) –** Report from Tim Krause, Convenor ExTAG WG 10, Proficiency Testing.
* [**OD 202 Edition 4.0**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/1582) – IECEx Proficiency Testing Scheme

The Chair emphasized how this program provides a platform for sharing experiences, communicating best practices, and solving practical problems related to testing levels. He then introduced Mr. Tim Krause to present the report on the WG 10 Proficiency Testing Program.

Mr. Krause reported that the IECEx PT Scheme was well known among most attendees, but for those who were not familiar with it, the program was a proficiency testing program that had been running for 12 years since 2010. The program was based on the OD 202 requirements for test laboratories, and more information could be found on the IECEx website. He mentioned that the Phase I of the current program cycle had been completed and that two programs were run each year, with different topics related to explosion protection and the IEC 60079 standards.

The Phase I was completed in June and the interim reports were published in the same month. The final report was expected to be published in November. After the Phase I, a Phase II was carried out to improve the results by discussing any problems with the laboratories in detail and holding workshops. The current program cycle was coming to an end and the next cycle was expected to start in March of the following year. Two new programs would be introduced in the next cycle. Since 2010 the IECEx PTB Ex PT Scheme had already completed twelve programs, with eight now closed. Mr. Krause reported that the IECEx PTB Ex PT Scheme has four current programs available. He explained that new laboratories should perform these programs:

* Flameproof Joints (FJ) - Test Round 2021
* Small Component Temperature (SCT) - Test Round 2021”
* Tests of Enclosures (TE) - Test Round 2019
* Battery Testing (BT) - Test Round 2019

Mr. Krause informed that PTB had a new member of their team, Mr. Niels Springer, since November 2021. He mentioned that the core team consisted of four people, but there was a much larger team involved in the project, including the shipping department and the scientific staff.

Mr. Krause provided an overview of the current programs FJ 2021 and STC 2021. The full report can be read in the document ExTAG/685A/R.

Mr. Krause reported the current status of the program FJ 2021. Out of 86 laboratories, 75 are participating and 11 are not registered for various reasons. The results from Phase I of the program showed 12 action signals, 10 of which came from IECEx laboratories. There was one task that resulted in action asterisk signals, which was due to a communication error in calculating the constructional gap. The Phase II of the program showed an improvement of 13 results, with 5 of the action asterisk signals having already been improved. The deadline for Phase II has been postponed and is next week (September 14th). The Convener emphasized the importance of taking the deadline seriously.

Further Mr. Krause reported about the program SCT 2021 which involves testing small components for ignition using diethyl ether and monitoring for potential explosions. The program has received significant participation, with 81 laboratories involved, 75 of which are from IECEx. The Phase I of testing resulted in 58 laboratories submitting results, and five new results have been received for the Phase II. Of the 58 laboratories in the Phase I, 14 were identified with action signals, indicating areas for improvement. However, seven of these laboratories have already taken steps to improve their results. Mr. Krause mentioned that the team is optimistic that all action signals can be addressed before the next deadline. Through the workshops, the main issues that led to action signals have been identified, and many laboratories are repeating tests to improve their results. The large number of participating laboratories and the efforts to address action signals are positive indicators of the program's progress.

Mr. Krause summarized that the programs operate on a two-year cycle, and the current cycle will conclude in September after the Phase II of testing. The laboratories are expected to submit their results before the deadline of Phase II, September 14th.

After the deadline, the results will be evaluated, and Mr. Krause and his team will produce a final report. This report is crucial, and laboratories that fail to submit their results will be followed up by the IECEx Secretary. If any action signals are identified after the final report, the next step of escalation will commence, and laboratories will be required to make a correction of action in accordance with OD 202.

Mr. Krause highlighted the importance of addressing any issues identified before the final report to avoid the need for corrective action later. The success of the program depends on the commitment of all parties to ensuring safety and quality in testing.

He then acknowledged that the PT scheme usually invites participants to PTB for workshops. However, due to recent circumstances, it was not possible to hold in-person workshops for the last two years. Instead, the team organized online workshops, which were successful despite the limitations. The workshops included videos of the tests, discussion rounds, and pre-recorded presentations.

Over 100 participants attended the online workshops, and Mr. Krause highlighted that the focus was on technicians and project workers rather than management-level participants. While the online format was successful, Mr. Krause expressed his hope that future workshops could be held on-site at PTB, providing participants with practical experience in the laboratories.

Mr. Krause then stated that the end of the current cycle marks the beginning of two new programs.

The PTS team recommends a program on explosion pressure measurement, which they view as an important test. They suggest a new test sample that focuses on real equipment with built-in components and encourages laboratories to determine the location of the pressure sensor and ignition source.

The second program idea involves determining the current ratio IA/IN and time tE of small motors, with support from the expert group on rotating electrical machines. Although there may be an issue with the TCD, Mr. Krause believed this test is common and worth considering.

The third program idea focuses on hotspot finding in junction boxes (Program Connection and Junction Boxes – CJB 2023), in accordance with the IEC 60079-7 standard. This program aligns with a current research project of PTB, making it a valuable option to provide.

Mr. Krause emphasized the importance of choosing a program that best fits the community and invited further discussion on this topic.

The Chair opened the floor for comments, expressing his personal view that in-person workshops at PTB are helpful for specialists in the industry. While virtual workshops have been successful during the pandemic, he hopes that experts can come to PTB for practical experience in the future.

Regarding the program ideas on electrical machines, the Chair acknowledged that measuring them is not easy and welcomed feedback on which of the two proposed samples to use.

Mr. Munro commented on the proposed program idea on determining the current ratio IA/IN and time tE of small motors. While he found the test interesting and necessary, he expressed concerns about the availability of facilities in laboratories to conduct the test. He suggested the possibility of having laboratories witness the test at another facility that could support them in conducting the test. This would be especially important for smaller labs that may not have the necessary facilities or equipment to conduct the test themselves.

Mr. Bleshoy expressed his gratitude towards PTB and the group of Mr. Krause for their work on proficiency testing. He suggested the idea of conducting more groundwork proficiency testing that is applicable to every Ex Certification Body. He proposed the idea of a determination of service temperature test or an enclosure series of tests that are more basic and general, as opposed to focusing on another niche program on explosion-proof testing.

Mr. Krause responded to the comments and suggestions made by the participants. He emphasized the importance of the explosion pressure measurement test as a basic and fundamental test. He also mentioned the need to balance between repeating previous tests and introducing new ones. With regards to the proposed program on determining the current ratio IA/IN and time tE of small motors, he acknowledged the concern raised by Mr. Munro regarding the availability of facilities in laboratories to conduct the test. He suggested asking the test laboratories if they are able to perform the test. He also mentioned the possibility of focusing on the temperature measurement for the junction boxes as a more basic and fundamental test.

Mr. Munro raised a concern about the feasibility of the proposed rotor test, stating that many laboratories may not have the necessary facilities to perform the test. He suggested that before committing to the rotor test, it would be prudent to survey the laboratories to assess their capability. He also expressed agreement that laboratories should understand how to derive the IA/IN and demonstrate it at their own facilities.

Mr. Ron Sinclair raised concerns about the proposed Ex e motor test, stating that while it has been a long time since their laboratory has performed a straightforward stall test on a one-kilowatt motor, they regularly deal with large Ex e motors up to a megawatt where there is difficulty in providing sufficient power to test at full voltage. Therefore, they have to conduct tests of manufacturers' promises under OD 024, taking into account the fact that they can't always do a full voltage test. Mr. Sinclair suggested that the aspect of testing and the adjustments made for it could be more interesting than the ability to perform a straightforward test on a small motor.

Mr. Krause acknowledged the difficulties in shipping large motors around the world and suggested that a theoretical exercise could be done instead.

Mr. Sinclair agreed and stated that it could be a suggestion if there is a need to do something quickly.

The Chair addressed a question in the chat asking if it is possible to have three tests in the new test round. Mr. Krause responded by saying that they are already quite busy with two tests per round and that while they appreciate the suggestion, it is not possible to add a third test at this time.

Ms. Ostojic expressed her interest in knowing how many laboratories can perform the proposed motor testing. She stated that she believes this test is important as it can provide valuable information, especially for laboratories with Ex e capability through OD 024. She suggested that many motor manufacturers may participate in the test, given the large number of certificates issued for motors. She reiterated her support for the motor test and urged for more information on the number of laboratories capable of performing it.

Mr. Krause suggested that checking the number of certificates for a test does not necessarily indicate how many laboratories are capable of performing it. He proposed conducting a survey to determine which labs are able to perform the Ex e motor test and the preferred test method. He emphasized that the decision ultimately rests with the provider, but he is interested in knowing which labs can perform the test.

Mr. Lankamp raised concerns regarding the quality check of OD 024 assessments performed on site at the manufacturer for large motors. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the people conducting these assessments are knowledgeable and capable of accurately assessing the motors. Mr. Lankamp suggested that IECEx should strengthen its quality checks for these assessments to ensure that the testing is conducted to a high standard.

Mr. Krause acknowledged the challenge with the proposed Ex e motor test, particularly in terms of providing the necessary test samples. He explains that while it may be possible to provide a theoretical test for larger machines, it is not feasible to simulate the actual test due to the inability to provide big machines to participants.

The Chair addressed Mr. Krause, acknowledging his impressions of the group's discussion and suggesting that the next steps involve conducting a survey or consulting with WG 10 to determine how to proceed and which of the two tests to prioritize.

Mr. Lankamp emphasized that the issue they were discussing was important for the assessors group. He suggested that it was the responsibility of Mr. Munro, as a member of the assessor’s group, to have assessors visit manufacturers along with an expert on OD 024 to evaluate motors and determine the accuracy of the ExTL quality. He thanked the group for their attention.

The Chair acknowledged this suggestion and thanked Mr. Lankamp and asked Mr.Munro to look into that matter.

The Chair believed that a decision should be reached before continuing with the next topic of the report. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Krause and asked if Mr. Amos noted a decision.

Mr. Krause discussed the possibility of conducting a survey about the motor program. He believed that it would be helpful to have additional comments regarding the program.

Mr. Agius asked the Chair for clarification on the intention of the survey, specifically whether it was to determine support for the program or just to assess capability. The Chair responded that the survey would aim to assess both support and capability.

Mr. Krause added that the intention of the survey is to determine the interest and capability of ExTLs regarding their participation in the upcoming program for motor testing and terminal boxes. The survey will be conducted by the ExTAG WG 10. The purpose of the survey is to have a broad basis for the tests, ensuring that not only a few laboratories can perform the test. Mr. Krause confirmed that the new cycle will include the explosion pressure test for sure. The results of the survey will be used to decide between the two programs.

Mr. Agius expressed gratitude towards Mr. Amos for his efforts in preparing the decision.

Mr. Krause then continued with his report discussing the changes made in Edition 4 of OD 202 under Clause 6 (*Participation).*

*“IECEx test laboratories that subcontract the entire test (permitted for a test without an*

*asterisk in TCD) must still participate in the programme and submit the results for their test sample to the IECEx PTS Provider unless the laboratory to which the test was subcontracted is itself an IECEx testing laboratory that also participates in the same programme.“*

The issue of whether test houses who subcontracted the test needed to participate in the program came up last year. Mr. Krause stated that the laboratory that subcontracted the test must still participate in the program, unless the laboratory to which the test was subcontracted is also an IECEx accredited laboratory that participates in the same program.

If a laboratory were to conduct tests for ten other test houses as a subcontractor, another question would arise whether the laboratory having to perform the same test ten times, which would not have been feasible.

According to the clarification, if a subcontractor is involved in testing and will receive various test samples, the laboratory does not need to perform the test more than once.

He also mentioned the need for new test houses to be involved into PTS as early as possible and apply at least and apply for the current programs. He also noted that if it is not possible for them to perform the two recent programs from the recent test round, they can show the assessor the tests using borrowed test samples or similar test samples.

Jim Munro confirmed and reported that he had been involved in situations where the applicants demonstrated their capabilities using test samples in three different scenarios: one where they had the test sample but hadn't yet had time to participate in the proficiency program, another where they borrowed a sample from another company, and the third where they manufactured the sample according to the program's specifications. Munro stated that in each case, the results were quite valuable, even though they weren't done rigorously like a proficiency testing program, and the homogeneity of the sample was not guaranteed. Despite this, he believed that the exercises gave a good understanding of the body's capabilities and were well worthwhile.

Mr. Krause then discussed other changes made to the IECEx program from the previous year. He explained that the main change was regarding the number of programs that would be offered at a time, which was reduced from 12 to 4. He also mentioned a change in Clause 15, where the warning was deleted and the responsibilities for corrective actions were clearly defined between the IECEx secretariat and the PTS provider. Lastly, he provided information about the structure of the program, including an example of the Declaration of Participation, which was for informational purposes only.

Mr. Agius stated that the changes to OD 202 have already been published and are available for review. He emphasized that the information was provided for informational purposes only, and that any comments should be directed towards ExMC, who will ultimately decide whether to accept the changes.

Mr. Omerovic inquired about the possibility of using the results of similar tests conducted under other proficiency testing programs to skip participation in the IECEx program. He notes that those tests have already been conducted by entities under the IEC umbrella.

Mr. Krause reported that the issue of skipping IECEx PT programs based on participation in other proficiency testing programs was discussed in WG 10. He noted that the tests offered in the explosion protection field are different from other tests, such as temperature measurement. The discussion resulted in the conclusion that it's important to participate in the IECEx PTS programs and those other programs are a requirement of the 17025 or are considered nice to have. He then invited Mr. Munro to say some additional words on this topic.

Mr. Munro commented on the issue raised by Mr. Omerovic, stating that while IECEx has not said that there can only be one provider, there haven't been any other providers that have come forward. He added that he thinks it's unlikely that a test from another program would be equivalent to what they are doing in IECEx, but he is interested in seeing an example of a test that Mr. Omerovic has done in IEC if he could provide one. Mr. Munro stated that their expectation is that the tests wouldn't be equivalent, but if an example could be provided, they could rethink whether there might be some occasions where that could be accepted, and it would need to be discussed.

The Chair expressed gratitude for the interesting discussion that took place. He acknowledged the good question raised by Mr. Omerovic and emphasized that it does not make sense to double the work. The Chair then thanked Mr. Krause and the WG 10 for their work and interesting discussion and acknowledged everyone for their contributions.

**Decision 2022/10**

Members accepted the report from ExTAG WG 10 Convener, Tim Krause as circulated as ExTAG/685A/R and noted the publication of IECEx OD 202 Edition 4.0.

ACTION: ExTAG WG10 to conduct a survey of ExTLs regarding their interest and capability to participate in the upcoming programs on motor testing and terminal box testing.

***7.5 ExTAG WG12 Retention of Records, re OD 207***

 **Document for Noting/Discussion:**

* [**OD 207**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/2375) Edition 2.0 – Guidance on the Retention of Records, current edition

The Chair acknowledged the next agenda item, 7.5 ExTAG WG 12 Retention of records, which relates to OD 207 and asked Mr. Omerovic to provide an explanation.

Mr. Omerovic discussed the document OD 207, which pertains to the retention of records. He reminded the attendees, particularly new members, of the existence of this document and that the second edition of OD 207 has been in effect for nearly two years as a requirement for related intentional records. The latest update to the document included simplifications and streamlining, particularly in the list of affected records in Annex A.

He mentioned that the requirements of OD 207 also apply to Additional Testing Facilities, making the document applicable to ExCBs, ExTLs and ATFs. The work for the first edition of OD 207 was completed and published in 2017. This document was created to provide a clear set of requirements for the retention of records and to meet the demand from the IECEx assessor group for consistency in assessing ExCBs, ExTLs, and ATFs. In addition to providing hands-on requirements for specific types of records, such as CoC's, ExTRs, and calibration of competency records with associated minimum retention times, the document also advocates for a systematic QMS-based approach to the handling of record retention.

Mr. Omerovic stated that so far there have not been any complaints or feedback regarding the OD 207, which relates to the retention of records. Despite this, there may still be some areas that need improvement, particularly with the transition to electronic means of archiving and storing records. The speaker welcomed any feedback from assessors or other members of the group and noted that the title of the document is "guidance" and that they are still in a transition period. He invited any questions on the topic.

The Chair thanked Mr. Omerovic for the explanation and emphasized that the document, OD 207, is open for discussion and comments. The Chair welcomed input from assessors such as Mr. Munro.

Mr. Munro pointed out that 20 years ago, he had suggested the need for a system to store records in the scheme securely and with the ability to retrieve them. He noted the rapid advancements in technology since then, with many bodies moving from storing records in hard copy to electronic storage, and now to cloud storage. He mentioned that the use of cloud storage has simplified the process of storing records, but he also raised a concern about the potential loss of records in the event of a catastrophic event such as a stellar burst in space wiping out the cloud storage. He concluded by suggesting that this could be a topic for discussion in the future.

Mr. Omerovic noted that a growing number of organizations were adopting the ISO/IEC 27000-series certification and questioned whether this would be sufficient to meet the requirements outlined in the scheme's document on retention of records. He expressed appreciation for the discussion raised by Mr. Munro.

The Chair thanked for the discussion and noted the following decision.

**Decision 2022/11**

Members accepted a verbal report from the Convener, Mr Jasmin Omerovic and noted the publication of IECEx OD 207, Edition 2.0.

***7.6 ExTAG WG 14 Certification of Ex Equipment Assemblies***

The Chair announced item 7.6 regarding the Certification of Ex Equipment Assemblies and asked the Convener of WG 14, Mr. Paul Kelly, to give an update.

Mr. Kelly was not present but asked for an update to be provided on his behalf. The update was given by Ms. Holdredge who reported that WG 14 had met virtually and was expected to have a CD version of 60079-46 issued shortly. The group was also planning to meet in person in conjunction with the next 60079-46 meeting during the TC31 plenary meetings in San Francisco. The Chair mentioned that everyone was invited to attend the meeting in San Francisco and asked if there were any comments or questions, but no one raised their hand so the following decision could be made.

**Decision 2022/12**

Members accepted a verbal report from Ms Katy Holdredge on behalf of ExTAG WG 14 Convener, Mr Paul Kelly, regarding the application of IEC TS 60079-46 and advised that this will be progressed at the 2022 IEC TC31 meetings.

8 Standards Matters and Collaboration with Technical Committees

***8.1 IEC TC 31 – Matters of Interest to ExTAG***

This is an opportunity for ExTAG members to be informed of Standards development and maintenance matters currently underway within IEC TC 31 that may impact on the IECEx 02 Certified Equipment Scheme.

The Chair welcomed introduced the next item on the agenda, which was Standard Matters and Collaboration with Technical Committees. Mr. Martin Thedens, the Chair of IEC TC 31, was invited to provide an update for the ExTAG members. Mr. Thedens presented an excerpt from the report he will present at the ExMC meeting later this week.

Mr. Thedens presented a report to the ExTAG group about the recent activities of IEC TC 31. He mentioned that they had a virtual plenary meeting in October and a hybrid meeting of the Chair Advisory Group in May in London. He then proceeded to present a few decisions of interest for IECEx that were made during these meetings.

At the TC 31 plenary, DECISION 5 was made related to Specific Conditions of Use. The aim of this decision was to update the good working practice document, which outlines the procedures for working within TC 31 and writing TC 31 standards. The updated document will include a requirement for equipment documents to clearly define the options and requirements for conveying limitations to parties who are not responsible for addressing them. It was determined that each specific conditions of use must require the manufacturer to provide clear and practical guidance for mitigating the risk of ignition, so that the user can understand what actions to take while reading the specific conditions of use.

The DECISION 6 is from the Advisory Group 55, which is focused on the topic of specific conditions of use. The group has recommended that WG 22 include specific language and information in IEC 60079-0 to prohibit restating the requirements for installation, design, selection, etc. in the specific conditions of use. It is important to emphasize that the responsibility for installation and overall user issues lies with the user, not the manufacturer.

Mr. Thedens moved then to DECISION 19 on the IEC 60079-29-0 series, which are gas detectors for oxygen and toxic gases. The goal is to create a general requirement document for gas detectors, which will be IEC 60079-29-0. This document will combine the general requirements for flammable, toxic, and oxygen gases. The work on this document will begin soon and is expected to take approximately three to four years before it is published.

He then highlighted RESOLUTION 4 from the CAG meeting. In which Mr. Mark Coppler was thanked for his service as the IEC TC31 Liaison and as the Convener of WG 32. He presented the joint WG 50 report, which he wrote as his last act as the IECEx Liaison. Mr. Coppler retired at the end of last month. The new IEC TC 31 Liaison person will be discussed and decided on during the TC 31 plenary in the beginning of November. It is hoped that the new Liaison will be someone that the attendees are familiar with, but the name is not being disclosed at this time.

Mr. Thedens then presented RESOLUTION 7 of the CAG meeting, which focuses on IEC 60079-44, which was requested by IECEx to be produced based on OD 504. A questionnaire was sent out to national committees at the end of last year to gauge their opinion on the scope provided by TC 31 and whether the project should proceed. The final result of the questionnaire was positive, and the CAG concluded that the requirements and guidance in the document should be limited to the unique aspects of competence and competence management related to work in or associated with explosive atmospheres. The document will be produced for TC 31 and will be within their scope and should be suitable for use in conformity assessment schemes as a replacement for OD 504. The team is now waiting for the next publication of IEC 60079-44 and is hoping to continue their work through virtual meetings and potentially face-to-face meetings in the future.

He then informed the attendees that there was a recommendation from the AG 55 to remove the option of including specific conditions of use in the documentation without the "X" marking from IEC 60079-0. TC 31 supports this recommendation, and it has been implemented in the next version of IEC 60079-0.

He then informed that the 3rd edition of IEC 60079-31, which covers *Equipment dust ignition protection by enclosure "t",* was published at the beginning of this year.

Mr. Thedens reported that there was a change in the Secretary of TC31 with Mr. Mick Maghar retiring in March and being replaced by Mr. Tom Stack from BSI. Additionally, the Chair of the Subcommittee 31 M, which deals with non-electrical equipment, has been changed and is now held by Mr. Thierry Houeix from France.

He informed that TC 31 as the is a Liaison with CEN and CENELEC in Europe, two projects from CEN and CENELEC regarding the mining area were offered to TC31 for the creation of European standards. One project is now being addressed within IEC 80079-38 for mining equipment in Category M1, and the other is for the installation of mining equipment, which has been offered to WG 1 of Subcommittee 31 J.

The Chair thanked Mr. Thedens for his informative report and acknowledged the excellent work of Mr. Mark Coppler, who had recently retired.

**Decision 2022/13**

Members accepted a report (available as ExMC/1890/R) from IEC TC31 Chair, Martin Thedens on Standards development, and maintenance matters currently underway within IEC TC 31 that may impact on the IECEx 02 Certified Equipment Scheme.

The meeting expressed their thanks to Mark Coppler for his past efforts and support of the IECEx System.

**At this point in the meeting the Chair called an end to proceeding on Day 1:**

**06th September 2022**

**Commencement Day 2: 07th September 2022**

The Chair welcomed the attendees back to the second day of the IECEx TAG meeting.

Mr. Mark Amos went over the housekeeping rules for the meeting, such as muting microphones when not speaking and raising hands to speak. The attendees were also asked to put their names and organizations in the attendance list for record keeping purposes.

The Chair then asked if there were any questions or concerns about the previous day's meeting. Mr. Ajay Maira brought up a suggestion made yesterday about cybersecurity regarding electronic files and storage of documents and that the appropriate document (OD 207) needs to be revised to include cybersecurity concerns. Mr. Amos acknowledged the suggestion and mentioned that it was recorded in the decisions.

***8.2 Other Technical Committee matters***

The Chair recognized the proactive approach of IEC in identifying and addressing new challenges in explosion protection. The organization has taken an important step by initiating communication with IEC TC197, which is dedicated to hydrogen technologies, as part of the ExMC working Group 19 discussions. The Chair expressed gratitude towards Mr. Thorsten Arnhold, the immediate past Chair, for effectively managing the communication with TC197. The Chair also extended an invitation to Mr. Arnhold to share his insights on the cooperation with TC197.

Mr. Arnhold reported on the progress of TC 197, a working group focused on hydrogen safety. The group, which involves Mr. Agius and Mr. Amos, has established three teams with specific tasks:

The first team's goal was to develop Unit 011, which is a basic knowledge unit for the safety of hydrogen systems. The team also developed a questionnaire for the OD 504. The team is still waiting for more questions to be added to the Question Bank. Therefore, we ask everyone involved in the hydrogen topic to help them refine the questions and ensure they are comprehensive. He also hoped to receive a positive response from the community when it endorses the new program at the upcoming management committee meeting.

The second team is working on the development of a new operational document, OD 290, which is similar to OD 280 for non-electrical equipment. Using the existing system and structure, the new operational document will deal with the testing and certification of hydrogen equipment, starting with hydrogen fuel dispensers. A draft of the OD has been created and will be discussed at the management committee meeting. If a positive response is received, the certification program can start in a couple of months. This is an urgent matter, as we can see from the fact that under the IEC 60079-46 "Assemblies" program, manufacturers of fuel dispensing systems for hydrogen already have certificates for their equipment. However, we believe it would be better to have a more specific procedure for hydrogen, which is why we are proposing this new certification program. We are confident that other equipment, such as compressors, will soon follow.

The third group is dealing with IEC TC105, the fuel cell group and standards. We have had discussions and meetings with them and there is some interest. They are a bit reluctant about offering certification for their products, but they agree that it is necessary to offer certification programs and training programs for people who work with fuel cells. We see a good possibility to establish future cooperation in this area.

Mr. Arnhold mentioned that his team is actively engaged in the field of hydrogen technologies. The recent video on personal competency highlights the importance of certification and training for individuals involved in this field. The hydrogen technology industry is rapidly growing, and he believes their team is well-positioned to make a significant contribution. He also mentioned that he will provide a more in-depth report on Thursday or Friday at the management committee meeting.

The Chair appreciated the report and asked Mr. Agius to say a few words, as there will be a meeting soon in Sydney on this topic

Mr. Agius mentioned that there is a report from the work of the ExMC WG 19, the ExMC 1868, which will be given in full detail by the convener, Dr. Arnhold, tomorrow.

He also highlighted the survey that was conducted by the IECEx secretariat in December with the help of the executive, which showed that 19 of their certification bodies participated and 13 of them are already doing work in hydrogen technologies.

Mr. Agius reported on his involvement in the IRENA workshop, where he had the opportunity to share the work of IECEx and the ExMC WG 19. During the workshop, Mr. Agius and other organizations were asked to answer three questions related to quality infrastructure for green hydrogen.

The first question was “What initiatives related to quality infrastructure or green hydrogen are going on in our organization?“. Mr. Agius responded that IECEx was involved in several initiatives, including standards development through TC105 and fuel cells, as well as standards development in TC31 and the ISO side. When it comes to testing, production auditing, certification, inspection, and so forth, we noted that the IECEx covers the certification activities.

The second question asked was about the priority gaps needed to support the quality infrastructure for green hydrogen. Our response was that we support a global approach to quality infrastructure by using long-standing international schemes such as the IECEx, while also providing feedback and participating in the development and maintenance of standards and certification procedures. We emphasized that we do not want to see wasteful duplication or reinventing the wheel as there is already a lot of activity in this area.

Finally, we were asked about the organizations we are cooperating or partnering with on the topic of quality infrastructure for green hydrogen. We responded that IEC and IECEx cooperate with various stakeholders via a national membership structure. We indicated that we are working with ISO, in particular TC 197, and also with the United Nations, UNECE, WTO, OECD, and International Hydrogen Council, among others.

In conclusion, it is important to be aware of what is going on in the world of green hydrogen and quality infrastructure as we cooperate and partner with various organizations.

The Chair expressed gratitude towards Mr. Agius for the information shared and recognized the potential for further cooperation with IRENA in the field of hydrogen, green energy, and solar energy. He believes that this cooperation could lead to the creation of new business opportunities and expressed positivity towards the idea. The Chair then asked if there were any additional comments from the forum.

Mr. Arnhold stated that it is important to acknowledge the fact that within the current global hype surrounding hydrogen, representatives of safety technology and explosion protection are sometimes viewed as hindrances. However, it is crucial to understand that hydrogen is an explosive substance, and in order to ensure the success and safety of the industry, a concerted effort must be made to raise awareness about the importance of implementing appropriate safety measures.

The Chair, Mr. Lienesch, thanked and stated that he understood the difficulties in explaining the need for a quality infrastructure in projects supported by the PTB in developing countries. However, he believed that regulation and safety measures are necessary to maintain trust in the technology and avoid major accidents. They feel it is important to be on board with discussions with organizations such as IRENA and other regulators, even though it may not be easy.

Since there were no additional comments, this agenda item was closed.

**Decision 2022/14**

Members accepted a report from Dr Arnhold, ExMC WG19 Convenor, the IECEx Executive Secretary and the ExTAG Chair on communication and discussions/work with other Technical Committees and IRENA relating to IECEx coverage of additional element relating to Hydrogen Technologies as part of the ExMC WG19 work. The meeting supported a recommendation to the ExMC to explore cooperation with IRENA.

9 ExTAG Decision Sheets – Current Status

***9.1* *Current Status***

***9.1.1 To note current list of ExTAG Decision Sheets and their location***

The Chair advised that this item is just for noting as members will be aware the Decision Sheets are available on the IECEx Website: <https://www.iecex.com/publications/extag-decision-sheets/>

Mr. Agius directed the group to the website's “members area” where they can find the decision sheets (DS). The DS can be easily found by searching or downloading an index in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. He stressed that there is no excuse for not implementing them in their organization. He also reminded the bodies have the obligation to participate in the decision sheet preparation process and that their participation will be checked during peer assessments.

The Chair emphasized that everyone has the right to start a discussion about the decision sheet and that everyone is invited to work on it if they believe there is something missing in the standards or explanation are not clear.

**Decision 2022/15**

Members noted the list of current ExTAG Decision Sheets available from the IECEx website. https://www.iecex.com/publications/extag-decision-sheets/

***9.1.2 Decision sheets and Draft DS dealt with since the 2021 ExTAG meeting***

The Chair introduced the decision sheets and draft decision sheets created since the last meeting. It was noted that there were four of them and they were created via correspondence. The members were given the opportunity to ask questions or provide additional information regarding these decision sheets.

| **DS** | **Standards** | **Title** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DS 2022/003 | ISO 80079-36:2016 | Protecting electrical ignition sources that are part of electromechanical equipment |
| DS 2022/002 | IEC 60079-1:2014IEC 60079-1:2007IEC 60079-0:2017IEC 60079-0:2011IEC 60079-0:2007 | Influence of a separate external source of cooling on reference pressure testing |
| DS 2022/001 | IEC 60079-6 Edition 4.1 | High voltage amendment to IEC 60079-6 Edition 4.1 |
| DS 2021/006 | IEC 60079-0:2011IEC 60079-0:2017 | Field modular approach for Ex Equipment |

**Decision 2022/16**

Members noted the list (as contained in the agenda) of ExTAG Decision Sheets and Draft DS dealt with via correspondence since the 2021 ExTAG meeting and endorsed the report.

***9.2*** ***Decision Sheets now falling under the 5 year review, that require confirmation***

***9.2.1 To re-confirm the following Decision Sheets, now falling under the***

***5 year review***

The Chair introduced the next item on the agenda, which involves reviewing decision sheets every five years. The current review is for the year 2017 and there are seven decision sheets being reviewed. The process involves forwarding these decision sheets to the originator for comments, and then to the TC31 Liaison officer for feedback. The goal is to have a positive vote for continuing these decision sheets. There have been discussions about what to do in case of a negative vote, which will be addressed in the next agenda item about OD 035.

Mr. Martin Thedens, the IEC TC 31 Chair, informed the members that the previous acting IEC TC 31 Liaison, Mark Coppler, has retired and that Mr. Thedens will act as the liaison until a new one is appointed.

Mr. Schuller raised concern about the implementation of a decision sheet approved and published by IECEx. He understood that the decision sheet should be applied to all certificates, both those issued before and after the publication of the decision sheet. Mr. Agius responded, stating that the philosophy of IECEx is not to make changes retroactive. However, if required, a decision could be taken by the committee. He also mentioned that the expectation would be to apply the decision sheet if it is applicable, in case of a technical change to the product. Mr. Agius acknowledged the good comment made by Mr. Schuller and referred him to the upcoming discussion regarding the revision of OD 035.

The Chair thanked for the information and went on to the next item on the agenda.

| **Number**  | **Standard No.** | **Clause/Subject** | **Issue Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DS 2017/007 | N/A | Guidance on marking requirements for combined electrical/non-electrical equipment | 2017-11-15 |
| DS2017/006 | IEC 60079-0 Ed.6 | Location of Electrostatic Discharge Hazard Warning | 2017-11-09 |
| DS2017/005 | IECEx OD009 | Use of Legacy data | 2017-11-09 |
| DS 2017/004 | IEC 60079-0:2011IEC 60079-7:2015 (Edition 5.0) | Terminal Ratings in General Purpose Junction Boxes | 2017-11-09 |
| DS2017/003(Withdrawn) | IEC 60079-0 | Decision to revise the DS taken during the 2017 ExTAG Washington meeting with DS 2018/004 approved as replacement during 2018 Cannes ExTAG meeting *(Secretariat Note: This is included for the sake of completeness*) |
| DS 2017/002 | N/A | Guidance on issuance of QARs when products are manufactured at multiple sites | 2017-08-01 |
| DS 2017/001 | IEC 60079-0 All editions | Cable transit or entry devices according IEC 60079-0 | 2017-06-23 |

**Decision 2022/17**

Members reconfirmed the list (as contained in the agenda) of ExTAG Decision Sheets falling under the five year review and agreed for the ExTAG Officers to consult with the IEC TC 31 Chair (until a replacement Liaison is appointed) as appropriate (refer to next revision of IECEx OD 035 to Edition 3.0).

***9.3 Review of process for the preparation and approval of Decision Sheets***

**Document for Consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/658A/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4062) **–** OD 035 Draft Rev A procedure to generate, discuss, report and publish ExTAG Decision Sheets – Proposed Edition 3.0

The Chair introduced the topic and forwarded the floor to Mr. Omerovic.

The ExTAG Deputy Chair, Mr. Omerovic, acknowledged the proposed changes to the OD 035 document and explained that the changes were introduced in the last year's revision, which allowed plenty of time for familiarization. The revision focuses on improving the process of developing and maintaining decision sheets, clarifying the initial drafting stage and the five-year maintenance process. The revisions were proposed based on the experience with the current revision of OD 035 and the ambiguities in the current text. The main contributors to the revision were the Secretariat and the Officers, with contributions from the WG 01 Convenor Mr. Scott Kiddle, Mr. Paul Kelly and input from Ms. Christine Kane and Ms. Maria Brodel.

Mr. Omerovic, reported that the proposed changes to OD 035 focuses on improvements to the process of development and maintenance of decision sheets. The changes aim to provide clear guidelines for the initial drafting stage and five-year maintenance process. The goal is to address ambiguities in the current text and improve the traceability and access to previously issued decision sheets. The changes also aim to promote cooperation between ExTAG and IEC TC31 to ensure that previously addressed issues in decision sheets are considered in future editions of standards. He hoped that the proposal will be supported by the EXTAG and will be forwarded to ExMC for approval.

The Chair thanked Mr. Omerovic for the report and invited comments from Mr. Agius or other members.

Mr. Agius added that, in addition to Mr. Omerovic, the officers also received valuable assistance from Mr. Scott Kiddle and Mr. Paul Meanwell.

Mr. Agius also mentioned a US comment regarding the notification mechanism for WG 1 Convener. He believes this is a good opportunity to consider and possibly implement new ideas. The Chair invited Mr. Kiddle to take the floor. Mr. Scott Kiddle expressed contentment with the way the US comment 1880 was addressed in the revision of OD 035, as displayed by Mr. Omerovic.

Mr. Munro raised a concern regarding the maintenance section of OD 035 and the decision sheets. He expressed concern about the potential impact on existing certified products if a decision was made to comply with the standard, but the maintenance team has not agreed with it for the next edition.

In response, Mr. Agius emphasized that decision sheets are not meant to alter the requirements of the standard, and any potential issues can be addressed by the management committee if necessary.

Mr. Munro proposed adding a phrase in the maintenance section to address the potential impact on existing certified products and to plan for the matter covered by the decision sheet. Mr. Agius agreed with the proposal but suggested adding a more flexible phrase about addressing the matter in the future.

Ms. Holdredge raised a concern about the implementation of step 1.1 of the revised OD 035 and asked for clarification on whether it was being carried out in practice. Mr. Agius responded by stating that it was a recent activity, but it was a good step for the originator to consult with the maintenance team. The TC 31 Chair, Mr. Thedens pointed out that the communication process should go through the liaison officer. Mr. Agius agreed and suggested changing the text to direct it to the liaison officer. Mr. Sinclair asked if everyone was confident that the originator had the contact details for the maintenance team convener. The Chair said that the originator should contact the TC31 liaison officer.

Professor Xu suggested having an official template for the creation of decision sheets to ensure consistency and make it easier for new members to understand the process. He proposed including this template as an attachment to the document.

Mr. Kiddle raised a concern about US comment 1880 and asked if there was a process defined in OD 035 for how the Convener of WG01 was notified when a new decision sheet was published.

Mr. Agius suggested that a statement should be made that the WG01 Convener shall be informed of newly issued decision sheets by being added to the contribution list.

Mr. Gavranich pointed out that there was already a decision to develop an automated notification system, and in the meantime, the secretariat would do it manually.

Mr. Sinclair stated that the manual solution was to add the convenor of WG01 to the contribution list.

At the end of the discussion, the Chair asked if there was anything else to be addressed and when there were no further comments, he closed the discussion and asked to create a decision.

**Decision 2022/18**

Members

* considered a proposal (as circulated as ExTAG/658A/CD) for the revision of IECEx OD 035,
* noted Mr Kiddle’s comments regarding ExMC/1880/CD and notifications to ExTAG WG01 Convenor (refer ExTAG Decision 2022/06), and
* agreed that it be recommended to the ExMC for approval to publish as Edition 3.0 with inclusion of this meeting’s edits to ExTAG/685A/CD to address:
	+ Dr Munro’s comments on Clause 3, Item 1.
	+ IEC TC31 Chair comments on Clause 1, Step 1.1

ACTION: Secretariat and ExTAG Officers to develop an ExTAG DS Template as proposed by Prof Xu

ACTION: ExTAG WG01 Convenor to be informed of the publication of new ExTAG Decision Sheets as a manual process until an automated system of notifications is available for use.

10 ExTAG Proposed Decision Sheets in progress

***10.1 Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet – IEC TS 60079-46 Equipment Assemblies***

 **Documents for Consideration**:

* [**ExTAG/661B/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4061) – 2nd Revised draft DS taking account of ExTAG/686/CC
* [**ExTAG/686/CC**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4060) – Compilation of comments on ExTAG/661A/CD
* [**ExTAG/661A/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4061) – 1st revised draft DS

The Chair mentioned that there was a delay in publishing this decision sheet due to some confusion at first, but after a meeting with LCIE and INERIS, the need for this decision sheet was explained and it was agreed that it was still necessary.

Mr. Omerovic explained that this decision sheet is essentially an interim measure until either 80079-34 or the assembly centers 60079-46 deals with the requirements for manufacturers producing equipment assemblies. The decision sheet will provide a solid framework for certification bodies to audit and assess these manufacturers and will give them more clarity and stability in relation to what actually applies.

The Chair asked if everyone agrees to publish this decision sheet and Mr. Houeix agreed, adding that it is needed to know exactly what needs to be done or specified during the manufacturing process.

The Chair noted that there are no additional comments or remarks and the members consider the revised draft decision sheet and agree to proceed with publication as circulated.

**Decision 2022/19**

Members considered the second revised draft Decision Sheet circulated as ExTAG/661B/CD that takes into consideration the associated Compilation of Comments on ExTAG/661A/CD (refer ExTAG/686/CC) and agreed that the draft Decision Sheet proceed to publication as circulated as ExTAG/661B/CD.

***10.2 Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet - The number of impact test conducted on the equipment.***

**Document for Consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/674/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/3935) **–** Draft Decision Sheet The number of impact test conducted on the equipment
* [**ExTAG/690/CC**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4083) **– Compilation of Comments**
* [**ExTAG/674A/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4082) **–** RevisedDraft Decision Sheet The number of **impact** test conducted on the equipment

Mr. Agius stated that the group needs to decide if they want to proceed with a decision sheet or not. He noted that the wording may need to be altered, but if the group agrees, they should make a decision today to avoid further delay.

Mr. Bleshoy, a member of WG 22, reported that the initial draft of the ExTAG decision sheet was not recommended for issuance. The Chair then asked for input from CQM. Mr. Ma Zhenyu stated that there is a need for clarification on the requirements and minimum number of impact tests for a specific product.

The chair confirmed that the majority was against proceeding with the decision sheet and asked for any members who wished to support it to speak up. Ms. Lucy Lu agreed with the decision from ExTAG and stated that the main intention was to make it clear that all crosses related to the impact test should be applied to one single sample.

The Chair concluded that the topic could be discussed further in TC31 and thanked Ms. Lu for her comments. The decision sheet was withdrawn and the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

**Decision 2022/20**

Members considered

* the draft Decision Sheet circulated as ExTAG/674/CD and
* the associated Compilation of Comments as circulated as ExTAG/690/CC)

and noted from discussions that CQM agreed to withdraw this draft DS.

***10.3 Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet - The test sample used for the dielectric strength test on the compound***

**Document for Consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/675A/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4033) **–** RevisedDraft Decision Sheet The test sample used for the dielectric strength test on the compound
* [**ExTAG/691/CC**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4087) **–** Compilation of Comments

The Chairman introduced the proposed DS prepared by NEPSI. Professor Xu was asked to introduce his proposal. Professor Xu thanked the members for their positive comments on the previous drafts of the decision sheet and explained that the revised draft does not change the technical requirements of the standards. Instead, it provides alternative numbers of samples for the two tests and allows the manufacturer to use the same samples for both tests if desired. After Professor Xu's introduction, the Chair asked for additional comments and as there were no further comments, the majority of the members supported the decision sheet and the Chair proposed to forward it for publication.

**Decision 2022/21**

Members considered

* the revised draft Decision Sheet circulated as ExTAG/675A/CD and
* the associated Compilation of Comments as circulated as ExTAG/691/CC)

and agreed that the draft Decision Sheet proceed to publication as circulated as ExTAG/675A/CD.

***10.4 Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet - Two independent types of protection Gb to meet Ga requirements***

**Documents for Noting:**

* [**ExTAG/678/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/3975) **–** Draft Decision Sheet Two independent types of protection Gb to meet Ga requirements – Now withdrawn
* [**ExTAG/687/CC**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4073) **–** Compilation of Comments

The Chair introduced the draft DS, which is Two independent types of protection Gb to meet Ga requirements, submitted by CML. The originator of the draft decision sheet has decided to withdraw the DS based on the comments received. The Chair asked if there were any additional comments on this, but there were none. The Chair noted that the originator has withdrawn the draft decision sheet and no decision was needed.

No decision recorded – it was noted that the Draft DS has been withdrawn.

***10.5 Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet - Disapplication of clause 7***

**Document for Consideration/Approval:**

* [**ExTAG/679/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/3997) **–** RevisedDraft Decision Sheet Disapplication of clause 7
* [**ExTAG/689/CC**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4081) **–** Compilation of Comments
* [**ExTAG/679A/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4079) **–** RevisedDraft Decision Sheet Disapplication of clause 7

The Chair introduced the draft DS regarding Disapplication of clause 7 and asked Mr. Ron Sinclair to say some words.

Mr. Sinclair, from BASEEFA, introduced the proposal and explained that there was some confusion in the past about whether the whole of clause 7 must be applied to a flameproof motor, even if the external fan is not within the flameproof enclosure. After considering the comments received, Mr. Sinclair believed that the majority of the community accepts the revised version of the decision sheet and that it had received support from the community with no significant objections.

**Decision 2022/22**

Members considered the revised draft Decision Sheet circulated as ExTAG/679A/CD that incorporates the comments detailed in the associated Compilation of Comments (as circulated as ExTAG/689/CC) and agreed that the draft Decision Sheet proceed to publication as circulated as ExTAG/679A/CD.

11 New topics (suggestions for topics to be dealt with during the next ExTAG Meeting)

The Chair suggested that this item provides an ideal opportunity for members to raise topics for discussion at future meetings.

By the number of activities observed on hydrogen, he wondered, if we should convene a technical committee to discuss the points have raised regarding this topic. An idea would be to consider a technical group to talk about hydrogen activities that could be contributors, as with the TC197 activities. He also suggested to discuss the cooperation with IRENA. He suggested to raise that topic at the ExMC and put it on the agenda for the industry day at the next meeting of ExTAG. However, he noted that this matter should be discussed by the Executives.

As there were no suggested topics, he finished by saying, that he would encourage members to provide input to the Secretariat if topics arise in the future as it is most valuable for the continuous improvement of ExTAG’s activities.

No decision recorded.

12Contact with other International and Regional Bodies – Status review

**Document for noting:**

* [**ExMC/1606/Inf**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/3715) **–** IEC Admin Circular AC AC/23/2020

The Chair informed the meeting that this agenda item was to consider questions on the IAF resolution ad asked the IECEx Secretary and Mr. Jasmine Omerovic to provide an update of IEC/ILAC/IAF co-operation, referring to the issue of IEC Administrative Circular, AC/23/2020.

Mr. Chris Agius reminded the meeting of the resolutions introduced by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) regarding unaccredited or non-accredited certificates do not apply to the activities of the IEC Conformity Assessment (CA) systems, which includes IECEx. This is just a reminder, and it's important to note that the IEC and IAF have a long-standing memorandum of understanding for cooperation in conformity assessment systems. As part of this cooperation, the IEC and IAF recognize each other's existence, respect each other's activities, and hold annual meetings. In 2020, the IAF agreed during a meeting that their resolutions were not meant to apply to the IEC CA systems. Thus, the IEC decided to issue a communique via an Administrative Circular to its member certification bodies across its systems to emphasize this point. On occasion, there have been issues brought to the attention of the IAF, and they have asked the IEC to raise these issues. This communique serves as a reminder and an opportunity for new certification bodies to be aware of the situation. He then invited Mr. Jasmine Omerovic to take over the floor to give an update.

Mr. Jasmine Omerovic informed about a new project started by the ISO Committee for Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) to create guideline for use of remote methods in conducting audits of management systems. The aim of the project is to provide guidance on the use of remote methods in conducting audits of management systems, including internal or external audits, first-party, second-party, or third-party audits. The guidelines will be based on general auditing principles and will provide specific guidance for the conditions, possibilities, challenges, and limitations of remote methods. The guidelines are not mandatory but are intended to strengthen confidence in the use of remote methods for auditing from the customer side, as well as from regulators, accreditation bodies, certification bodies, consumers, and other interested parties.

The Chair expressed gratitude for the information and added his own contribution. He added additional information to the meeting, discussing an agreement between the IECEx and OIML (Organizational International Metrology Legislation), which has a certification scheme. He mentioned that he is responsible for the contact with OIML in Germany. He informed the meeting that there is a possibility for IECEx to work with OIML certification bodies to offer products that are safe and calibrated. The management committee is set to receive a report from OIML as well. Mr. Chris Agius then was asked to comment as well.

Mr. Chris Agius thanked the Chair for sharing information about OIML and IECEx cooperation. He then remembered a previous face-to-face meeting in Dubai in 2019 between OIML and IECEx, where the first meeting of a joint working group was held. Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, the connection between OIML and IECEx has been put on hold. He then suggested that the ExTAG should inform the Management Committee about the reactivation of the Joint working group with OIML.

Additionally, Mr. Agius suggested that the IECEx should participate in the development of the guidelines remote auditing by CASCO, a conformity assessment committee of ISO, mentioned by Mr. Omerovic. He offered Mr. Jasmine Omerovic as an expert to represent the IEC conformity assessment activities in this work and Mr. Omerovic agreed. Mr. Agius suggested that this recommendation be recorded in the meeting.

The Chair thanked and asked to describe the next steps for the last action.

Mr. Chris Agius proposed a process for deciding about involving CASCO and Mr. Omerovic as an expert. The first step is ExTAG to record the decision and report to the Management Committee at the ExMC meeting later that week. If the Management Committee supports the proposal, the Management Committee Chair will report it to the Conformity Assessment Board, which will then make a final decision.

The Chair welcomed the proposal.

**Decision 2022/23**

Members noted

* the document circulated as ExMC/1606/INF with additional explanation by the Executive Secretary
* an update by Mr. Omerovic regarding management system remote auditing guidance.

The ExTAG Chair and Executive Secretary additionally commented on progress of work and opportunities with OIML. The meeting then agreed to recommend to the ExMC that

* past work with OIML be continued
* that IEC CAB be advised of IECEx’s interest in participation in CASCO work on remote audit guidance via Mr. Omerovic representing all IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.

13 Matters for proposal to ExMC

The Chair advised that he would be preparing a report, as usual, to present during the ExMC Meeting. He then asked the meeting if, before preparing the report, there were any matters that they wished taken to the coming ExMC Meeting, other that already raised during the meeting.

No decision recorded.

14 Other Business

The Chair asked Mr. Chris Agius, the IECEx Executive Secretary, to give a report.

Mr. Chris Agius then gave an informational report on the IEC Conformity Assessment Board document CAB/2262/INF, he had received from the IEC CAB Secretary, with the request to share it within the IECEx community. Before he described the document, he gave some background information on the IEC CAB. The Conformity Assessment Board is the operational board of the IEC that all conformity assessment systems, such as IECEx, report to. The board holds two meetings per year, with the next one being in October/November 2022. The document CAB/2262/INF relates to the ISO/CASCO information and call for experts, as they are creating a technical expert group. A technical expert group, which is a pool of individuals with different but relevant knowledge and experience who will be contacted when an issue within their area of expertise arises. The Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) has been asked to note this activity. However, there is some concern about the process of nominations for this group and the lack of endorsement from either the National Committee or other members of ISO or IEC. Mr. Chris Agius raised a concern that if there are any questions relating to Ex Conformity Assessment matters, they should come through the IECEx and not through an individual who may declare themselves an expert. The suggestion is that if ISO/CASCO or any individual within the IEC or ISO secretariat receive any questions or concerns, they should be directed through the secretariat, and the IECEx can then take matters up with the appropriate committees. He then informed that this matter will also be discussed at the Management Committee.

The Chair thanked Mr. Chris Agius for the informative report and agreed that this topic should be raised at the ExMC meeting later that week.

No decision recorded.

15 Confirmation of next meeting, year and place

The Chair announced, that the next meeting will take place in person in the UK the week from September 18th, 2023.

Mr. Chris Agius confirmed the dates for the meeting and presented the preliminary program. The preliminary program for the meeting includes traditional assessor training on Monday morning and technical discussions in ExTAG in the afternoon. The technical discussions will continue through Tuesday to allow for adequate discussion and collaboration among the attendees. On Wednesday, there is a possibility of having a seminar or industry session. Thursday and Friday are scheduled for the management committee meeting, which has been the normal practice in the past.

The Chair also suggested inviting GB colleagues to provide information about the next year's meeting.

Mr. Ron Sinclair noted that the meeting will be organized by Mr. Colin Cameron, along with his wife who has experience in organizing events like this. The event will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, which is a prime tourist location known for its many attractions. The hotel is located near Edinburgh Airport, with many direct flights available from various locations, including Europe. Although the hotel is within walking distance of the city center, a park and ride system is also available via the Edinburgh tram. The UK is looking forward to hosting the event. A hybrid format was discussed but it has been decided that a face-to-face meeting is the preferred option, as there are concerns about the availability of sufficient Wi-Fi to support a hybrid meeting. Mr. Sinclair mentioned that he is a native of Edinburgh and is looking forward to welcoming attendees to the city.

Mr. Paul Meanwell confirmed that the possibility of a hybrid format has been discussed by the executive and was not considering.

The Chair expressed his gratitude for the information shared and conveyed his excitement for the upcoming in-person meeting in Edinburgh.

**Decision 2022/24**

Members noted that planned meeting dates and program for September 2023 and confirmed a preference for convening the 2023 ExTAG meeting (in person only) in conjunction with the ExMC meeting.

16 Close of Meeting

Before ending the meeting, the Chair expressed his gratitude towards the organization team, Ms. Christin Kane, Ms. Maria Brodel, Mr. Mark Amos and Mr. Chris Agius, and the participants for a successful meeting.

Mr. Chris Agius and Ms. Christine Kane expressed their appreciation for the Chair's excellent leadership and guidance through the meeting, especially considering the difficulties of holding meetings remotely. The attendees then said goodbye and looked forward to meeting in person next year in Edinburgh. The Chair then declared the meeting closed at 2.28 p.m. UTC.

### ANNEX A

| **Action****No.** | **Agenda Item** | **Action** | **By Whom** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **3.2** | Members agreed to refer to the ExAG the matter of issuing ExTAG/662/INF as guidance (possibly as a revision of IECEx OD 032). | ExTAG Secretariat |
|  | **6.1**  | Secretariat and ExTAG officers to develop and maintain a means of recording feedback from ExCBs regarding issues identified with ExTRs and QARs from other bodies with respect to general acceptability. | ExMC Secretariat and ExTAG officers |
|  | **7.1**  | Secretariat to investigate automated notifications of revisions of IECEx publications (possibly with subscription provisions for external stakeholders in addition to IECEx bodies). | ExMC Secretariat |
|  | **7.2** | ExTAG WG03 to progress, as circulated in ExTAG/683/CD, use of electronic files and to also provide clearer definitions as well as address cybersecurity risks in a revision of IECEx OD 017 (and possibly IECEx OD 207) that specifies certain types of acceptable file formats. | ExTAG WG03 and interested parties |
|  | **7.2** | ExTAG/684/R needs to be followed up as was not discussed during the meeting. | ExTAG WG03 Convenor Mr Ron Webb |
|  | **7.4** | ExTAG WG10 to conduct a survey of ExTLs regarding their interest and capability to participate in the upcoming programs on motor testing and terminal box testing. | ExTAG WG10 Convenor Mr Tim Krause |
|  | **8.2** | ExTAG Chair to recommend to the ExMC to explore cooperation with IRENA. | ExTAG Chair Frank Lienesch |
|  | **9.2.1** | ExTAG Officers to consult with the IEC TC31 Chair on ExTAG Decision Sheets falling under the five year review with the IEC TC31 (until a replacement Liaison is appointed) as appropriate (refer to next revision of IECEx OD 035 to Edition 3.0). | ExTAG Officers |
|  | **9.3** | Secretariat and ExTAG Officers to develop an ExTAG DS Template as proposed by Prof Xu Jianping | Secretariat and ExTAG Officers |
|  | **9.3** | ExTAG WG01 Convenor to be informed of the publication of new ExTAG Decision Sheets as a manual process until an automated system of notifications is available for use | Secretariat  |
|  | **10.1** | The draft Decision Sheet ExTAG/661B/CD to proceed to publication as circulated.  | Secretariat |
|  | **10.2** | ExTAG/674/CD to be withdrawn. | Secretariat  |
|  | **10.3** | The draft Decision Sheet ExTAG/675A/CD to proceed to publication as circulated. | Secretariat  |
|  | **10.5** | The draft Decision Sheet ExTAG/679A/CD to proceed to publication as circulated. | Secretariat |