

Some thoughts about the status of IECEx

Last week I could chair my 5th. MC meeting. I must admit that there have been better ones before. Please don't misunderstand me: It was a good week and we can be proud about the status of the system but I think that it is time to increase the efficiency of our organization. For my feeling everybody is too much relying on the work what our secretary and his team is doing. I want to say that I definitely include my person in this statement! Our organization in Sydney is doing a great job but they have only a restricted capacity and Chris is involved in a lot of other IECQ and other CAB matters. So I think we have to put a lot of important topics on more shoulders and those who are accepting a task shall be responsible for the result. At this moment of time we also have to take care that the Executive is not turning into an ever growing paper tiger. To be honest for me the group is already too big.

The best example to explain what I mean is the matter of the IECEx Marks License System. To manage this long discussion was certainly no fun, believe me! And the worst thing is, that it was clear for me in advance that we got into this trouble. Before the discussion I have had a look in the last years MoM: There I could find exactly the same statements by the same countries as they did this year. The discussion we have had in the German NC during the preparation meeting showed me clearly that nobody would accept the proposal to make the IECEx Mark License obligatory. Even if there is no additional fee for this, there should be some additional expenses for the CBs to get the scope extension. And this is not easy to accept for a scheme almost nobody expects an additional value from! For me it was also not good that it looked as we hid such a fundamental proposal in the report of the chair.

Since I don't want to complain only I want to make some proposals for the future of this scheme. For me it is absolutely clear that the IECEx Mark License System will be canceled next year if we continue in the current way. So if we want to keep the Committee I propose to change the main content and the name. I propose to rename it from Mark License Committee into IECEx Marketing Committee. Another option would be to name it in line with IECEx in "Policy and Strategy Committee". Or "Policy, Strategy and Marketing Committee" (PSMC). This would be my favorite to keep the operative marketing in the focus. The new scope will be the operative and the strategic marketing. So it will cover the work of WG13 "Business Plan" as well. The IECEx Mark is than just one marketing tool among others. This transformation reflects the very high importance of a long time strategic approach and an effective and efficient marketing we are talking since years! We could start with the work of the new committee during the Sao Paulo Meetings next May and could get the MC approval in September 2019. I am sure that with such a scope it will be easy to find members from all stakeholder groups. I would be more than happy to be actively involved in the preparation of these meetings. I think that we can prepare a lot by correspondence.

With such a committee scope we could deal much easier with issues like the OIML cooperation. Here we had the irritation that many members did not recognized what the benefits of such a cooperation are. If we would apply a market driven and strategic approach we could show that there are some CBs which are dealing with both categories of product and there are manufacturers like Endress & Hauser, Krohne etc. which are doing likewise.

Another issue I want to mention is the very good cooperation with IEC TC 31. For this I was really surprised that we seriously discussed the addition and change of technical specifications by ODs and DS. For me this is the wrong way! It is much better to intensify our efforts to influence the standards accordingly. A lot of us are working in both organizations and we have a direct wire to Mark Coppler. We should use this channel if it is necessary.

Finally I want to repeat my statement about the participation of all TLs in the proficiency test program and the full participations of our members in all obligatory activities of the system. We should be more consequent in this aspect.

With this document I would like to start a discussion among our group. My feelings from the days in Cannes are that I am not the only one who would like to improve some aspects of our system and so I am looking for your feedback.

Sincerely

Thorsten Arnhold

Chairman

Waldenburg, 26. September 2018