



**EXMC/2103/INF
SEPTEMBER 2024**

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

Title: Report from OIML

To: *Members of the IECEx Management Committee, ExMC*

Introduction

This document contains a report from Mr Paul DIXON, BIML Assistant Director and OIML-CS Executive Secretary on activities of the OIML.

This report is to be presented during the September 2024 IECEx Management Committee meeting in Foz do Iguaçu.

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Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale

International Organization of Legal Metrology

International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) Update

IECEx Management Committee Meeting
Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, 26-27 September 2024

Paul DIXON
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OIML-CS Executive Secretary



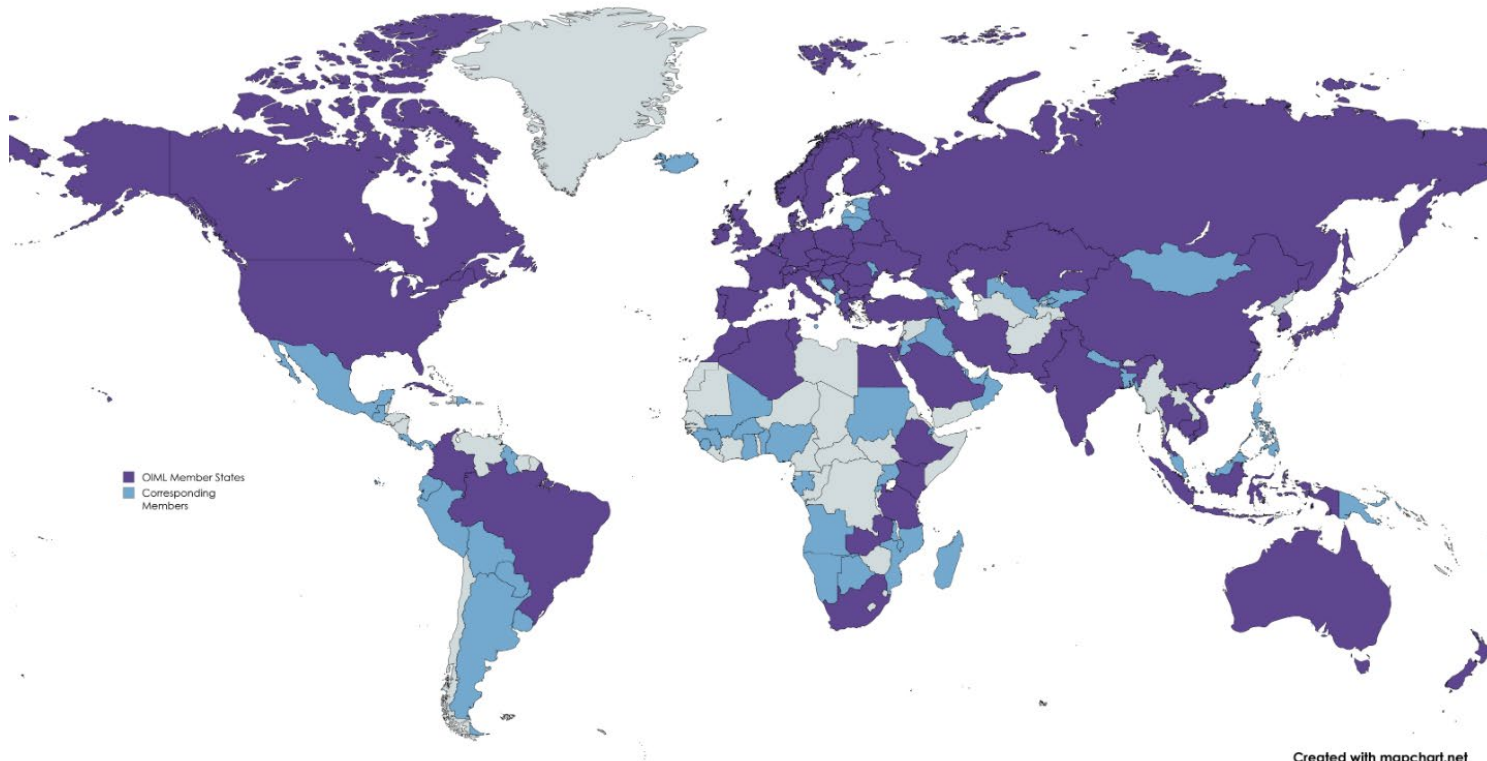


The OIML

- Intergovernmental treaty organisation, established in 1955
- International standards setting organisation under the terms of the WTO/TBT Agreement
- The mission of the OIML is to:
“Enable economies to put in place **effective legal metrology infrastructures** that are mutually compatible and internationally recognised, **for all areas** for which **governments** take responsibility, such as those which **facilitate trade, establish mutual confidence** and **harmonise the level of consumer protection** worldwide.”



OIML Membership



- 64 OIML Member States (+1 from 2023)
- 65 OIML Corresponding Members (+1 from 2023)



OIML “Pillars”

- **Technical work**
 - Development of OIML Recommendations (standards)
- **OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)**
- **Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS)**
 - Participation in OIML work, support policies, guidance
- **International cooperation**
 - Quality infrastructure (INetQI), BIPM, IEC, ISO, ILAC, IAF, ...
- **Digitalisation**
 - OIML Digitalisation Task Group (DTG)





OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)



Principles of the OIML-CS

- Aims to **facilitate, accelerate** and **harmonise** work of **national and regional bodies** that are responsible for **type evaluation** and **type approval** of measuring instruments subject to **legal metrological control**
- It is a **voluntary** system and OIML Member States and Corresponding Members are free to participate
- Signing a **Declaration** commits, in principle, the signatories to **abide by the rules** of the OIML-CS



Objectives of the OIML-CS

- Promote **global harmonisation**, uniform interpretation and implementation of legal metrological requirements for measuring instruments
- Avoid **unnecessary re-testing** when obtaining national type evaluations ... while achieving and maintaining confidence in the results in support of facilitating global trade of instruments
- Establish rules and procedures for fostering **mutual confidence** in the results of type evaluations





- Launched on 1 January 2018 to replace the OIML Basic System and OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA)
- Basic System based on self-declaration
- MAA utilised accreditation or peer assessment for the Test Laboratory (ISO/IEC 17025)
- OIML B 18:2022 *Framework for the OIML Certification System*
- Type approval only - classified to Scheme 1a (ISO/IEC 17067)
- Scheme B – self-declaration (with evidence)
- Scheme A – accreditation or peer assessment
- OIML Issuing Authorities (ISO/IEC 17065 and OIML D 32, or ISO/IEC 17020 (with additional requirements) and OIML D 37)
- Test Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025 and OIML D 30)





- 40 categories of measuring instrument in the OIML-CS
 - R 111 *Weights* added in October 2023 (Scheme B)
- 14 OIML Issuing Authorities and 27 Test Laboratories
- 37 Utilizers and Associates
- 1445 certificates issued (at end of 2023)
- Numbers of OIML IAs and TLs slowly increasing, plus scopes are being extended to include additional instrument categories under Scheme A
- Manufacturers use OIML certificates and/or type evaluation reports to obtain national or regional type approvals (avoid repeat testing)
- Utilizers/Associates benefit from not having to invest in test facilities



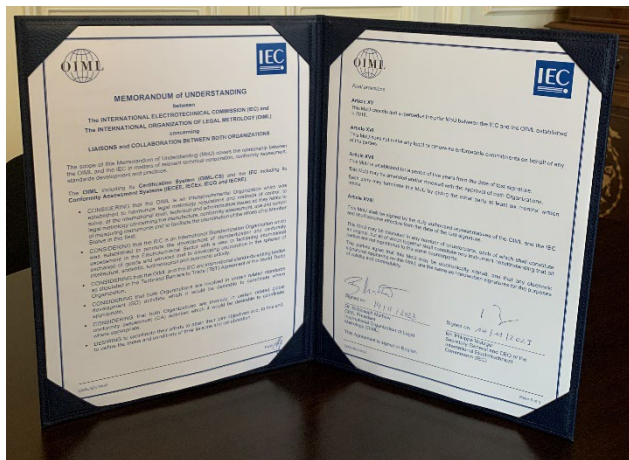


- Ninth OIML-CS Management Committee Meeting was held on 6–7 March 2024 in New Delhi, India
- Some key items:
 - Participation in the OIML-CS Management Committee;
 - Feedback and experiences of participants in the OIML-CS, and a proposal to conduct a survey of Utilizers and Associates to identify their needs and requirements;
 - Updates from the Review Committee, Maintenance Group and the Working Groups;
 - Exploring the possibility of including Conformity to Type (CTT) in the OIML-CS;
 - High priority publications and periodic reviews;
 - Formalising in the OIML-CS documents the use of remote/hybrid assessments and the use of Accreditation Body experts in place of Legal Metrology Experts;
 - Modular approvals;
 - IAF ‘endorsement’ of the OIML-CS; and
 - Digitalisation, including machine readable certificates and OIML Recommendations



IEC / OIML Cooperation

- IEC / OIML MoU originally signed in 2011, renewed in 2018 and renewed again in 2023



Signing of the renewed MoU in Geneva on 14 November 2023.

Left: Dr Bob Joseph Mathew (CIML President)
Right: Mr Philippe Metzger (General Secretary and CEO of the IEC)

- IEC support to the development of the OIML-CS
- Acknowledgement regarding use of IECEx IP in OIML B 18





IECEX / OIML Cooperation

Decision 2023/37

The meeting accepted a report on an update of the OIML-CS and supported the reactivation of the Joint Working Group (JWG) between IECEX and OIML.

Resolution no. CIML/2023/32

Agenda item 15.2

The Committee,

Noting its Resolution 2018/13 regarding the establishment of a Joint OIML-IECEX Working Group (JWG),

Noting the report in Addendum 15.2 to the Working Document for this meeting,

Supports the reactivation of the JWG,

Requests Dr Bobjoseph Mathew to replace Dr Roman Schwartz as one of the OIML representatives on the JWG, and

Encourages CIML Members to put forward nominations to represent the OIML on the JWG.





Joint IECEx / OIML Working Group (JWG)

- Bob Joseph Mathew (OIML) will be the new JWG Convener
- The reactivated JWG will build on outcomes of first JWG meeting in September 2019
- Online meeting of Joint IECEx / OIML Working Group (JWG) planned for November 2024
- Introductory meeting for new participants, determine route forward, plan for an in-person meeting in 2025



Joint IECEx / OIML Working Group (JWG)

- IEC / OIML Joint Work Programme to explore further opportunities for cooperation between the two organisations - for the benefit of manufacturers dealing with measuring instruments used in Ex environment
- Current JWG ToR:

In accordance with the provisions of the IEC OIML MoU (October 2018), especially Article X, the IECEx and OIML agreed to explore areas for collaboration in an effort to prevent duplication by making use of existing deliverables in the field of “Ex” and provide proposals for consideration by both OIML and IECEx*

** To be updated to reflect renewed MoU in 2023*



JWG meeting outcomes – September 2019

- Review of representation on the JWG
- Updates on the status of the respective schemes (activities, developments, future meetings)
- Exploration of areas for cooperation
 - identifying common manufacturers across both systems
 - assessment and monitoring of Certification Bodies
 - process for the acceptance of Manufacturer's Test facilities
 - possible use of the IECEx online certificate system to add attachments to certificates
 - intercomparisons / proficiency testing
 - monitoring of experts participating in accreditations and peer assessments
 - full conformity assessment system (OIML-CS)



Actions and future plans - ideas

- Consideration of mechanisms to assist manufacturers requiring both OIML-CS and IECEx certifications:
 - PTB (Germany) has been undertaking a project to compare the two schemes
- Activities of the JWG to be fed into the higher level IEC / OIML Joint Work Programme
- Standing invitations for participation in the respective meetings of each organisation
- OIML to consider the IECEx online certificate system for the possible use of the system to add attachments to certificates
- OIML to consider the IECEx approach to determining competence through accreditation and peer assessments





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