



ExMC/2077/DV
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**INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC) SYSTEM FOR
CERTIFICATION TO STANDARDS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN
EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES (IECEX SYSTEM)**

Circulated to: IECEX Management Committee members

Title: IECEX OD 019 Revision regarding Assessor Fees rates

Introduction

The attached Discussion Paper provides the background to a proposal to revise IECEX OD 019 Edition 7.3 regarding Assessor Fee rates as follows

6 Fees for Assessments

The Assessor fee rates for initial assessments, re-assessments, annual surveillance visits Assessor fees, payable by the ExCB and ExTL are currently set at:

- CHF ~~1900~~ ~~1500~~ per day or part thereof (plus expenses) for Lead Assessors (only when acting as an Assessment Team Leader) and for Mid-term Assessment Assessors
- CHF ~~1600~~ ~~1250~~ per day or part thereof (plus expenses) for Assessors that form part of an assessment team.

As agreed by ExMC, the IECEX Secretariat will issue all invoices to ExCB and ExTL applicants and to accepted ExCBs and ExTLs concerning assessments based on Assessment Team cost estimates previously confirmed by the organisation being assessed.

The IECEX Secretariat will remunerate the assessors according to the Assessor Internal Remuneration Procedure.

ExMC members are requested to consider and approve the proposed revision of IECEX OD 019 to be published as Edition 8.0.

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Discussion paper on IECEx assessors' fees

By Dr Jim Munro, on behalf of ExAG

1 Scope

This paper examines the possibility of obtaining a fee increase for IECEx assessors. The paper was developed and agreed by ExAG. It is proposed to initially discuss this paper in the 2024 ExTAG meeting. If a fee increase is supported by the ExTAG then it is proposed that the proposal be further discussed in the 2024 ExMC meeting and, if agreed, be approved together with a revision of OD 019 showing the revised fees.

2 Background

2.1 Assessor fees

OD 019 documents the IECEx assessor fees, payable by the ExCB and ExTL, which are currently set at:

- CHF 1'500 per day or part thereof for Lead Assessors (plus expenses)
- CHF 1'250 per day or part thereof for Assessors (plus expenses)

These fees were set in late 2009 with fees changing from:

- CHF 1'200 per day or part thereof for Lead Assessors (plus expenses)
- CHF 1'000 per day or part thereof for Assessors (plus expenses)

This was an increase of 25 %.

2.2 Current assessor data

The following is some data on assessors:

- 42 assessors are currently accepted
- 17 countries are represented (36 member countries in IECEx)
- 40 different organisations are represented (66 ExCBs in IECEx02)
- The following are the additional accepted assessors each year for the past five years:
 - 2024 - 2
 - 2023 - 1
 - 2022 - 2
 - 2021 - 1
 - 2020 - 1

Two assessors have retired in that period. So, the net increase in number of assessors for five years is five. The number of bodies in the System and hence requiring assessments has increased much more in that time (approximately 22 additional bodies).

The current pool is currently proving adequate but the trend is potentially putting more demands on assessor time.

3 Reasons for a possible change in fees

The following are some reasons to consider a change in fees.

- a) If the fees are low compared to fees that bodies would charge for their work, then those bodies supplying assessors are effectively subsidising those not providing assessors.

- b) If the fees are low compared to fees that bodies would charge for their work there is lack of incentive to provide assessors – this may be the reason for the low number of assessor applications.
- c) In the 15 years since fees were last increased, there have been increases in wages, increases in costs for bodies providing assessors, increases in cost of living, and (presumably) for most bodies increases in their fees.
- d) Ensuring there is an adequate pool of assessors to cover the increasing number of bodies in the System.

4 Proposal

It proposed that consideration be given to increasing assessor fees.

As an indication of a possible increase, if fees were increased by 25 % similarly to the last increase, then based on current fees, the new fees would become (with rounding):

- CHF 1'900 per day or part thereof for Lead Assessors (plus expenses)
- CHF 1'600 per day or part thereof for Assessors (plus expenses)

A proposed revision of OD 019 IECEx *Participation and System Fees* has been prepared showing the above fees.

Submitted for discussion.

Dr Jim Munro

Convenor ExAG

12 June 2024