



Background and Legislation

Legislation has determined that all new fuelling equipment installed in the UK be fitted with vapour recovery systems and that existing forecourts must be retrospectively fitted by 2010.

Whilst most new dispensers include the use of approved systems, existing types may, or may not have facilities for retro-fitting.

Since June 2003 all electrical and mechanical equipment used on forecourts has had to comply with European Directive 94/9/EC – the ATEX Directive. Electrical equipment installed before that time was certified to National Standards and continues to legitimately remain in service.



Both ATEX and pre-ATEX equipment are certified to fixed design criteria which, in theory, cannot be changed without variations to the certificates.

Problems arise principally, when the original certification and design drawings are not available to the recovery system installer.

Therefore, how does the installer know that he has not infringed the original safety aspects of the dispenser? Who is taking responsibility for the ongoing approval of the equipment now it does not meet its original hazardous zoning safety criteria?

Sira Retro-Fit Approval Scheme

Sira, the UK's number one Notified Body for product certification to the ATEX Directive, has developed an assessment scheme to help installers avoid the pitfalls of retro-fitting of vapour recovery systems.

One of the main objectives is to meet the requirements of the approved UK (FEF) code of practice.

Sira has been directly involved in forecourt equipment approvals for over twenty years and most equipment manufacturers have their approvals through Sira.

The approval scheme covers individual build procedures for both current and obsolete dispensers and draws on our vast experience of equipment design and hazardous area assessment.

The scheme is aimed at installers of retro-fit vapour recovery systems whether large or small and is designed to give confidence both to installers and users.

Talk to the Experts

For more information about the Sira approval scheme, please contact Steve Otty or Andy Smith in the first instance, who will be able to give more details and answer any questions you may have:

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Email: info@siracertification.com

Web: www.siracertification.com

References:

FEF COP for stage II vapour recovery systems 2006

BS 7117:Part 1 pre-ATEX liquid fuel dispensers

EN 13617-1 – Post ATEX liquid fuel dispensers

IEC 60079-19 repair and overhaul of apparatus used in explosive atmospheres.

EC Directive 94/9/EC (ATEX) – equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.