



About the IECEx Scheme

The IECEx Scheme is an international conformity assessment scheme for electrical equipment for use in hazardous locations, based on the IEC's international standards.

It is a voluntary certification scheme intended to facilitate global trade by;

- Reducing costs (testing & certification) to the manufacturer.
- Reducing barriers to entry.
- Reducing the time to market.
- Opening up of new markets.

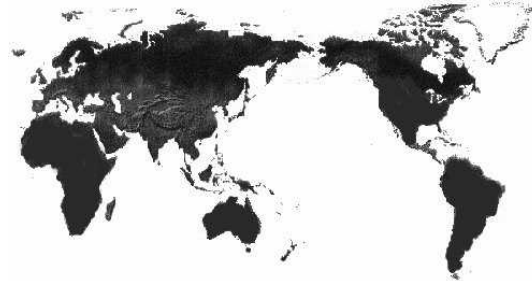


The IECEx aim is to achieve a harmonised product evaluation by eradicating the need for multiple national certification, which will help reduce financial and time restraints to the manufacturer, whilst still providing the end user with the required safety standard.

Why IECEx is Important to You?

The fact that many countries operate under different standards means that Ex equipment often needs to be re-tested and re-certified to the appropriate standards of that country, adding to cost of the equipment.

The IECEx scheme significantly reduces the need for re-testing and certification by conforming to international IEC standards, and therefore makes international trade easier, quicker and more cost effective.



Why Should You be Interested in IECEx?

Under the IECEx scheme, products will be tested by national certification bodies to ensure that the product has been manufactured and tested to IEC international standards. It is therefore a 'fast-track' means of achieving international trade.

A product tested under the IECEx scheme will receive an IECEx Test Report, which is acceptable to all other countries within the scheme. The results of this are obvious – no need for re-testing in other countries, opening up of new markets and a fast and cheaper approach to international trade, which means your business can expand at a fast and more cost-effective rate.



Peace of Mind for the End User

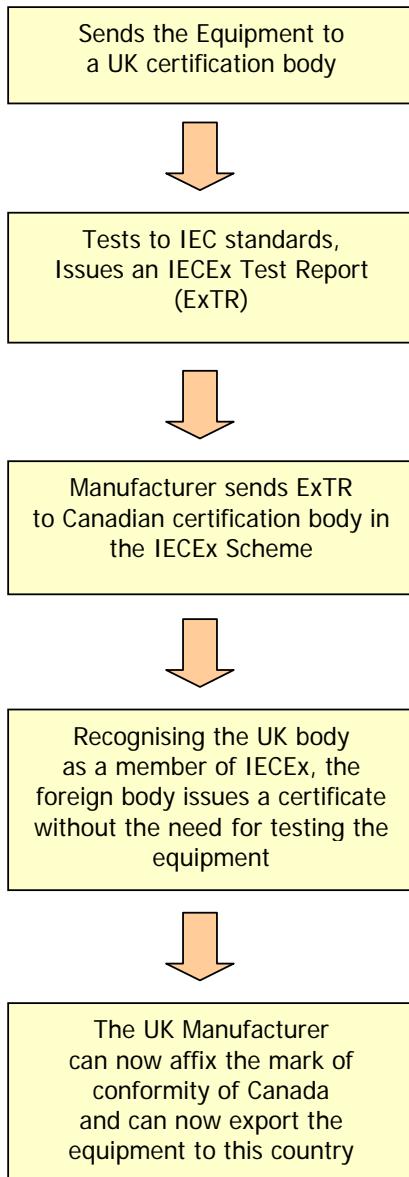
Due to the high standards that the IECEx conforms to, the end user can be assured that the product will meet the minimum, high quality standards, and need not be concerned with further testing or evaluation of the product's explosion safety.



The Benefits of IECEx – An example

The IECEx Scheme will open up new markets to you, as our example shows;

***'A UK Manufacturer wishes to export
Ex equipment to Canada.'***



Help is at Hand

As an IECEx Scheme accepted Certification Body, Sira can help you facilitate international trade at a fast and cost effective rate.

Sira can test your Ex Equipment under the standards laid down in the IECEx scheme, and issue your product with an IECEx Test Report.

This will help you to sell your product in countries participating in the scheme, reducing barriers to entry and facilitating international trade.

In addition to the ExTR, manufacturers who take advantage of the IECEx scheme obtain an IECEx Certificate of Conformity (ExCoC) from a certification body accepted in the scheme. The ExCoC will eventually enable you to sell your products in other countries without going through their national certification bodies.

The certification body will assess the Ex equipment to confirm that it conforms to relevant IEC standards and that the equipment is manufactured under appropriate quality systems. The certificate will give the manufacturer the opportunity to affix the IECEx mark of conformity illustrating compliance to the IECEx scheme.

Members of the IECEx Scheme

At present, 26 countries participate in the Scheme*, including Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany USA and UK.
(*as of November 2006)

Certification bodies must be based in a country which is accepted into the IECEx scheme. They are accepted into the scheme after assessment of their competence. The certificates they issue will be recognised in all participating countries as equivalent to their own national certification.

IEC Standards

The IECEx is based on IEC international standards. Therefore every national standard applied by member countries of the scheme must be identical to the corresponding IEC standards.



However, for countries where national standards are not identical to IEC standards, a period of transition will take place, allowing time for the standards to be made identical to those of IEC and for national acceptance of certificates of conformity and the IECEX mark of conformity.

The final objective of the IECEX Scheme is world-wide acceptance of one standard, one certificate and one mark.

Frequently Asked Questions



“Is the IECEX scheme mandatory?”

No. It is a voluntary scheme, but the end results are such that manufacturers with the capabilities of international trade should seriously consider the advantages of such a scheme.

“What if I am in a country that does not have an IEC national committee?”

Manufacturers are free to choose any IECEX-accepted certification body for Assessment & Test Reports for their products.

“I already have ATEX certification on Ex Equipment. What do I do to comply to IECEX?”

As the product has already been tested, most certification bodies will use the ATEX data they have collected to prepare an ExTR.

“What is the cost for approval under IECEX if I already have ATEX certification?”

Every project will be different, as the complexity of design will dictate the scope of work. Where possible Sira will use assessments in the ATEX report for IECEX approval.

Sira can issue fixed price quotations for IECEX compliance. Please contact us for more information.

“What do I have to do to satisfy the quality requirements of the IECEX scheme if I currently hold ATEX certification?”

In order that an IECEX product certificate can be issued, the manufacturer or authorised representative must satisfy the requirements of an IECEX **Quality Assessment Report (QAR)**.

If an ATEX Quality Assurance Notification (QAN) with the correct scope is already held, only a minor amount of additional work is usually needed. A small charge exists for this work to be undertaken.

For more details about IECEX Quality Assessment Reports, please contact Sira.

“Can I use my IECEX Certificate to place products on the market in Europe?”

No, you must comply with the ATEX Directive (94/9/EC). It is likely that Sira would accept much of the work carried out and reported in the ExTR.

More Information

For further information, or to discuss a particular project, please contact Sira:

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