



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

**TITLE: Discussion paper from the IECEX Chairman, Dr Arnhold – Independent
Verifiers as referenced by IECEX OD 233**

Circulated to: ExTAG – IECEX Testing and Assessment Group

INTRODUCTION

This discussion paper has been prepared by the IECEX Chairman, Dr Arnhold following certain feedback with concerns application for use of Independent Verifiers as referenced by IECEX Operational Document OD 233.

This discussion paper is to be presented at the 2016 ExTAG meeting in Umhlanga South Africa, with a view to considering views from the ExTAG Membership and any proposal that may be put before the IECEX Management Committee, ExMC.

ExTAG Members are asked to consider this paper and be prepared for discussions at the 2016 September ExTAG Meeting.

Julien Gauthier

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ExTAG Secretary**

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IECEX - Chairman's proposal for a new agenda item at the TAG and/or MC meeting 2016

In my role as the Chairman of the IECEX system I was approached by some countries regarding the first CB - scope extensions to include certification processes for IEC 60079 – 33.

With the documents:

ExMC/1112A/DV and ExMC/1171/DV the membership has been ask for such scope extensions for the CBs Certification Management Limited., GB and Bureau Veritas Consumer Product Services Germany GmbH.

During the 2014 MC meeting the OD 233 was endorsed by the majority of the membership after a long and controversial discussion (ExMC/976/RM: MoM 8.5, Decision 2014/27). As the most critical detail the role and status of the "Independent Verifiers" was identified.

During almost two years nothing happened, no application for a scope extension by any CB and consequently no certificate emerged. No activity despite the announcement of an urgent need for such certificates during the meeting in The Hague.

Now the first assessment reports contain the following statement about the Independent verifiers:

"(XXXXX) have identified several staff members and outsource agents as Independent Verifiers. These persons are listed in the Technical Capability Document and interviews were held with two of them. They all had good understanding of Ex protection concepts and how these did not always cover special types of equipment. Ways of using existing concepts or variations to existing concepts were seen as a way of being used for Ex s. The methods to be applied to a potential Ex s project were discussed. The staff members interviewed had directly utilised the EHSRs of the ATEX Directive to issue formal ATEX EC-Type Examination Certificates. They all understood the need to carry out an Ignition Hazard Assessment prior to identifying the measures to be taken to provide Ex protection. All the listed Independent Verifiers were considered appropriate"

This raised some concerns in a few countries that on the basis of such general statements no serious evaluation and decision can be made by the NCs.

Especially in the light of some discussions about the correct interpretation of the IEC TC 31 standards during the last months (see the letter from PTB: "Question to the IECEX TAG according to mobile electronic equipment" [ExTAG/435/CD]) it is important to assure the independence and competence of the Independent Verifiers.

Due to this reason I want to ask for a discussion of this issue during our TAG and/or MC meeting in Umhlanga in September 2016.

Prof. Thorsten Arnhold
Chairman of the IECEX System

Waldenburg, 19. August 2016