

## IECEX OD 024 – TESTING OR WITNESSING OF TESTING AT A MANUFACTURER’S, USER’S OR THIRD-PARTY TEST FACILITY

IECEX Operational Document OD 024 introduces the possibility of the results of Ex specific testing, having been carried out at a manufacturer’s, user’s or other third-party facility, being used for IECEX Certification.

It has provisions and restrictions that are intended to ensure that there is no reduction in confidence in the testing compared to testing carried out at an Ex Test Laboratory (Ex TL).

This document sets out to explain briefly the way that OD 024 works in practice, and should be read in conjunction with OD 024 itself, which can be accessed at <https://www.iecex.com/publications/operational-od/>. IECEX OD 024 Edition 3.1 dated November 2019 is the current edition at the time of publication of this document.

1. Accepted testing is normally carried out by SGS Baseefa staff (off-site testing), or is witnessed by SGS Baseefa staff (witnessed testing).
2. Testing is normally carried out at a test facility that is owned by the manufacturer, although testing of product at other locations, such as a test facility owned by the purchaser and user of the equipment, or an independent third-party laboratory is possible.
3. An agreement in the format specified in OD 024 must be in place between the Ex TL, Ex Certification Body (Ex CB) and manufacturer or other laboratory (see OD 024 – 4.3 and Annex A).

4. The agreement will have a specific scope defined by reference to the standards and clause numbers that specify the testing concerned.
5. The Ex TL staff carrying out or witnessing the testing are required to confirm and record the suitability of the relevant aspects of the manufacturer’s or other’s facilities or operations by an assessment prior to any initial agreement, or during subsequent visits under an existing agreement.
6. In the case of both off-site and witnessed testing, the agreement will include that its application in connection with any particular project must be agreed at the commencement of the project, and also that SGS Baseefa must be permitted to specify any test conditions required for the particular event.
7. In order to provide the equivalent confidence in test results, SGS Baseefa carries out both initial and, if applicable, routine assessments of the laboratory’s capability in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, in relation to the tests that are deemed to be in the scope of the agreement. Laboratory accreditation and other qualifications, such as in accordance with IECEE OD 2048 for the IECEE Scheme, will be taken into account.
8. In most cases the costs related to the work carried out by SGS Baseefa in relation to the agreement will be quoted in the project fees.

9. It is possible in some circumstances for tests to be witnessed remotely, using a video link. This is only possible for certain tests, and only permitted when SGS Baseefa has built up confidence in the test facility from actual witnessing and maintains this through further periodic actual witnessing, normally at yearly intervals (see OD 024 – 4.8.2).
10. For a limited range of tests, for example, which are less critical and are part of the manufacturer’s normal production process, partially witnessed testing may be part of the agreement. This is where the confidence in the testing has been initially validated by actual witnessing and assessment of the facility, for continued conformity with the relevant requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, and is reconfirmed periodically by being assessed during normal SGS Baseefa QAN/QAR audits. In this case additional costs are chargeable alongside normal QA fees (see OD 024 – 6.7).

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