



Petroleum Forecourt Products

The continually changing legislation affecting forecourt equipment does not make compliance any easier for manufacturers. Several new standards are in place, reflecting not only changing technology, but also changing practices across Europe. Coupled to the European Directive 94/9/EC (ATEX) these changes can appear a daunting hurdle for manufacturers and agents selling products in Europe.

Equipment types

Forecourt equipment used in potentially hazardous areas falls under the remit of the ATEX Directive. Whether the hazard is electrical or mechanical, prescribed levels of compliance are specified. Forecourt equipment can include complete dispensers and intrinsically safe systems or ancillaries such as tank gauging, dispensing nozzles, safe breaks and shear valves.



Alternative fuels

The search for alternatives to petrol is relentless and involves relatively new equipment and systems for storage and dispensing. This equipment has developed far faster than the standards governing it have, hence leaving a void in the market. LPG standards are now published, albeit in a less than perfect format.

Methanol, in its various forms and blends is the newest fuel across Europe. Methanol is an established fuel in certain countries, particularly Sweden and Germany. However, standards governing the use, and even specification, of ethanol blended fuels is lacking.

Both LPG and methanol (and perhaps CNG (Compressed Natural Gas)) are due to become a large part of the market in the next few years and for companies wishing to expand into Europe or develop new systems, a great opportunity exists.



Vapour recovery

Stage 2 vapour recovery has been a fact of life in many countries but is only now being covered by legislation. Sira operates a dedicated assessment scheme for manufacturers and installers wishing to retrospectively fit VR systems into existing equipment.

This scheme aims to give both installers and users confidence in the modification process, using Sira's long and extensive experience and reputation as a world-leading certification body.

For more information about the scheme, please refer to Sira datasheet 9249 – "Vapour Recovery Retro-Fit Approval Scheme", or contact Sira directly.

Notified Body

Sira is an independent 'Notified Body' in Europe with accreditation from UKAS for its test and certification activities.

Recognised across the world, Sira is heavily committed to the forecourt business and provides an approachable and flexible route for certification in a time of increasing change.

Sira is already one of the leading test houses for fuel delivery systems including electrical and mechanical components as well as entire dispensers and pumping units.



UKAS accredited facilities

Sira extended its UKAS accreditation to include the test and assessment of metering pumps and dispensers to be installed at filling stations and used to dispense liquid fuel & LPG, and now has a proven laboratory and on-site testing facilities.

These laboratory facilities enable tests and assessments to be carried out to the latest equipment standards (although testing at the manufacturer's premises is also an option).

Sira is able to offer certification of fuel dispensers and associated equipment to the ATEX directive, thereby offering the opportunity to sell into the whole of the European Community.

Most manufacturers of dispensers have actively sought out Sira ATEX certificates to enable access not only to the EU but also to those non-EU states seeking to adopt European practices, e.g. Poland, Russia, etc.

Sira's reputation

Sira has undertaken projects and issued certificates for nearly all of the UK and European based forecourt equipment manufacturers.

Sira has already established an enviable reputation for a quality service through responsiveness, flexibility and short timescales.

Sira is therefore well placed to help you achieve compliance of your petroleum forecourt equipment, enabling you to extend into new industry sectors and exploit the market potential of your products.

More information?

For further information on how Sira can help you achieve certification of your products, please contact Steve Otty or Andy Smith:

Tel: +44 (0) 1244 670 900

Email: info@siracertification.com

Web: www.siracertification.com

Examples of standards relating to Fuel Dispensers and Ancillaries

Standard Reference	Description of Standard Coverage
EN 13617-1: 2004	Construction & Performance of Dispensers
EN 13617-2: 2001	Construction & Performance of Safe Breaks
EN 13617-3: 2004	Construction & performance of safe breaks
EN 13617-4: 2004	Constructions & performance of swivels
EN 13463-1: 2001	Non-electrical equipment for use in Hazardous Areas
EN 14678: 2006	Construction & performance of LPG dispensers
EN 13012: 1999	Petrol dispensers - automatic Nozzles
EN 12874: 2004	Performance of flame arresters