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**August 2023**

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

**Circulated to: ExMC**

**Title: Report from the IEC TC 31 Chair**

**Introduction**

This document contains a report from the IEC TC 31 Chair Dr Thedens for discussion during the 2023 series of IECEx Meetings.

**IECEx Executive Secretary**

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##### INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION TC 31 Equipment for explosive atmospheres

**Introduction**

This report covers the activities of IEC TC 31 since the last meetings of IECEx in September 2022.

**Activities during the past year**

The last plenary meeting of TC 31 was a face-to-face meeting in November 2022 in conjunction with the IEC General Meeting 2022 in San Francisco (USA) followed by a face-to-face meeting of the Chair’s Advisory Group (CAG) in March 2023 at Standards Australia in Sydney (Australia), each session together with other meetings of several Advisory Groups, Working Groups, Maintenance Teams, Project Teams etc. of TC 31 and it’s SCs.

The following decisions of the TC 31 plenary are of interest to IECEx:

1. DECISION 2022/04: *Liaison to IECEx ExMC/WG 19*   
   TC 31 decides to establish a liaison to IECEx ExMC/WG 19. TC 31 appoints Jim Munro (AU) as the outgoing liaison officer to this group.
2. DECISION 2022/05: *Hydrogen AG*  
   TC 31 decides to establish an advisory group for hydrogen technologies.  
   The task of the group is “To coordinate input from TC 31 and its subcommittees to other relevant technical committees on the topic of hydrogen.”  
   The membership of the group includes the officers of TC 31, SC 31J, and SC 31M, and the outgoing liaison officers to IECEx, IECEx ExMC/WG 19, ISO TC 197, and IEC TC 105. Other participation may be considered on a case-by-case basis. The convenors will be the TC 31 Chair and Vice Chairs.
3. DECISION 2022/08: *IECEx liaison officer*  
   TC 31 appoints Tim Krause as the outgoing liaison officer to IECEx. TC 31 thanks Mark Coppler for his work in this role.
4. DECISION 2022/16 and 17: *AG 55 “Specific Conditions of Use”*  
   TC 31 decides to change the scope of AG 55 to: “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.”   
   TC 31 supports the work of AG 55 in liaising directly with IECEx to improve the application of Specific Conditions of Use in the IECEx system.
5. DECISION 2022/24: *AG 55 and SC 31J*  
   TC 31 decides that SC 31J may circulate a call for experts for TC 31/AG 55, seeking an increase in end user and inspector representation. The AC will be accompanied by an INF from TC 31.
6. DECISION 2022/25: *SC 31J and IECEx*  
   TC 31 supports the recommendation from SC 31J and encourages IECEx to continue to explore options to improve stakeholder representation from end users of Ex Equipment and inspectors.

The following resolutions of the TC 31 CAG are of interest to IECEx:

1. RESOLUTION 2023/5: *AG 55 – Interaction with IECEx*  
   The TC 31 CAG recommends amending the scope of AG 55 to: “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.**”
2. RESOLUTION 2023/7: *Reference to IEC CA Systems*  
   The TC 31 CAG recommends that JWG 50 consider harmonized text to use where IECEx is used as an example of how compliance can be demonstrated. Such text could be included in the TC 31 good working practice.  
   The TC 31 CAG recommends that JWG 50 consider the appropriate way to reference IECEx documents (for example, DSs or ODs) in TC 31 documents.
3. RESOLUTION 2023/11: *PT60079-44 - DTS*   
   The TC 31 CAG recommends a joint meeting between PT 60079-44 and EG 52 to resolve comments raised by EG 52 relating to mandatory compliance with the ISO/IEC Directives.

**Future TC 31 meetings**

The coming face-to-face plenary meetings of SC 31J, SC 31M and TC 31 are scheduled for November 2023 in Melville, NY (USA).

Next face-to-face meetings of Advisory Groups, Working Groups, Maintenance Teams, Project Teams of TC 31 and it’s SCs are planned for October/November 2023 in Melville, NY (USA) and for April 2024 in Split (Croatia) followed by a meeting of the TC 31 Chair’s Advisory Group (CAG).

As always, we invite IECEx to make a presentation to these groups as part of the agenda.

**Standards and associated documents issued recently**

The following are documents that have been published over the past 12 months through August 2023:

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| **Number** | **Ed.** | **Date** | **Title** |
| IEC 60079-25:2020/COR2:2022 | 3.0 | 2022-11-29 | Corrigendum 2 - Explosive atmospheres - Part 25: Intrinsically safe electrical systems |
| IEC 60079-11:2023 | 7.0 | 2023-01-13 | Explosive atmospheres - Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety "i" |
| IEC 60079-11:2023/COR1:2023 | 7.0 | 2023-06-27 | Corrigendum 1 - Explosive atmospheres - Part 11: Equipment protection by intrinsic safety "i" |

**Documents nearing completion**

The following documents were nearing completion (i.e. at FDIS or CDV stage complete and FDIS circulation soon), circulated since September 2022:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Document Number** | **Date of circulation** | **Title** |
| 31M/173/CDV | 2022-09 | ISO/IEC 80079-49 ED1 Flame arresters — Performance requirements, test methods and limits for use |
| 31/1636/CDV | 2022-11 | IEC 60079-2 ED7 Explosive atmospheres - Part 2: Equipment protection by pressurized enclosure "p" |
| 31/1716/DTS | 2023-07 | IEC TS 60079-44 ED1 Explosive atmospheres - Part 44 - Personal Competence |
| 31J/335/CDV | 2023-07 | IEC 60079-14 ED6 Explosive atmospheres – Part 14: Electrical installation design, selection and installation of equipment, including initial inspection |
| 31J/345/FDIS | 2023-07 | IEC 60079-17 ED6 Explosive atmospheres - Part 17: Electrical installations inspection and maintenance |
| 31J/347/DTS | 2023-07 | IEC TS 60079-48 ED1 Explosive atmospheres - Part 48 - Portable or Personal Electronic Equipment – Guide for the use of equipment without a certificate for use in Hazardous Areas |

**Matters likely to be of interest to IECEx**

* Bård Johnsen (Norway) will be the new Chair of SC 31J (as successor of Neil Dennis).
* New projects of TC 31 and it’s SCs:
  + none

**Conclusion**

This report summarizes the more significant events and standard developments of the past year. We welcome your guidance and suggestions for continued cooperation between TC 31 and IECEx.

I would like to encourage IECEx to also nominate experts from IECEx who represent the position and perspective of IECEx, especially on topics of special interest, such as PT60079-44 or AG55.

Dr Martin Thedens

Chair IEC Technical Committee 31