



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

JWG 50 and IECEx Liaison report to IECEx ExMC

September 15, 2023

Introduction

This report covers the activities of JWG 50 and the IECEx Liaison since the last meetings of IECEx in September 2022.

Objectives of the JWG are:

1. A more ordered way of passing documents back and forward between the two bodies
2. Assure responses to all requests from each organization are received in a timely manner
3. Provide a summary report to each organization at annual meetings on performance regarding item 2
4. Assuring involvement of the appropriate persons while avoiding direct involvement of other persons without channeling through the correct contact

The last JWG 50 meeting was held May 8, 2019, with the previous convenor Marc Coppler. A JWG 50 meeting is scheduled for the IEC/TC31 Plenary Meeting in Melville (US) on November 6, 2023, as an evening meeting (time and place to be determined).

Activities

The following activities currently concern JWG 50 and will be topics of the next JWG 50 meeting:

- **IECEx documents (e.g. DSs or ODs) and their reference in TC 31 documents**
The TC 31 CAG recommends that JWG 50 consider harmonized text to use where IECEx is used as an example of how compliance can be demonstrated. Such text could be included in the TC 31 good working practice.
The TC 31 CAG recommends that JWG 50 consider the appropriate way to reference IECEx documents (for example, DSs or ODs) in TC 31 documents.
(RESOLUTION 2023/7 of TC 31 Chair's Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting be held in Sydney Australia on 30th March 2023 to 31st March 2023)

Background: Is a reference to the IECEx Personnel Competency Scheme as an example of how to demonstrate compliance inappropriate in a standard and does this violate clause 31 of ISO/IEC DIR 2, as it is the use of a trade name or trademark? Should TC31 be neutral when mentioning systems in documents, even if IECEx is a part of IEC and thus it is an activity that exists within IEC? There is currently no common approach within TC31 on the issue.

- **Interaction between IECEx and TC31 AG55**

This interaction refers to the use of "Special Conditions" that exist throughout the series of IEC TC 31 standards and their use in IECEx certificates. WG55 has identified certificates where it is considered that the use of Special Conditions leads to difficulties in implementation by the end user.

As a result, the IECEx Secretariat undertook a review of the cases mentioned by AG55 with the involvement of the ExTAG Officers and the IECEx Chair with the following outcomes (briefly summarized):

- There are some, but very limited number of CoCs where a correction may be warranted and that this has been and will be addressed by the IECEx Secretariat as part of the ongoing monitoring and surveillance of the online CoC system as routine work of the IECEx Compliance Manager.
- IECEx secretariat supports TC 31 AG55 work to identify and review all "Specific Conditions of use" that exist in the various TC31 standards, noting that IECEx Certification Bodies ExCBs, do not have the authority to overrule nor change the requirements or provisions of Standards.
- The Secretariat and ExTAG Officers agree that there is always room for improvement as it was noted that a number of the conditions of use listed on the sample CoCs provided by AG 55 could perhaps have been better worded to assist easier understanding by the end user.

The topic will also be discussed at this year's ExTAG meeting in Edinburgh with a detailed report from the IECEx secretariat.

- **ExTAG decision sheets (DS)**

Between the September 2022 and September 2023 ExMC meetings, seven DS drafts were run through the liaison process, with all responses returned by the due date.

Further topics for discussion in the context of JWG 50 and IECEx Liaison

- **Holding JWG 50 meetings**

In the past, JWG50 meetings have been held during IECEx meetings as well as TC31 meetings. The question was raised in which conjunction should future meetings be held. Should there be a fixed assignment to either TC31 or IECEx and their meetings or e.g., an alternating organization of meetings between both parties? The topic will also be discussed at this year's ExMC meeting in Edinburgh.

- **Handling of ExTAG decision sheets (DS)**

ExTAG Decision Sheets (DS) are processed according to the described procedure in IECEx OD 035, with coordination between TC31 and IECEx being handled by the IECEx Liaison. The question was raised whether this procedure should also be applied to existing DS where only editorial and no substantive changes have been made. It was suggested that this OD 035 comment process only be applied to new and substantively changed DS to avoid repeating discussions that have already been made. The topic will also be discussed at this year's ExTAG meeting in Edinburgh.

As always, we welcome any comments or suggestions for improvements in cooperation between TC 31 and IECEx.

Submitted by Tim Krause
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