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

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

**TITLE: The Twenty Fifth Meeting of the ExTAG held in Edinburgh UK on  
18th September and 19th September 2023**

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

**Report of the Twenty Fifth Meeting of the ExTAG**

**held in Edinburgh UK**

This document contains a Report of the 2023 ExTAG Edinburgh Meeting, as well as an Annex A, “Action List”. Decisions as recorded in document ExTAG/716/DL are included in this report.

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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Attendance List ExTAG Meeting Edinburgh 2023

| **Country** | **Name** | **Organisation** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ExTAG Chair**  **ExTAG Deputy Chair**  **IECEx Chair IECEx Vice Chair**  **IEC TC 31 Chair**  **IECEx Executive Secretary**  **IECEx Secretariat**  **IECEx Secretariat** | Frank Lienesch  Jasmin Omerovic  Paul Meanwell  Marty Cole  Martin Thedens  Chris Agius  Mark Amos  Geoff Slater  Maria Brodel | PTB  UL Demko  Komatsu Mining Corporation  Hubbell Canada ULC  PTB  IECEx  IECEx  IECEx  PTB |
| **AE** | Ahlam AlMarzooqi | Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MOIAT) |
| **AU** | Justin Gavranich  Jim Munro  Sarah Wynn | Ex Testing and Certification  Jim Munro International Compliance Pty JAS-ANZ |
| **BR** | Wilson Bonato  Giovanni Hummel Borges  Christian Duarte Vitor Marcon | NCC Certificações do Brasil Ltda.  HG INSPEÇÃO E ANÁLISE  WEG  WEG |
| **CA** | Marco Erdhuizen  Dorin Stochitoiu  Kavinder Dhillon  Andrei V. Tchouvelev | OPS Evaluation Services Inc.  CSA Group  LabTest Certification  ISO TC 197/SC1 Chair |
| **CH** | Thomas Koehntopp  Peter Thurnherr | Eurofins  Thuba |
| **CN** | Hong Zhao  Aihua Guo  Jianping Xu  Zhenyu Ma  Qiao Lu  Xiaodong Ji  Qin Jiang  Xuejing Guo  Yitao Zhang  Yuanyuan Wang  Shubo Wang  Lifeng Wang | NEPSI  NEPSI  NEPSI  CQM  CQM  CQM  Suzhou  CQC  CQST  CQST  CMAC  CMAC |
| **CZ** | Lukas Martinak  Martin Zamrsky | FTZU  FTZU |
| **DE** | Guenter Gabriel  Klauspeter Graffi  Tim Krause  Florian Koch  Niels Springer  Detlev Markus  Peter Marschall  Jozsef Varga  Michael Wittler | Pepperl+Fuchs SE  TUVR  PTB  PTB  PTB  PTB  ATEX Engineering GmbH  Mettler-Toledo (Albstadt) GmbH  DEKRA / BVS |
| **DK** | Søren Storm | Danish Standard |
| **ES** | Eric Bartissol  Yohan Echeverri | ZALUX  LOM |
| **FI** | Jenni Hirvelä | Eurofins Electric & Electronics Finland Oy |
| **FR** | Thierry Houeix  Olivier Cottin  Benjamin Goy  Bernard Piquette  Michel Brenon  Julien Gauthier  Mathieu Lesté  Amel Meddour | INERIS  INERIS  INERIS  INERIS  E and E GCE  LCIE - Bureau Veritas  LCIE - Bureau Veritas  Schlumberger |
| **GB** | Jayson Shepherd  Colin Cameron  Nicholas Ludlam  Simon Barrowcliff  John Allen  Ron Sinclair  Ron Webb  Adrian Smart  Anthony Doggett  Bryn Spencer  Andy Smith  Stylianos Roumpedakis  Glenn Manifold  Julia Cameron  Sean Clarke | EMT  Mutech Ltd  FM Approvals  Element Materials Technology  Sheppard Engineering  SGS Baseefa Ltd  Consultant  Intertek  UL LLC / UL UK  CSA Group Testing UK Ltd  Eurofins E&E CML Ltd  Eurofins E&E CML Ltd  SGS United Kingdom Ltd  Mutech Ltd  ExVeritas |
| **GR** | Seung Hyun Lee | KR Hellas Ltd |
| **HR** | Marino Kelava | Fiditas Ltd |
| **HU** | Nagy Botond | ExVA Ltd |
| **IL** | Aleksey Kogan | ITL |
| **IN** | Ajit Karandikar  Ravindra Paranjpe  Mohit Janoiya | Karandikar Labs  Karandikar Labs  Bureau of Indian Standards |
| **IR** | Seyed Mohsen Mirsadri | EPIL |
| **IT** | Dionisio Bucchieri  Alessandro Fedato  Paolo Luigi Paraboschi  Claudio Cafaro | Eurofins Product Testing Italy  CESI  IMQ Spa  IMQ Spa |
| **JP** | Minari Kogane  Toru Hinouchi  Takuro Kubo  Sungmi Jung  Hiroshi Takahashi | TIIS  TIIS  TIIS  TIIS  Fuji Electric co, Ltd |
| **KR** | Dongjin Kim  Sang-Cheol Lee  Jeong Il Kang  Gyeong-Jin Oh  Juhyuk Lee  Yunghwa Lee  Taeho Nam | KTL  KTL  KOSHA  KOSHA  KOMERI  KGS  KGS |
| **MY** | Muhamad Kamal Bin Sabran | SIRIM |
| **NL** | Karel Neleman  Richard Schuller  Fred Lankamp | BARTEC  DEKRA Certification B.V.  CNEX-Global BV |
| **NO** | Ståle Sandstad  Asle Kaastad | DNV Product Assurance  DNV Product Assurance AS |
| **PL** | Sanghe Kim  Krzysztof Sinka  Piotr Tarnawski | KSC Poland  KSC Poland  OBAC |
| **RO** | Sorin Burian  Lucian Moldovan | INCD-INSEMEX Petrosani  INCD-INSEMEX Petrosani |
| **SA** | Nasser Almaslet  Rose Maher | SASO  SASO |
| **SE** | Hussni Al-Farra | RISE |
| **SI** | Matej Debenc | SIQ Ljubljana |
| **US** | Katy Holdredge  Scott Kiddle  Timothy Duffy  Kevin Wolf  Igor Rakonjac  Evans Massey | UL LLC  ABB  Rockwell Automation  Intertek Testing Services NA  Eurofins E&E North America  -- |
| **ZA** | Regardt Zeelie | Mining And Surface Certification |

1 Opening and Welcome

*1.1* *Opening and Welcome*, *ExTAG Chair*

The meeting commenced at 14:00 p.m.

Day 1 Monday 18th September 2023

The Chair, Dr Frank Lienesch opened the 25th Annual ExTAG meeting at 14:00 p.m. on Monday 18th September 2023 and welcomed everyone to the first face-to-face meeting since Dubai 2019.

Firstly, he thanked the host, the GB National Member Body, and the sponsors for the excellent arrangements of the 2023 Annual series of IECEx meetings.

He welcomed all members and observers, especially those who were attending the meeting for the first time. He then expressed his appreciation to the number of IEC and IECEx representatives as well as the representatives of other groups and organizations.

The Chair extended a special welcome to the Members of the IEC Conformity Assessment Board, Marty Cole as IECEx Vice Chair, Tim Duffy as ExMarkCo Chair, Thorsten Arnhold as IECEx Past Chair and Raj Vadia.

He also welcomed members of the IECEx Executive, the IECEx Chair Paul Meanwell, Prof Xu Jianping as IECEx Treasurer, Jasmin Omerovic as ExTAG Deputy, Peter Thurnherr as ExSFC Committee Chair, John Allen as ExPCC Chair, Thierry Houeix as ExPCC Deputy Chair, Dr Jim Munro as ExAG Convener and Ms Katy Holdredge as ExAG Deputy Convener. He noted an apology for Ms Erin La Rocco as ExSFC Deputy Chair, who could not attend this meeting.

Furthermore, he welcomed IEC TC 31 Chair, Dr Martin Thedens and IEC TC 31/IECEx Liaison Officer Dr Tim Krause.

He acknowledged the IECEx Secretariat Team of Chris Agius, Mark Amos, Geoff Slater, and Maria Brodel. The Chair gave a special thanks to Ms Christine Kane who could not attend the meetings but is a key member of the IECEx Secretariat. He expressed his gratitude to her for all the hard work she continues to do in support of ExTAG and the IECEx.

The Chair expressed his deep regret that Mr Chris Agius was unable to attend the meetings in person and thanked him for being able to attend remotely from Australia as an exception and due to his special personal situation on this occassion.

The Chair pointed out that even though our previous annual meetings were held as remote meetings, the IECEx Executive decided earlier this year to limit the annual meeting of the ExMC and this ExTAG meeting to face-to-face meetings only. He pointed out, that remote meeting facilities can still be used for other meetings, such as WG meetings. He highlighted the importance and value of meeting face-to-face in this way, as the private conversations during coffee breaks and lunch are just as important as the formal discussions of the meeting.

He advised that the Secretariat is recording this meeting only to assist in the production of the reports. He stated that this recording will not be shared with anyone.

The Chair advised that to facilitate accurate recording of decisions, the IECEx Secretariat will display decisions and ask the members for confirmation before moving on to the next agenda item. The plan is to have a list of confirmed decisions at the end of the meeting.

The Chair outlined the role, duties, and membership of ExTAG are detailed in Section 4.2 of the IECEx 02 Rules of procedure for the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme.

He also underlined, that the role duties mainly are to harmonize the application of the requirements of Standards, so that the Standards are applied by all ExTLs and ExCBs in a consistent way and to provide a forum for ExCBs and ExTLs to discuss issues relating to the practical application of Standards regarding testing and assessment. He stressed at no point does ExTAG nor IECEx enable any modification to the requirements of Standards, this is the role of the respective Technical Committees which is TC 31 and the Subcommittees of TC 31.

The Chair handed over to Mr Chris Agius who welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his disappointment at not being able to attend the meetings on site in Edinburgh. Mr Agius thanked the host committee for the preparatory work for this meeting and the last-minute adjustments to allow him to attend online. He advised that all documents are available on the IECEx website.

2 Approval of the Agenda

**Document noted**:

* **[ExTAG/705A/DA](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4308) –** Draft Agendathe Twenty Fifth Meeting of the ExTAG held in Edinburgh UK.

The Chair sought approval of the latest version of the Draft Agenda ExTAG/705A/DA and advised that there was one added document to the Agenda, the Green Paper ExTAG(Edinburgh/NEPSI)03 under agenda item 10.4 for discussion of a possible draft decision sheet.

Ms Katy Holdredge asked to discuss whether an update of the ExTAG DS 2014/001 is needed. This was also included into the meeting as Green Paper under the agenda item 10.5.

In conclusion the meeting recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2023/01**

Members approved the Draft Agenda of the 25th ExTAG Meeting as circulated as ExTAG/705A/DA with the addition of discussion items for:

* Agenda Item 10.4 as Green paper Document ExTAG(Edinburgh/NEPSI)03, regarding discussion on a possible Draft Decision Sheet.
* Agenda Item 10.5 ExTAG DS 2014/001

3 Report of the ExTAG Remote 2022 Meeting

***3.1*** To note the report of the last meeting held remotely 5th August and 6th September 2022, and subsequent action items from the meeting.

**Document noted:**

* **[ExTAG/695/DL](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4116) –** The Twenty Fourth Meeting of the ExTAG

held in webinar format on 5th September and 6th September 2022

* [**ExTAG/702/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4188/) **–** Report of the Twenty Fourth Meeting of the ExTAG held remotely

The Chair asked the meeting to note documents ExTAG/695/DL – *The Twenty Fourth Meeting of the ExTAG held in webinar format on 5th September and 6th September 2022* and ExTAG/702/R – *Report of the Twenty Fourth Meeting of the ExTAG held remotely*. 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 2023/02**

Members noted the Meeting Report and Decision List from the 2022 ExTAG Meeting as circulated as ExTAG/702/R and ExTAG/695/DL.

***3.2***To note a report of the action items by the ExTAG Chair on the ExTAG 2022 Remote Meeting.

**Document for noting:**

* [**ExTAG/707/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4261/) **–** Report on actions since 2022 ExTAG Remote Meeting

The Chair provided a status report on the actions arising from the Remote 2022 ExTAG Meeting. He suggested that, as the report had previously been circulated, there was no need to go through each item separately.

He summarized that action items 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 had all been completed, that action item 3 had been adopted and all other items were listed on the agenda for either this ExTAG meeting or the ExMC meeting.

The Chair asked the meeting to approve the report of actions from 2022 meeting as presented in ExTAG/707/R.

**Decision 2023/03**

Members endorsed the report from the ExTAG Chairman on the Action Items from the 2022 ExTAG Meeting as circulated as ExTAG/707/R.

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, 2022, 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 stated he would provide more detailed information when going through the IECEx Annual Report Card in detail ([**ExMC/1965/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4285/) – IECEx System Report Card - 2023) during the ExMC meeting later in the week on 21st and 22nd of September. He continued that the report at this time simply provides an opportunity to learn the growth details. He summarized some of the most important facts in terms of statistics and the development of the IECEx system, especially in regard of the Certified Equipment Scheme, highlighting the steady increase in number of IECEx Certifies being issuing to cover non-electrical equipment, which stand at 1886 compared to 741 the previous year.

***4.1 Membership***

Mr Agius discussed the membership of IECEx, which has 36 member countries that comprise the IECEx Management Committee and gave a summary report on the current facts and statistics. The number of accepted certification bodies, test laboratories, and recognized training providers are growing. The Certified Equipment Scheme has seen growth in membership and certificates issued. Two additional certification bodies have been approved to operate in the CoPC Scheme and there is one additional recognized training providers as well.

The following the statistics are listed.

IECEx System Membership, as of 30th June 2023 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 (Rules = IECEx 05)

and the IECEx Recognized Training Provider Program (RTPP)

* **IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme**
  + **64** Accepted ExCBs + 5 Applicants
  + **72** Accepted ExTLs +5 Applicants
  + **10** Accepted ATFs + 3 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 Applicant
* **IECEx Recognized Training Provider Program (RTPP)** 
  + **36** Recognized Training Providers (RTPs) + 1 Applicant

***4.2 Statistics – Certificates, Licences and Reports***

As at 30th June 2023 there were **149,767** issued IECEx Reports, Certificates and Licenses across all the following four IECEx Schemes compared with 135,621 at the same time last year (30th June 2022) – this represents an overall growth of **10.4 %.**

Mr Chris Agius pointed out, that as at end of August 2023 there were **1886** certificates covering non-electrical standards compared to **741** last year, what shows a significant increase in the number of certificates. He detailed the outcomes of the initiatives and efforts led by the various working groups within the executive team, particularly in emerging fields such as hydrogen and the integration of ISO Standards into the IECEx portfolio.

He recognized the work of ExMC WG02 with Ms Katy Holdredge as the Convener and thanked her for the excellent work being done in updating the Technical Capability Documents (TCDs) and outlined the excellent, updated report given during the Assessors Training earlier in the day. He also acknowledged the various works with the different working groups, including ExMC WG19, which has dedicated the past 12 to 18 months incorporating ISO Standards covering Hydrogen Technologies into IECEx OD 290

Mr Chris Agius stated that he would be pleased to inform the meeting that during the ExMC meeting later in the week, members would receive an update from the experts of ISO TC 197, which is International Technical Committee responsible for the hydrogen standards. They will share the latest developments and focus areas within the Hydrogen Standards.

He highlighted the importance of face-to-face assessments and recognized the intense efforts in the peer assessment program, especially now as we transition back to on-site assessments post-COVID-19.

Mr Chris Agius expressed his gratitude towards the EXTLs and ExCBs for their critical role in allowing the continuation of the peer assessment program. He concluded his report and opened the floor for any questions.

The Chair thanked and highlighted, that the growth of IECEx is a reflection of the great work and collaboration of all members of the IECEx and the supporting work of the IECEx Secretariat, for which he conveyed his deep thanks.

With no further discussions, the meeting recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2023/04**

Members accepted the report from the IECEx Secretariat on an overview of the IECEx System activities since the 2022 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 gave a short introduction and welcomed Dr Jim Munro, the Convener of ExMCWG15, to provide a brief report on the progress of the work regarding Edition 2.0 of ISO/IEC 80079-38: Equipment and components in explosive atmospheres in underground mines.

Dr Munro reported on the efforts to integrate the ISO/IEC 80079-38 standard, which addresses mining machinery, into mines. ISO/IEC 80079-38 was initially developed alongside the ISO 80079-36 and ISO 80079-37 standards by subcommittee SC31M of TC 31. A working group within IECEx, ExMC WG15, was formed to evaluate these three standards for certification under the IECEx 02 Scheme. While standards ISO 80079-36 and ISO 80079-37 were accepted, ISO/IEC 80079-38 faced challenges due to its non-mandatory requirements, e.g. the use of "should" instead of "shall."

Dr Munro reminded that the ExMC decided against using the standard in its current form, prompting a request for SC31M to revise the standard into a mandatory format. Taking responsibility for both the problem and its solution, Dr Jim Munro joined the maintenance team of the standard, eventually becoming its joint convener, aiming to facilitate the necessary changes.

Progress was made during the first maintenance team meeting in Sydney in March 2023, where it was considered converting non-mandatory aspects into an Informative Annex, notes or turning them into mandatory requirements. They also discussed to extend the standard's scope to include equipment used in coal mines, aligning with the Zone 0 concept for above-ground conditions.

A second meeting earlier this year in Berlin further addressed these issues, moving closer to finalizing the standard for a Committee Draft (CD) by mid-October. This timeline allows for comments to be reviewed in an upcoming meeting in Split, spring 2024, aiming for the CD's approval and subsequent stages towards publication.

Dr Jim Munro ended his report by noting the progress made and the plan for the Standard's publication.

The Chair thanked Dr Munro for his report and invited any questions from the members.

The meeting discussed the procedure and decision-making process for the adoption of a new Edition 2.0 of ISO/IEC 80079-38 and its use for certification. Members discussed whether the new edition can be used as soon as it is published or whether a vote is required for its adoption. The overall view tended to be that, given the importance of maintaining standards, a formal vote is required to adopt the new edition as suitable for certification.

Dr Jim Munro proposed that a recommendation for acceptance of the new edition be made by ExMC WG15 at an appropriate time to allow for preliminary evaluations and to ensure that the standard is ready to be used when it is published. The need for clarity and a structured approach to the adoption of the new edition was emphasized, particularly given its importance to certification procedures. The meeting supported this approach.

The Chair thanked the meeting and recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2023/05**

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.

ExTAG recommends to ExMC that when the Edition 2.0 of ISO/IEC 80079-38 reaches the FDIS stage, ExMC WG15 be tasked with making a recommendation to ExMC on the suitability of the document for use for certification.

***5.2 Application of possible new Approach for future edition of IEC 60079-7***

This agenda item focused on an upcoming presentation by Mr Karel Neleman from Bartec ([**ExTAG-BARTEC-Karel-Neleman-Presentation**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4326/))**.**

The Chair reminded the meeting of the previous decision that according to IECEx 02 the ExTAG consists of ExCBs and ExTLs, including those in the application phase, as well as the Chairs and Secretaries of TC 31 and its subcommittees according to their position, which is also held by Mr Karel Neleman.

Mr Karel Neleman gave a presentation in which he underlined the need for a re-evaluation of the IEC 60079-7 standard, specifically criticizing the new clauses for equipment enclosures and advocating a clearer distinction between equipment and components. His main concern was the potential safety risks associated with partially enclosed products used in hazardous areas without proper classification and certification.

Mr Neleman pointed out what he felt were inconsistencies in the approach to certification practices and the role of certification bodies and questioned the rationale behind certain manufacturing decisions and their compliance with safety standards. He called for a review of current practices to avoid possible safety compromises and to maintain the integrity of certification procedures.

During his presentation, Mr Neleman emphasized his commitment to improving safety and compliance within the IECEx system and called for proactive measures to correct course and ensure that certification practices are consistent with their intended purpose.

The Chair thanked Karel for his presentation and discussed the relevance of having such discussions within ExTAG. He acknowledged the positive reception of the presentation, indicating the value of addressing these issues openly. While highlighting that the starting point for review is with the Standards themselves as IECEx's role is not to create standards, but that responsibility belonged to TC 31. He highlighted that IECEx experts have the opportunity to voice their opinions to TC 31 through their National Committees.

The Chair emphasized the importance of discussing problems within the IECEx forum but also recognized the group's limitations in solving certain issues, when they relate to Standards. He concluded by inviting further comments and opening the floor for discussion.

Mr Evans Massey posed a question regarding TC 31 issues, specifically about problems arising within MT 60079-7. He inquired whether these concerns had been communicated to the maintenance team and suggested that Mr Neleman’s presentation could be useful for their next meeting to address these issues in detail.

Mr Neleman confirmed that the maintenance team was aware of his views through comments he had submitted via the Dutch Committee. However, he had not shared his presentation with them directly.

Mr Evans Massey further recommended that the presentation might be valuable for the maintenance team's agenda to provide detailed examples and suggested that the issues might also be relevant for TC 31 WG 22.

Mr Thierry Houeix speculated on the possibility of using standards IEC 60079-15 and IEC 60079-7 for products in the market that may need special conditions. He raised a concern about today's practice where products could be certified as equipment under one standard and as components under another, suggesting a need for clarity.

The TC 31 Chair Martin Thedens appreciated Mr Neleman's presentation from a personal standpoint, acknowledging the identification of issues at the TC 31 level and address them in the TC 31 Ad-Hoc Group ahG 58. He noted that the problem partly arises from certification bodies issuing certificates for equipment as components and emphasized the effort to follow rules based on standards.

Mr Scott Kiddle added comments to support Martin Theden's points, mentioning the advisory group AG 55 within TC 31, which addresses distinctions between equipment and components. He indicated that there's work being done beyond just the IEC 60079-7 standard, involving TC 31 WG 47 and cooperation with TC 31 WG 22 for general requirements, highlighting ongoing efforts within TC 31.

Mr Chris Agius provided an extensive overview of the situation supporting the Chair’s advice that the starting point for any review is with the standards themselves. He highlighted the valuable cooperation between IECEx and TC 31 and advised against hastily creating decision sheets in isolation from ongoing discussions within TC 31. Mr Agius stressed the importance of allowing room for the work of TC 31 AG 55 and JWG 50 to proceed and emphasized supporting a common approach to testing and certification. He thanked Mr Neleman for bringing these issues to attention and underscored the importance of collective efforts towards resolving them.

Mr Mark Amos discussed focusing on the certification process, explaining that the Secretariat regularly conducted random audits of certificates. This process is designed to ensure compliance. He suggested incorporating the issue raised in this discussion into the Secretariat’s checklist, particularly to monitor the assemblies used. The aim is to emphasize and commit to presenting a report on findings regarding certificates issued from the present day forward at the next meeting in 2024. He acknowledged that this would not correct existing certificates but emphasized the importance of adjusting any incorrect practices moving forward.

The Chair thanked the members for the discussion and closed the session without recording a decision, noting this matter is being raised within the IEC TC 31.

No decision recorded.

6 Performance feedback from ExCBs and ExTLs

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

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

He 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. He 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.

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.

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 ExTAG WG 01, which is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of ExTR's and invited Mr Scott Kiddle to give an update.

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

**Document for consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/709A/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4260/) **–** Report from ExTAG Working Group 01 (WG 01): Preparation of assessment and test report forms (ExTRs)

Mr Kiddle gave a report on the status of WG 01, which is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of ExTR forms and blanks, as well as for the operational documents OD 010-1 and OD 010-2.

The WG 01 currently has 12 members but has not had any meetings since the ExTAG meetings in 2022. However, WG 01 completed some tasks through email correspondence, primarily with the support of Ms Christine Kane, by circulating the draft DS and implementing DS as hyperlinks in the ExTR blanks.

Mr Kiddle reported that the ExTR Cover has been updated to the classification of installation and use for the general requirements for Edition 7 of IEC 60079-0, and further for the Editions 6 and 5 of IEC 60079-0 to include relevant Decision Sheets from 2022 and 2023.

Further updates included Edition 4.1 of IEC 60079-5 and Edition 7 of IEC 60079-11. He also mentioned updates to IEC 60079-18 and IEC 60079-46. He mentioned that an addendum for OD 290 (version 1A) was posted on the IECEx website along with Edition 1.0 of ISO 80079-36 to include relevant DS.

Mr Kiddle highlighted the process of reviewing decision sheets older than five years, leading to updates of older versions of IEC 60079-0 (Editions 5 and 6) and IEC 60079-28 (Editions 1 and 2), thanking Mr Geoff Slater for his review.

Mr Kiddle raised the question about the process of handling multiple editions of a standard when incorporating Decision Sheets, inquiring whether updating all previous versions is required. He asked the meeting for their opinion.

Moreover, Mr Kiddle reported that Operational Documents have not been updated since the 2022 ExTAG meetings.

He also stated that the development of the ExTR cover is under consideration by WG 01, specifically regarding the Technical Document list. Currently, an asterisk (\*) marks changes or updates to documents, but there is a proposal to allow for bold text or strikethrough for removed documents. Additionally, a note should specify the method used to indicate changes. Given the length of the Technical Document list and the need to update the cover accordingly, there's consideration for alternative methods to highlight updates. This proposal is still in draft form and subject to discussion within WG 01.

He mentioned issues for ExTAG's consideration, indicating that ISO Standards related to Hydrogen Technologies will be addressed later during the ExTAG meetings. He acknowledged this topic has not yet been discussed in WG 01 but is looking forward to discussing this later during the meetings.

Lastly, Mr Kiddle expressed gratitude towards Ms Christine Kane for her efforts in hyperlinking Decision Sheets to the ExTR blanks, considering future automation possibilities.

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

Ms Katy Holdredge raised a question regarding the wording in the draft ExTR Cover presented, which states that deleted documents "should" stay in the list for reference.

She wonders whether the working group intends to make this an optional practice and if deleted documents could also be erased from the list.

Mr Kiddle mentioned that the working group is still considering the proposal to change the document list to include alternative methods, although it has not been fully explored yet. He acknowledged that the idea of using strikethrough for deleted items received some critical feedback. However, the underlying question remains whether there is a more efficient and user-friendly way to update a lengthy list of documents. The deletion of documents is not anticipated.

Mr Chris Agius took the floor and expressed gratitude towards Mr Scott Kiddle for the comprehensive update in the report, acknowledging the excellent work done. He assured that he would pass on the recognition and appreciation to Ms Christine Kane, noting her valuable contributions.

He mentioned the recent ExMC WG19 request on Hydrogen Technologies that was highlighted during the last WG19 meeting. The discussions centered around the ongoing activities of IECEx, and the integration of ISO Standards related to Hydrogen Technologies. He acknowledged the efforts of ExMC WG02 to integrate these standards into the technical capability document (TCD). He emphasized the need for ExTR blanks to support these activities and thanked Mr Scott Kiddle for including this topic in his report.

Further, Mr Chris Agius highlighted recent communications within the Secretariat and among certification bodies regarding potential confusion or need for clarification concerning the ExTR cover sheet, specifically its signature requirements. The ExTR Cover Sheet references 'compiled by' and 'reviewed by' with respective signatures, and 'endorsed by' from the certification body, leading to queries about the possibility of having identical signatures for 'compiled by' and 'reviewed by.' He proposed, through the Chair's request, that ExMC WG01 evaluate OD 010, particularly OD 010-2, to possibly clarify the intent behind these signature provisions. He inquired if Mr Kiddle, with the meeting's consent, could address this matter in ExTAG WG 01.

Mr Scott Kiddle noted Chris Agius’ input and appreciated it, mentioning that some aspects might fall under the ExMC WG01. Therefore, he suggested that ExTAG WG 01 should collaborate with ExMC WG01 to address the issues comprehensively, not only in IECEx OD 010-2 but also in IECEx OD 009.

Additional comments from the meeting led to the following decision.

**Decision 2023/06**

Members accepted the report (as circulated as ExTAG/709A/R) from ExTAG WG 01 prepared by the Convener, Mr Scott Kiddle.

The meeting also requested ExTAG WG 01 in cooperation with ExMC WG01 and ExMC WG18 to consider revisions of IECEx OD 010-2 and possibly IECEx OD 009 (noting previous work and solutions for Ex ‘s’ independent verifiers in OD 233) to clarify requirements regarding signatories on ExTR Cover Sheets.

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

**Document for consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/684A/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4269/) **–** Revision of IECEx OD 017 “Documentation and Drawing Requirements” Ed 6.0

* **[ExTAG/683A/CD](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4266) –** Discussion Paper from Mr Ajay Maira regarding use of electronic files.

The Chair introduced the agenda item, which is the report of ExTAG WG 3 which deals with Documentation and Drawing Requirements.

This group is responsible for maintaining IECEx OD 017, *Operational Document - Drawing and documentation Guidance for IEC Ex Certification – for use by Manufacturers and ExTLs*. The Chair asked Mr Ron Webb to take the floor and give a report.

Mr Ron Webb reported that the progress of IECEx OD 017 has been gradual over the last two years. A document was expected last year but faced delays. However, the draft Edition 7, introducing non-electrical additions and minor corrections like changing "shall" to "should," has been circulated. He hopes for its approval. Additionally, Mr Ajay Maira's discussion paper on electronic files might be integrated into IECEx OD 017, potentially affecting its release timeline. He inquired if there had been any feedback on Mr Maira's document or if further comments were necessary.

Mr Mark Amos clarified that the approval of documents for publication is under the jurisdiction of the ExMC, not the EXTAG. The proposed revision of IECEx OD 017 should be forwarded to ExMC. He mentioned that based on the outcomes of the current WG 03 meeting, it could be decided to either proceed with the proposed revision, withdraw it for further work, or submit changes to address any concerns later. He suggested making a final decision after the subsequent meeting of ExTAG WG 03 to determine the course of action for what will be presented to the ExMC later in the week. He indicated that a decision on this matter would likely be premature at this point.

Mr Ron Webb mentioned that members of the WG 03 are present and will be holding a Zoom meeting immediately following the current ExTAG meeting, which could result in changes based on the discussion. He asked for any further comments and support on the matter.

Mr Kavinder Dhillon asked whether expectations of requirements in the process of sharing documents between ExCBs are addressed in the new Edition of IECEx OD 017.

Mr Ron Webb mentioned that there had been a previous request to enhance communication within and between ExCBs, leading to revision of operational documents.

Mr Dhillon suggested the need for further clarification or additional information and was asked to join the WG 03 to find a solution.

Mr Ron Webb will give a further report during the ExMC later this week after the meeting of WG 03.

The Chair thanked Mr Ron Webb for his report and closed this item with the following decision.

**Decision 2023/07**

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

***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 manufacturer’s or user’s facility

The Chair introduced ExTAG WG 06 which is tasked with the role of maintaining IECEx OD 024, *IECEx Rules of Procedure covering testing, or witnessing testing at a manufacturer’s or user’s facility.* While noting that WG 06 has not met since the last meeting, this is an opportunity for members to raise any matters for WG 6 to consider.

The Chair highlighted that the Edition 4 is being noted and mentioned the establishment of the Testing Register on the website from 2021. This allows for the evaluation of testing conducted at different locations. He confirmed the ongoing revision for the Edition 5, which aims to clearly define third-party testing facilities. He also referred to the consideration given to the inclusion of aspects related to Hydrogen Standards. The Chair expressed his gratitude to Mr Chris Agius as Convener of WG 06 and invited him to report on the recent developments.

The Convener Mr Chris Agius reported that WG 06 started work on a proposed draft revision for Edition 5.0 in 2022, aiming to clarify the definition of a "Third Party Test Facility."

However, the main focus of IECEx activities was on introducing ISO Hydrogen Standards and developing IECEx OD 290 with ExMC WG19.

Now, there is a plan to reactivate the revision of the current Edition 4.0 of IECEX OD 024, and ExTAG WG 06 is open to considering any suggested changes from ExTAG.

The latest report on ExTAG WG 06 activities is ExTAG/692/R, which presents a preliminary draft for the new Edition 5.0 of IECEx OD 024 has been published in 2022.

He stated that a remote meeting of ExTAG WG 06 is intended for prior to the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Chris Agius for his report. The meeting agreed to record the following decision.

**Decision 2023/08**

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/708/R](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4293/)** – 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 introduced ExTAG WG 10, which is dealing with the IECEx Proficiency Testing Program. He noted that members should be aware of the 2022 revision of IECEx OD 202.

Moreover, he reminded the meeting that although PTB is designated as the PT Provider, the IECEx Secretariat plays an oversight role to ensure compliance with the IECEx Scheme rules, including participation by all Accepted and Applicant ExTLs and ATFs.

The Chair invited Mr Tim Krause, the Convener of ExTAG WG 10 to present his report.

Mr Krause gave a report on the progress and results of the recent Proficiency Testing Programs and the outcome of the last meeting of ExTAG WG 10 in July. Specifically, he noted the completion of the current programs Flameproof Joints (FJ) and Small Component Temperature (SCT) and outlined the successful conclusion of ten programs since 2010. He also introduced the next two programs for the Test Round 2023 and advised that the following programs are currently available:

* Flameproof Joints (FJ) - Test Round 2021
* Small Component Temperature (SCT) - Test Round 2021
* Explosion Pressure (EP) - Test Round 2023
* Connection and Junction Boxes (CJB) - Test Round 2023

He introduced his team at PTB, which includes Ms Jia Wu, Ms Lisa Osterman and Ms Maria Brodel. He also mentioned the significant team at PTB involved in these programs, highlighting experts like Mr Niels Springer for the Flameproof Joints Program and Mr Florian Koch for the Connection and Junction Boxes Program. He addressed the necessity for PTB to demonstrate competence, anticipating an upcoming peer assessment in November this year.

He then transitioned to reviewing results from FJ and SCT programs, explaining the process of issuing preliminary and final reports based on laboratory performance in two phases, noting improvements and ongoing corrective actions. Mr Krause also shared insights from participant feedback via questionnaires, indicating positive responses and constructive impacts on internal laboratory processes.

He discussed the current and upcoming Proficiency Testing Programs, emphasizing their design to challenge and refine laboratory practices. He mentioned that the test samples for the programs EP and CJB will be send within the next weeks and mentioned, that the testing phases for Phase I will be from November until the end of January, as planned. He also announced the workshops between Phase I and Phase II will take place at the PTB in the week commencing June 17th, 2024.

Concluding, Mr Krause addressed the need to adjust participation fees due to rising operational costs, assuring transparency and communication about the upcoming changes. He encouraged questions and discussions, offering the expertise of PTB colleagues present at the meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Krause for his report and opened the floor for questions.

Ms Katy Holdredge commented on the timing for laboratories to conduct testing, noting that January is often a busy period for fulfilling manufacturer requirements. She expressed concern that this timing might not be ideal for future testing schedules and asked to aim another deadline.

Mr Krause acknowledged that the deadline was previously set for the last day of December, which was not ideal. Now the deadline has been extended to January, which provides some buffer time. He pointed out that most results usually are received around the deadline and are flexible, allowing two to four weeks more time if needed.

Prof Xu raised a concern on how new laboratories determine which programs are mandatory. This should be made clearer on the website.

Mr Krause considered this to be a good idea and pointed out that a link to the website of Ex Proficiency Testing Scheme (<https://www.ex-proficiency-testing.ptb.de>) should be integrated on the IECEx website.

The Chair thanked Mr Krause and his WG, and PTB, for their ongoing work which is so important to the IECEx. The meeting agreed to record the following decision.

**Decision 2023/09**

Members accepted the report from ExTAG WG 10 Convener, Tim Krause as circulated as ExTAG/708/R and noted the publication of IECEx OD 202 Edition 4.0.

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

**18th September 2023 at 16:30 p.m.**

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.

**Documents for noting/consideration:**

* [**ExMC/1994/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4299/) – Report from the IEC TC 31 Chair

The Chair introduced the next item on the agenda, which is 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 a selection from the report he will present at the ExMC meeting later this week.

During the ExTAG meeting, Mr Thedens focused on providing an overview of the past year’s achievements and the strategic direction for the upcoming period. Dr Thedens reported recent decisions of interest to the IECEx.

Mr Thedens announced, that TC 31 decided to establish a Liaison with IECEx ExMC WG19 and appointed Dr Jim Munro as the outgoing Liaison Officer.

He also reported that an advisory group for Hydrogen Technologies (Hydrogen AG) has been established to coordinate input from TC 31 and its subcommittees to relevant technical committees on hydrogen. The Convenors of this group will be the TC 31 Chair and Vice Chair.

Moreover, he introduced the new TC31 Liaison Officer Tim Krause to IECEx and thanked the previous Liaison Officer Mark Coppler for his work in this role. Mr Tim Krause is also the new Convenor of JWG 50 “Standards coordination with IECEx linked to IECEx”.

Mr Thedens also introduced changes to the scope of TC 31 AG 55 “Specific Conditions of Use” and reported that SC 31J “Classification of hazardous areas and installation requirements“ may distribute a request for more experts to join AG 55.

TC 31 endorsed SC 31J's recommendation and urges IECEx to look for options to improve representation of stakeholders, regulators, and end users.

Mr Thedens noted that TC 31 Chair Advisory Group (CAG) had made resolutions of interest to the IECEx.

Consequently, he reported on the scope modification for AG 55 including “To review and identify references to Specific Conditions of Use in the IEC 60079 and ISO/IEC 80079 series and to maintain a list of Specific Conditions of Use. To provide support and guidance to other TC 31 groups on the development of requirements for Specific Conditions of Use. **To consult with Ex conformity assessment systems as appropriate**”

It was recommended that JWG 50 consider harmonized text for use in IECEx applications to show how compliance can be demonstrated.

Moreover TC 31 recommended a joint meeting between PT 60079-44 and EG 52 to resolve ISO/IEC Directive comments raised by EG 52.

Mr Thedens gave a list of documents nearing completion and informed that the next TC 31 meetings will be in Melville, USA in November this year.

Mr Thedens also noted that Mr Bard Johnsen (Norway) will be the new Chair of SC 31J.

He thanked IECEx for its contributions to TC 31 and expressed his appreciation of the work with IECEx.

The Chair noted Mr Tim Krause as the new Liaison Officer between IECEx and TC 31 and thanked Mr Thedens for his report.

The decision below was then recorded.

**Decision 2023/10**

Members accepted the reports from the IEC TC 31 Chair and comments from the IECEx Executive Secretary.

***8.2 Special Conditions and discussions with TC 31 AG 55***

**Documents for noting/consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/712/R**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4306/)– Report from the Convener of AG 55

The Chair reminded the members that the terms of reference for TC 31 AG 55 are given on the TC 31 website and are the following:

*‘To review and identify references to Specific Conditions of Use in the IEC 60079 and ISO/IEC 80079 series and maintain a list of Specific Conditions of Use. To provide support and guidance to other TC31 groups on the development of requirements for Specific Conditions of Use. To consult with Ex conformity assessment systems as appropriate.’*

The Chair invited the Secretary Mr Chris Agius to give his report on discussions with TC 31 AG 55.

The Mr Agius reported that AG 55 has identified specific conditions as they appear in the standards and approximately 85 of them have been reviewed. During their work, AG 55 also noted that there were conditions listed on some IECEx certificates that were difficult for end users to implement. The Convenor of the group sent a list of 33 IECEx Certificates identified with this concern to the IECEx Secretariat.

The IECEx Secretariat took actions as following:

1. The IECEx Secretariat has taken the following actions by the IECEx Compliance Manager, Geoff Slater, who reviewed each “Condition” listed in each of the 33 IECEx Certificates presented. In total166 Conditions were listed across those 33 certificates. It was to determine, whether
   * + the Special Condition is in line with the provisions of the specific Standard(s) as listed on the IECEx Certificate itself
     + the Condition does alter the requirements of the standard
     + the listed Condition is clear and able to be understood
     + the Condition does actually relate to the end user
     + the findings on each condition were graded and tabulated into a report table.
2. Upon completion of step a) an independent peer review of the findings was undertaken by both Chris Agius, IECEx Executive Secretary and Mark Amos, IECEx Business Manager and fine tuning/adjustments made to the report table.
3. The findings were then shared with the IECEx Testing and Assessment Committee (ExTAG) Officers of Dr Frank Lienesch from PTB (DE) and Jasmin Omerovic of UL DEMKO (DK) and the IECEx Chair Mr Paul Meanwell of KOMATSU (ZA).

Mr Agius reported that these findings were presented at the Sydney meeting of TC 31 AG 55 on 20th March 2023, and in a further online meeting held on 15th May 2023. These meetings also led to broader discussions about Special Conditions of Use.

Mr Agius then gave a short history of IECEx Certificates. He reported that IECEx provides the framework for a single Global Certification Scheme dedicated to Equipment, Services, Persons relating to Equipment for use in explosive atmospheres, by establishing a single set of Certification Scheme Rules, Standard Operating Procedures, Standardized Reporting forms and a single On-Line Certificate System, that provides for a consistent approach to Certification by all ExTLs and ExCBs. Approved ExCBs and ExTLs are operating in compliance with International Standards of the ISO/IEC 17XXX series. These ExCBs and ExTLs undergo requiring monitoring, including peer assessments, annual surveillance, and proficiency testing.

He highlighted, that a key rule is the ExCBs obligation to strictly adhere to the published standards without alterations. Special conditions in IEC TC 31 Standards must be followed. ExTAG Decision Sheets can clarify but not change these standards. Cooperation between IECEx and TC 31 has been essential, with only 117 Decision Sheets issued over the last 24 years.

Mr Agius pointed out that IECEx started issuing On-Line Certificates in 2003, which are now in their 3rd Generation. The 1st Generation included CoCs and manual entries for test report and audit report numbers with one file for all issues. The 2nd Generation introduced the registration of ExTRs and QAR Summaries with linking to CoCs. The 3rd Generation was a major replacement with the new platform, greater search, and additional features for “Back Office” review and monitoring by the Secretary to assist the ExCBs.

He then summarized the results of the Secretariat review of the 33 certificates identified by AG 55 noting that 3 certificates where the reported problem was clear and had been followed up with the ExCB concerned and 9 where issues were identified but not found to be in conflict with the related standard.

He emphasized that ExCBs must always apply standards as written. He noted that the question was raised on guidance for ExCBs when issuing Certificates covering assemblies according to IEC 60079-46 and whether or not Special Conditions of Use contained on certificates covering parts of the assembly warrant being also included on the Assembly certificate itself.

Mr Agius concluded his report requesting that ExTAG support the following actions:

1. Greater emphasis should be placed on the correct inclusion of Specific Conditions of Use by the IECEx Secretariat when conducting reviews of Certificates as part of their monitoring process;
2. IECEx peer assessments to consider content in certificates with respect to inclusion of Specific Conditions of Use when reviewing files during the peer assessments;
3. Suggest adding a spell checker feature to the On-Line Certificate System;
4. IECEx Secretariat to remind ExCBs to NOT include general manufacturers instructions in “Specific Conditions of Use” field, noting that in some circumstances the ExCB may feel that certain instructions warrant inclusion as Conditions;
5. IECEx Secretariat to advise all ExCBs of the need for them to require manufacturers to review Draft Certificates prior to issuing Certificates. To this point the Secretariat to consider adding a reminder in the Desk Top Review Report (DTR) provided to IECEx peer assessors to check whether the ExCB has a process for sharing draft CoCs with the client before issue.
6. This item was added by Mr Agius – to propose that this item be discussed among ExAG arising from the earlier presentation during the ExTAG meeting (agenda item 5.2) from Karl Neleman and is listed below as Decision 2023/11.

Mr Agius also requested the ExTAG to support the valuable work of TC31 AG 55.

The Chair thanked Mr Agius for his report and invited the meeting to ask questions.

The Convenor of ExAG Dr Jim Munro accepted the recommendation listed in point f) and emphasized the need for clear guidance within IECEx on addressing Specific Conditions of use and highlighted the importance of common interpretation among assessors and ExCBs. He also underlined the importance of clear wording in standards and raised the issue of defining equipment versus components.

Mr Mark Amos from the Secretariat commented that IECEx OD 011-2 provided guidance on the On-Line Certificate System including requirements for the Specific Conditions of Use field. This document is currently under revision and any contributions are welcome.

Prof Xu shared his experience and emphasized the importance of clearly indicating Special Conditions of use, noting that vendors often fail to do so. He highlighted the value of detailed information from peer assessments and mentioned that certifications based on IEC 60079-46 typically include comprehensive details in the CoC and its annex. These documents list equipment, type, page number, and special conditions, and analyze how these conditions affect current certification and whether they should be transferred to new certifications. He found this practice very beneficial, however would appreciate guidance, as mentioned by Dr Jim Munro.

Mr Justin Gavranich asked if the issues found by the Secretariat had been resolved with the relevant ExCBs to which Mr Agius responded that the three major certificates had been resolved.

The following decision was then recorded.

**Decision 2023/11**

Members accepted a report from the Secretariat regarding collaboration with TC 31 AG 55 and supported the proposed actions outlined in ExTAG/712/R including the additional point f).

f. Additional item arising from the Presentation from Karel Neleman – that his presentation along with this report from the Secretariat be included for discussion within ExAG to provide some guidance to IECEx Peer Assessors.

***8.3 Other Technical Committee matters***

The Chair introduced this item as an opportunity for ExTAG members to be informed about ongoing communication and collaboration with other Technical Committees regarding the IECEx coverage of additional elements, especially related to Hydrogen Technologies, as part of the ExMC WG19 work. The specific Committees involved are:

a) ISO TC 197 – Hydrogen Technologies

b) IEC TC 105 – Fuel Cells

The Chair underlined the importance of ensuring safety in the use of Hydrogen, especially in the context of climate change activities. He announced that IEC TC 31 has now established a Liaison with ISO TC 197, with Mr Thorsten Arnhold as Liaison Officer, who will present further details during the Symposium and the ExMC meeting later this week.

The collaboration aims “Standardization of large scale Hybrid energy Systems and application, including aspects of testing certification, sustainability and placement and coordination with other relevant standardization bodies and stakeholders.”

The Chair invited Mr Chris Agius, the IECEX Secretary to provide further information on this subject.

Mr Chris Agius confirmed that the cooperation with ISO TC 197 is progressing well. He also mentioned that ISO TC 197/SC 1 has established a Liaison with IECEx, Mr Andrei Tchouvelev, who will report on their activities during the Symposium.

He emphasized that this collaboration is groundbreaking, as it's the first time an IEC Conformity Assessment System has had a formal Liaison with an ISO Technical Committee. He advised that the initial work with ISO TC 197 is in line with the excellent relationship that IECEx has with IEC TC 31 and acknowledged the support from the IEC Management Conformity Assessment Board.

Mr Agius also noted that collaboration has been done with IRENA; the International Renewable Energy Agency, to promote Green Hydrogen. One of the main activities is advocating for the infrastructure needed to support evolving Green Hydrogen economies. Mr Chris Agius underlined the importance of recognizing the existing infrastructure, including Standards development, and Conformity Assessment, when considering quality infrastructure to support the Green Hydrogen economy.

IECEx is actively participating in the Alliance for Industrial Decarbonization (AFID) and developing proposals for submission to COP28, the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, in July in Dubai.

Mr Chris Agius restated the clear message that industries needing Technical Standards should use the existing ISO and IEC Standards, as well as the Conformity Assessment Services provided by IECEx. He encouraged industries to contact ISO, IEC, and IECEx if additional standards or services are needed.

Mr Chris Agius mentioned ongoing discussions with Gulf Cryo, a UAE-based organization, which is working on converting diesel-powered trucks to hydrogen power through electro-fitting. He mentioned that there have been initial discussions about whether the IECEx Services Facility Scheme could cover organizations that provide electro-fitting services for converting diesel-powered trucks to hydrogen power.

He further commented that this collaboration with ISO TC 197 is leading to new ventures and encouraged attendees to acquaint themselves with the TC 197/SC 1 Chair Mr Tchouvelev and continue the fruitful cooperation, which has been beneficial for IEC TC 31 and IECEx.

He invited those with specific interests to consider participating in ExMC WG 19 and offered to answer any questions.

The Chair Frank Lienesch thanked Chris Agius and asked if he had information about IEC TC 105 - Fuel Cells.

Mr Chris Agius responded that they are reaching out to IEC TC 105 for a formal liaison. Initially, TC 105's interest seems to be more on the competence side, particularly Personnel Competence, rather than equipment. The IECEx Secretariat is to provide a presentation to TC 105 for more information and for further collaboration.

The Chair thanked Mr Agius for his report and asked if there were any questions or comments from the meeting. With no further questions, the meeting moved on to the next item.

No decision recorded.

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 introduced the agenda item on the current status of ExTAG Decision Sheets.

He advised that the current list of Decision Sheets, including five new ones published in the past 12 months, is available on the IECEx website:

<https://www.iecex.com/publications/extag-decision-sheets/>.

With no questions or comments raised, he concluded the agenda item.

No decision recorded.

***9.1.2 Decision sheets and Draft DS dealt with since the 2022 ExTAG meeting***

The Chair introduced the Decision Sheets and Draft Decision Sheets created since the last meeting 2022. It was noted that there were five new Decision Sheets and that these were created via correspondence. The members were given the opportunity to raise questions or provide additional information regarding these Decision Sheets.

| **Document Number** | **Standard No.** | **Clause/Subject** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DS 2023/002 | IEC 60079-0:2017 (Edition 7.0) | Marking of Ex Components when intended for use only by their manufacturer |
| DS 2023/001 | IEC 60079-0 (Ed 7) | Whether the non-metallic external fans of rotating electric machines are subjected to ultraviolet light resistance test |
| DS 2022/006 | IEC 60079-0:2015+A1:2017 | Disapplication of clause 7 IEC 60079-0 Ed.7 |
| DS 2022/005 | IEC 60079-18:2014 IEC 60079-18:2009 | The test sample used for the dielectric strength test on the compound |
| DS 2022/004 | IEC TS 60079-46:2017 ISO/IEC 80079-34:2018 | Information relevant to particular protection Ex TS 60079-46 into the quality management system |

With no questions or comments raised, the Chair concluded the agenda item.

No decision recorded.

***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 agenda item 9.2, covering Decision Sheets under the five-year review process. He explained that every five years, Decision Sheets must be reviewed to determine whether they are still needed or if there are any further concerns. This year's review includes the 2018 series, consisting of five Decision Sheets.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number** | **Standard No.** | **Clause/Subject** | **Issue Date** |
| DS 2018/005A | IEC 60079-11 (Edition 6.0) | The spark ignition test with supercapacitor | 2018-10-17 |
| DS 2018/004 | IEC 60079-0:2017 Ed.7 IEC 60079-0:2011 Ed.6 IEC 60079-0:2007 Ed.5 IEC 60079-28:2015 Ed.2 IEC 60079-28:2006 (First Edition), including I-SH 01 | Applicability of IEC 60079-28 | 2018-10-12 |
| DS 2018/003 | IEC 60079-1 Editions 5, 6 and 7 | Application of requirement for material remaining under a blind hole in flameproof enclosures. | 2018-10-12 |
| DS 2018/002 | IEC 60079-0 Editions 5, 6 and 7 | Temperature measurement of cable entry point and branching point temperatures on electrical rotating machines | 2018-07-18 |
| DS 2018/001 | IECEx OD009 | QARs for equipment covered by standards other than those for specific Types of Protection | 2018-07-16 |

Previously, under IECEx OD 035, ExTAG was required to reconfirm Decision Sheets after five years. However, with the publication of Edition 3.0 of IECEx OD 035 in May 2023, the requirement is now for a review to check the following:

1. Confirm that the accepted DS has been incorporated into new editions of any referenced standards published after the DS was accepted. If not, the IECEx liaison to IEC TC 31 shall contact the MT/WG responsible for the involved standard for feedback regarding plans to address the matter covered by the DS; and
2. Confirm that a link to the accepted DS has been inserted into the blank ExTRs for any standards referenced by the DS. If not, the IECEx Secretariat shall be address

While this is largely an administrative matter for the Secretariat to handle in conjunction with the IECEx TC 31 Liaison, ExTAG members are invited to provide any comments or feedback.

The Secretariat reported that item b) has been completed, with the DS referenced in the relevant ExTR Blanks.

The Chair then asked if there were any questions or comments and the following discussion resulted.

Ms Katy Holdredge asked for clarification on whether Decision Sheets are sent back to the originator before being incorporated into new editions.

The Chair responded that this was the case as well as the IECEx TC 31 Liaison but there had been problems where the originator had left their organisation and/or was not available.

Mr Thierry Houeix suggested that even if the person left, the company should be considered the originator. However, the Chair pointed out that the organization raised the DS did not exist anymore.

Mr Jasmin Omerovic explained that ExTAG officers typically make the final call on such matters, but volunteers passionate about the specific topic of a DS could take over responsibility.

Mr Chris Agius clarified that according to IECEx OD 035, any ExCB or ExTL can question an accepted ExTAG DS by proposing new wording, not just the originator or the Liaison Officer.

Mr Mark Amos suggested noting the following as an action in the Minutes.

An action was raised that the ExTAG Officers would follow up on five-year-old DS from 2018 as per requirements of IECEx OD 035 and contact the originator as well as request the IECEx/TC 31 Liaison Officer to contact TC 31 for feedback.

The Chair asked for further comments. With no additional comments raised this agenda item was closed.

No decision – refer Meeting Report for assigned actions on this agenda item.

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

**Document for Consideration:**

* [**OD 035**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/2650/)– Procedure to generate, discuss, report and publish ExTAG Decision Sheets – Ed. 3.0
* [**F-014**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4239/)– Template for preparing Draft Decision Sheets – Ed. 2.0

The Chair introduced the next item, which deals with the review of the process for the preparation and approval of Decision Sheets. He highlighted its importance and mentioned that the ExTAG Officers had identified points for discussion.

The Chair asked the meeting to endorse changes to IECEx OD 035 and IECEx Form F-014 as follows;

* Include a time limit of 8 weeks maximum for the Originator to respond to collated comments – this would be an amendment to step 3.2 of IECEx OD 035.
* To add the requirements of step 1.1 of IECEx OD 035 to IECEx Form F-014 to ensure that Originators of Decision Sheets recommend the applicability of the Decision Sheet to:
  + projects commenced prior to publication of the DS; and
  + all certifications issued after its publication; or
  + only for the new certifications (Issue No. 0) and their subsequent revisions

Mr Chris Agius suggested that the changes to IECEx OD 035 were of a minor nature and if the meeting agreed this could be drafted as Edition 3.1 of IECEx OD 035 and sent to ExMC for voting by correspondence.

He also recommended that as the changes proposed to IECEx Form F-014 were a minor change, this form could be updated and reissued.

Ms Katy Holdredge asked for clarification on the process if there is no response within eight weeks from the originator.

Chris Agius proposed that in that event, the ExTAG Chair and Officers to decide an appropriate course of action. Mr Ron Sinclair suggested a revision of the wording in this amendment to clarify the role of the ExTAG Officers.

The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone for their contributions and read out the decision taken.

**Decision 2023/12**

Members noted the revised edition of IECEx Form F-014 and agreed to a further editorial addition to the current edition of F-014.

Members agreed that the ExTAG Officers report to the 2023 ExMC meeting will inform the ExMC of their intention to submit a draft Edition 3.1 for voting by correspondence.

10 ExTAG Proposed Decision Sheets in progress

***10.1 Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet, prepared by the ExMC WG 02 Convenor Technical Capability Documents***

**Documents for Consideration**:

* **[ExTAG/706/CD](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4250)** – Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet – Revision of ExTAG DS 2020/003 Verification and Operation of Climate Chambers
* **[ExTAG/714/CC](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4304)** – Compilation of comments on ExTAG/706/CD
* [**ExTAG/706A/DC**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4303/) – Revised Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet – Revision of ExTAG DS 2020/003 Verification and Operation of Climate Chambers

The Chair introduced the item and forwarded the floor to Ms Katy Holdredge, the Convenor of ExMC WG02.

Ms Holdredge explained that the ExMC WG02 had identified the need to update DS ExTAG/706/CD relating to Climatic Chambers due to recent work within the TCD Scheme. The updated document, with tracked changes, had been circulated to members before the meeting.

Two comments were received requiring revisions:

* LOM suggested allowing a more generic humidity device.
* NEPSI commented on temperature references.

Ms Holdredge stated that both comments were incorporated into the revised DS and requested approval to publish it.

Mr Mark Amos clarified that the process should follow IECEx OD 035.

Mr Tim Krause, as the IECEx TC 31 Liaison, questioned whether editorial changes require the full IECEx OD 035 process. Mr Mark Amos suggested reviewing IECEx OD 035 for potential updates.

Mr Chris Agius recommended seeking agreement to publish the updated DS ExTAG/706A/DC.

The Chair noted no major objections, thanked Ms Holdredge, and concluded with the following decision.

**Decision 2023/13**

Members considered the second revised draft Decision Sheet circulated as ExTAG/706A/CD that takes into consideration the associated Compilation of Comments on ExTAG/714/CD and agreed that the draft Decision Sheet proceed to publication as circulated as ExTAG/706A/CD

***10.2 Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet, prepared by INERIS - Applicability of erosion and non-transmission tests on cable glands and conduit sealing devices sealed with setting compound in case of leakage***

**Document for Consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/699/CD**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4166/) – Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet – Applicability of erosion and non-transmission tests on cable glands and conduit sealing devices sealed with setting compound in case of leakage
* [**ExTAG/713/CC**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4270/) –Compilation of comments on ExTAG/699/CD

The Chair invited Mr Thierry Houeix as Originator to describe the draft DS.

Mr Houeix explained that the DS aimed to ensure consistent application of Standard IEC 60079-1, clause 6.2, across all cases, including cable glands and conduit sealing devices sealed with setting compound, which is currently not allowed.

He reported that the draft DS had been discussed with the convenor of the maintenance team and noted that its contents were likely to be incorporated into the next edition of IEC 60079-1, at which point the decision sheet could then be withdrawn.

The meeting discussed comments raised in the compilation of comments with many members reiterating their concerns that the proposed DS appeared to be modifying and not clarifying the requirements of IEC 60079-1.

Mr Richard Schuller expressed doubts about extending the requirements beyond the standard and said that this could not be regulated by a decision sheet and was not in line with OD 035. He suggested the need for an ISH to IEC 60079-1 instead of a decision sheet.

Mr Nick Ludlam agreed with Mr Schuller, that changes from/to the application of a Standard should not be made through a decision sheet. He indicated that the rules of the Standard must be applied without changes to technical requirements unless they are included in a clarification sheet or ISH.

Mr Fred Lankamp raised a technical issue by questioning the need to test two samples and pointing out that this contradicts the standard. Mr Mark Amos confirmed this contradiction and suggested a correction.

Mr Tim Krause, as IECEx TC 31 Liaison, raised concerns and stated that TC 31 recommended rejection of the proposed DS.

Mr Mark Amos repeated the need to follow IECEx OD 035 and highlighted that the purpose of a decision sheet is to ensure consistent application of requirements, not to correct standards.

Dr Jim Munro also pointed out that relying on the next edition of a standard could be inaccurate, as significant changes could occur before publication.

Ms Katy Holdredge and members noted that there were no observations completed by the Originator on the compilation document.

The Chair thanked everyone for the important discussion and emphasized the need to differentiate between creating new standards and clarifying existing ones.

He concluded by noting that members agreed more work was needed on the draft Decision Sheet before further consideration by ExTAG.

The following decision was recorded.

**Decision 2023/14**

Members considered

* the draft Decision Sheet circulated as ExTAG/699/CD and
* the associated Compilation of Comments as circulated as ExTAG/713/CC

and agreed that more work is needed on this before further consideration by ExTAG.

***10.3 Preliminary*** ***Draft ExTAG Decision Sheet - Thermal Conductivity of Dusts***

**Document for Consideration:**

* [**ExTAG/715/Inf**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4309/) – Preliminary draft ExTAG Decision Sheet – Thermal Conductivity of Dust

The Chair invited Ms Katy Holdredge to explain the draft decision sheet on the thermal conductivity of dust.

Ms Holdredge shared that during a recent assessment of their facility, they were asked to provide documentation supporting the thermal conductivity of the dust they were using. The information was based on data collected nine years ago, raising questions about its validity.

Consequently, UL considered retesting but faced issues identifying the appropriate standard for testing. Consultations with the convenor of TC 31 WG 22 and other ExCBs were unsuccessful, as no suitable standard was found, and also IEC 60079-0 lacked specific guidelines.

Members shared similar experiences and discussed verification methods and the challenges of finding consistent testing standards. Dr Jim Munro and Mr Evans Massey discussed verification methods and materials used, noting the difficulty in finding consistent testing standards. Despite these discussions, no definitive solution was reached, leading to a proposal to let the decision sheet progress normally through the process.

Ms Holdredge clarified she sought general support for an ExTAG Decision Sheet allowing the use of specified dust without requiring a specific thermal conductivity measurement. She agreed to revise and circulate the decision sheet for further consideration.

Chair Frank Lienesch thanked Ms Holdredge and concluded that the draft Decision Sheet should proceed through the process of IECEx OD 035, in order to collect further solutions and left the matter to UL to consider if they wish to proceed with the submission of a draft decision sheet according to the OD 035 process and thanked UL for initially raising this matter.

No decision recorded.

***10.4 Additional Agenda Item - Members to consider preliminary Draft DS, prepared by NEPSI - Application of IEC 60079-0 to non-electrical equipment only as well as combined electrical/non-electrical equipment***

**Documents for Noting:**

* [**ExTAG(Edinburgh/NEPSI)03**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4322/) – Tabled Green Paper document prepared by NEPSI

The Chair informed the meeting that the document had been submitted as a Green Paper (Tabled Document) and was available on the IECEx 2023 meeting website. He noted that this draft had not yet gone through the IECEx OD 035 procedure and invited Prof Xu to present it.

Prof Xu explained that the intent of the decision sheet was to address the applicability of IEC 60079-0 to the testing and certification of non-electrical and combined electrical/non-electrical equipment.

He reported that about 650 IECEx Certificates had been issued for non-electrical and combined electrical/non-electrical equipment by more than 40 ExCBs, but the reference standards used were inconsistent between ExCBs. Some certificates included compliance with IEC 60079-0, while others did not. He noticed that around 50 % of certificates issued did not cover IEC 60079-0.

He mentioned that IEC 60079-0 should be applied for the testing and certification of non-electrical or electrical/non-electrical combined equipment, citing ISO 80079-36 and ISO 80079-37 as supporting documents.

The Chair thanked Prof Xu and opened the floor for questions and comments.

A concern was raised by Mr Sean Clarke about referencing specific standard editions that might soon be superseded or withdrawn, questioning the applicability of IEC 60079-0:2011 for non-electrical equipment. He highlighted issues with ISO 80079-36 referencing a withdrawn standard.

Members discussed table 1 from ISO 80079-36:2016 that contains the applicability of clauses from IEC 60079-0 to ISO 80079-36 and ISO 80079-37.

Dr Jim Munro agreed with the principles in the DS but suggested removing specific edition references to avoid redundancy.

Mr Nick Ludlam supported this, clarifying that clause numbers in the standard are informative, while clause titles are normative, and undated references should apply the latest edition automatically.

Mr Thierry Houiex explained that IEC 60079-0:2011 was only concerned with electrical equipment, which is why its requirements were not included in ISO 80079-36. For non-electrical equipment, only ISO 80079-36 and ISO 80079-37 should be used. He noted that the upcoming editions of IEC 60079-0 would address both electrical and non-electrical equipment.

Ms Katy Holdredge agreed and stated that the certification process includes IEC 60079-0 if the equipment has both electrical and non-electrical components. She suggested incorporating this information into IECEx OD 280 instead of creating a new decision sheet.

Dr Jim Munro noted that as Convenor of ExMC WG15, responsible for IECEx OD 280 he supported the proposal of Ms Holdredge.

Mr Mark Amos mentioned the importance of adhering strictly to the scope of the standards and suggested that certificates should only be issued based on the current edition or one prior.

Professor Xu agreed with the approach of modifying IECEx OD 280 but would also wish to pursue this DS.

Mr Martin Thedens, as former Chair of the ExNB group, shared his experience in Europe regarding the Declaration of Conformity for non-electrical equipment. In 2020, the ExNB Group clarified that IEC 60079-0 might need to be listed for non-electrical equipment only if requirements are fully met. He noted that in the EU, the Declaration of Conformity for non-electrical equipment only uses ISO 80079-36 or other applicable standards in conjunction if requirements are fully covered.

The Secretary, Mr Chris Agius, proposed recording two separate decisions, which the members agreed with and appreciated the clarity provided.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and confirmed the following decisions before he closed this agenda item.

**Decision 2023/15**

Members considered draft DS available as Green paper Document ExTAG(Edinburgh/NEPSI)03 and supported the ***principles*** used as the basis for draft DS.

**Decision 2023/16**

Members agreed that this matter is more appropriately dealt with by a revision of IECEx OD 280 (instead of an ExTAG DS) and requests ExMC to task ExMC WG15 to consider the ***principles*** above (refer Decision 2023/15 in a revision of IECEx OD 280).

***10.5 Additional Agenda Item - Members requested to discuss DS 2014/001***

**Document for Consideration/Approval:**

* [**ExTAG Decision Sheet 2014/001**](https://www.iecex.com/dmsdocument/4323/)– Treatment of Ex Components covered by Certificates issued to older editions of Standards

The Chair introduced the next item, a Green Paper submitted by Ms Katy Holdredge, and invited her to outline the issues with ExTAG DS 2014/001 in its application.

Ms Katy Holdredge explained that the ExTAG decision sheet had been in use for quite some time, but issues had arisen with its application. She noted that many components and equipment were certified to older editions of the standard. It becomes very time-consuming to assess those parts against the latest standards, especially when a piece of equipment or assembly contains many such components.

To resolve these issues, Ms Holdredge recommended that these concerns be considered by ExMC WG 01. She suggested that possibly a time limit could be established, requiring equipment to be updated after a certain age.

Additionally, she highlighted the difficulty in knowing that those components are being used in devices. At this time, the decision sheet only requires devices certified to old editions of standards to be included in the annex of the certificate. However, there could be other devices included in an ExTR that have not been specified in the same way. Therefore, Mr Holdredge made a request for ExTAG WG 01 to consider a harmonized process for specifying all components and devices that are already certified.

Mr Scott Kiddle asked if the proposal was to include additional remarks on an ExTR cover, which would reference the annex of an ExTR containing a gap analysis between standard versions.

Ms Katy Holdredge noted that the issue extends beyond just older components. Her experience in conducting assessments indicated that there was a wide variety of approach by ExCBs in dealing with this issue. She suggested that the working group should decide on a consistent approach for all ExCBs.

A discussion followed centered around the necessity and practicality of listing components certified to older editions in certificates.

Mr Richard Schuller questioned the need for this requirement, suggesting it might be more useful in the test report. Mr Mark Amos clarified that assembly certificates require detailed listings in the annex. Ms Katy Holdredge agreed, emphasizing that the information is more meaningful in the test report. Mr Sean Clarke supported reviewing the validity of older certificates, noting that 20-year-old certificates might not reflect current standards, and suggested managing repairs with new certificates. Mr Thierry Houeix suggested a risk analysis and impact assessment might be necessary.

Chris Agius noted that within IECEx it was previously decided that new certificates should be issued to the current edition or one edition prior. However, the decision to update previously issued certificates to the latest standards has been left as a commercial decision to be made by the certificate holder or manufacturer.

He highlighted the difficulties and challenges in assessing components certified to older standards, which require additional work and possibly further evaluation, such as risk assessments and gap analyses.

Mr Agius suggested that this should remain a commercial decision for manufacturers whether to update their products to later standards or to source components compliant to later editions.

He proposed that if a review of the position to consider updating of older certificates was necessary as part of a review of this DS, that this may re-ignite previous discussions with possible implications from a commercial perspective, but supported members if they wish to proceed with these discussions.

The Chair thanked Ms Katy Holdredge and the members for the discussion. The meeting recorded the following decision.

**Decision 2023/17**

Members considered the points raised by Ms Holdredge of UL LLC on ExTAG DS 2014/001 on problems arising from the application of this ExTAG DS.

Members then agreed to task ExTAG WG01 to clarify or establish requirements or processes for the certification of equipment comprising certified components.

The ExTAG will subsequently recommend to ExMC to task ExMC WG01 to include the work of ExTAG WG01 in a revision of IECEx 02.

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

The Chair introduced the next item, inviting members to raise new topics for discussion at the next ExTAG meeting.

Mr Karel Neleman suggested continuing the discussion from his earlier presentation on distinguishing between components and equipment (agenda item 5.2), aiming for a consistent approach.

Mr Chris Agius added that while no specific decision was taken, the issues Mr Neleman raised were addressed in agenda item 5.2 and are being considered within TC 31 AG 55 matters.

Mr Mark Amos clarified that Mr Neleman’s suggestion could be listed for next year’s agenda and captured in the meeting minutes.

Mr Jim Munro stated that while TC 31 AG 55 was addressing the issue of Specific Conditions of Use on reports, there is no current review on the issue of Components versus Equipment certification. He suggested that this might be discussed in the TC 31 JWG 50. Mr Tim Krause, the Convenor of JWG 50, agreed to bring this issue to the TC 31 meetings in Melville, November 2023.

The Chair asked if there were any further matters and the question was raised why IECEx certificates did not have expiry dates. It was discussed that the main issue is ensuring safety over long periods, with questions about the relevance of old certificates and the necessity for products to meet current standards.

Mr Chris Agius provided an explanation for why IECEx certificates do not have an expiry date. He emphasized that the IECEx system operates under an ISO type 5 scheme, which includes three core components: satisfactory type testing of production samples to ensure compliance with standards, initial factory audits to verify the manufacturer’s ability to consistently produce compliant equipment, and ongoing surveillance to ensure continued compliance. This ongoing surveillance, which is conducted periodically, eliminates the need for an expiry date because manufacturers are continuously monitored by certification bodies.

Certificates are issued and maintained in real-time via the On-Line IECEx System, which allows for instant verification and status updates. If issues arise during surveillance audits, the certification body can suspend or even cancel the certificate. The status of the certificate is always indicated, and its authenticity can be checked online. Certificates are held on the IECEx website that is publicly available and held securely. This comprehensive system ensures that the certificates remain current and valid without the need for an expiry date.

Mr Chris Agius also noted that any safety deficiencies in previous standards are addressed by the Managing Committee, which can mandate updates to certificates if necessary.

Mr Mark Amos added that the rules for certificate validity and updates are a fundamental policy, managed by ExMC WG01.

The Chair thanked the meeting for their discussions and moved to the next item, noting the following decision.

**Decision 2023/18**

Members agreed to include an agenda item for the 2024 ExTAG meeting regarding a follow up on the issues raised in Mr Neleman’s presentation to the 2023 ExTAG meeting and progress in addressing these (for example, by IEC TC31 and the IECEx Secretariat).

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 introduced the next item, focusing on the status review of contacts with other international and regional bodies. He invited Chris Agius to provide updates.

Mr Chris Agius, the Secretary, referenced the agenda item on the cooperation between IEC, ILAC, and IAF, which could be reviewed in the provided documentation. He then highlighted the ongoing collaboration with IRENA.

He noted that more detailed information would be presented during the ExMC meeting later that week. He mentioned the upcoming IRENA Innovation Week in Bonn, Germany, where IEC, IECEx, ISO, and PTB would participate, particularly in sessions addressing the quality infrastructure supporting the Green Hydrogen economy. Key representatives from IECEx, including Mr Martin Thedens from TC 31, Mr Paul Meanwell, and Mr Thorsten Arnhold, would be presenting on various topics related to hydrogen and metrology.

Mr Jasmin 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, specifically focusing on the development of ISO/IEC CD TS 17012.

He highlighted that a committee draft is expected by the end of October, one year after the commencement of the working group.

He encouraged National Committees to provide feedback on this document, which offers guidelines for remote auditing methods and follows the structure of ISO 19011.

Mr Omerovic underlined the importance of this document for all types of audits, including certification schemes, and noted that it includes additional guidelines on remote auditing methods and good practices for applying risk and opportunities approaches.

Mr Chris Agius thanked Mr Omerovic and mentioned ongoing cooperation efforts with other organizations, including OIML. He noted that Mr Paul Dixon would provide an update on OIML activities at the upcoming ExMC meeting and mentioned plans to reactivate the joint working group between IECEx and OIML.

Mr Tim Duffy noted that there was a mechanism for comments on the CASCO standards to be made through National Committees or the IEC CAB process.

The Chair welcomed the recommendation and thanked for the reports. Since no further questions were raised, this item was concluded recording the following decision.

**Decision 2023/19**

Members noted the report by the Executive Secretary based on the document circulated as ExMC/1606/INF.

Members also accepted the verbal report (copy of notes will be available as a Green Paper) from Mr Omerovic regarding ISO TS 17012 developments and noted the advice from Mr Duffy on mechanisms for providing comments on this work.

13 Matters for proposal to ExMC

The Chair informed that he would be preparing a report, as usual, to present during the ExMC Meeting.

He then asked the meeting if there were any additional matters to be addressed at the ExMC Meeting that had not already been discussed during the current meeting, including the recommendation to ExMC for the publication of the revision of OD 035.

Since no additional matters were raised, the meeting recorded the following decisions.

Refer Decision 2023/12.

14 Other Business

No additional topics were addressed beyond those already discussed at this meeting and included as the Green Papers.

No decision recorded.

15 Confirmation of next meeting, year and place

The Chair announced, that the next meeting will take place in person in Brazil in alignment with the ExMC meetings the week from September 23rd, 2024.

The Chair expressed his gratitude to Mr Giovanni Borges from HG INSPEÇÃO E ANÁLISE for organizing the IECEx Annual Meetings in 2024 and closed this agenda item with the following decision recoded.

**Decision 2023/20**

Members noted that planned ExMC meeting dates and program for September 2024 and confirmed a preference for convening the 2024 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 GB National Member Body for the organization of this meeting. He gave a special thanks to Ms Christine Kane, Mr Mark Amos, Mr Geoff Slater, Ms Maria Brodel, and Mr Chris Agius, and the participants for a successful meeting.

Mr Chris Agius expressed his appreciation for the Chair's leadership and guidance through the meeting.

The Chair then declared the meeting closed on 19th September at 13:00 p.m. UTC.

### ANNEX A

| **Action**  **No.** | **Agenda Item** | **Action Arising from the Meeting** | **By Whom** | **When** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **5.1** | ExTAG to recommend to ExMC that when the Edition 2.0 of ISO/IEC 80079-38 reaches the FDIS stage, ExMC WG15 be tasked with making a recommendation to ExMC on the suitability of the document for use for certification  (Decision 2023/05) | ExTAG Secretariat | at ExMC meeting |
| **2** | **7.1** | ExTAG WG01 in cooperation with ExMC WG1 and ExMC WG18 to consider revisions of IECEx OD 010-2 and possibly IECEx OD 009 (noting previous work and solutions for Ex ‘s’ independent verifiers in OD 233) to clarify requirements regarding signatories on ExTR Cover Sheets  (Decision 2023/06) | Scott Kiddle | Following the meeting |
| **3** | **8.2** | Mr Karel Neleman’s presentation along with the report from the Secretariat to be forwarded, for discussion, to the ExAG to provide some guidance to IECEx Peer Assessors  (Decision 2023/11) | ExTAG Secretariat | Following the meeting |
| **4** | **9.2** | ExTAG Officers would follow up on five-year-old DS from 2018 as per requirements of IECEx OD 035 and contact the originator as well as request the IECEx/TC 31 Liaison Officer to contact TC 31 for feedback | ExTAG Officers | Following the meeting |
| **5** | **9.3** | A revised draft Edition 3.1, of IECEx OD 035 to be prepared for voting via correspondence. Once concluded to then be forwarded to the ExMC for approval.  (Decision 2023/12) | ExTAG Secretariat | Following the meeting |
| **6** | **9.3** | It was agreed to a minor editorial adjustment to the Form F-014 to align with OD 035 requirement for Originators to advise, in the form, how they recommend existing certified products be dealt with.  (Decision 2023/12) | ExTAG Secretariat | Following the meeting |
| **7** | **10.1** | It was agreed to proceed the draft Decision Sheet to publication as circulated as ExTAG/706A/CD.  (Decision 2023/13) | ExTAG Secretariat | Following the meeting |
| **8** | **10.2** | It was agreed that more work is needed on ExTAG/699/CD and the associated Compilation of Comments as circulated as ExTAG/713/CC before further consideration by ExTAG.  (Decision 2023/14) | Originator  INERIS | Following the meeting |
| **9** | **10.4** | Following discussion on ExTAG(Edinburgh/NEPSI)03, it was decided that a revision of IECEx OD 280 (instead of an ExTAG DS) would be more appropriate.  The Chair to request ExMC to task ExMC WG15 to consider the principles suggested in the referenced Green Paper in a revision of IECEx OD 280.  (Decision 2023/16) | ExTAG Chair | Following the meeting |
| **10** | **10.5** | Discussion on the DS 2014/001 “Treatment of Ex-Components covered by CoC issued to older editions of standards”.  ExTAG WG01 to clarify or establish requirements or processes for the certification of equipment comprising certified components.  The Chair to request ExMC to task ExMC WG01 to include the work of ExTAG WG01 in the next revision of IECEx 02.  (Decision 2023/17) | The Chair and ExTAG WG01 Convenor Mr Scott Kiddle. | Following the meeting |
| **11** | **11** | Include an agenda item for the 2024 ExTAG meeting regarding a follow up on the issues raised in Mr Neleman’s presentation to the 2023 ExTAG meeting and progress in addressing these (for example, by IEC TC31 and the IECEx Secretariat).  (Decision 2023/18) | ExTAG Secretariat | For next ExTAG meeting. |