

PERSONNEL COMPETENCE CERTIFICATION SCHEME CoPC

Helping to make the world safer with internationally recognised competency certification for personnel working in explosive atmospheres.

AUDIENCE:

Technicians
Engineers
Designers
Practitioners
Managers

DISCIPLINES:

Units of Knowledge

000 – Basic Knowledge

Units of Competence

001 – Principles of protection
002 – Classification
003 – Installation
004 – Maintenance
005 – Overhaul and repair
006 – Testing
007 – Visual/close inspections
008 – Detailed inspections
009 – Design
010 – Audit inspection

CERTIFICATION:

Based on both a review of the candidates work history, training records and formal qualifications, plus the examination/assessment, a Certificate of Personnel Competence may be issued on the IECEx website.

PERSONNEL COMPETENCE SCHEME

Potentially explosive atmospheres is an area where competence must be beyond question. Great emphasis is put on the necessity to verify the training, experience and skills of people who may have an effect on the compliance of an initial installation, maintaining the safety of an existing installation and repairing failed equipment from an installation. This is re-enforced with a requirement from Legislation, European and International Standards for 'competence' in the field of explosive atmospheres.

ONLINE SCHEME

SGS Baseefa, which has always been at the forefront of helping to make the world safer, has a web based online competence database. (www.sgs.co.uk/sgsbaseefacompetence) This acts as an on-line application of the IECEx CoPC Scheme (See IECEx Operational Documents OD 502, OD 503 and OD 504 on www.iecex.com) and provides assurance that only appropriately competent people are allocated tasks that may impact a hazardous area installation.

The online system provides a secure focal point for all personnel involved in potentially explosive atmospheres to maintain up to date records to support their continued demonstration of competence. It also provides a plant operator and other potential clients with a method of searching via a register for service companies employing appropriately competent personnel.

Both individuals and companies will be able to securely access the system, allowing managers to check whether the company or individual:

- Has the necessary skills required for the scope of work;
- Can act competently across the specified range of activities; and
- Has the relevant knowledge and understanding underpinning the declared competence.

Contracting companies who are involved with Hazardous Area plant have always needed to demonstrate that their electrical technicians have received appropriate training. But now, in addition, they are likely to be asked for their Engineers, Designers and Managers (Responsible People) training and competence records.

BASIC KNOWLEDGE

The purpose of the unit of basic knowledge is not to suggest that the holder of the certificate is competent to perform any particular task in a hazardous area, but to demonstrate that they are sufficiently aware of the dangers and the basic principles involved in hazardous area safety to go onto a plant and to participate in training under supervision for tasks in which they may subsequently seek to prove themselves competent.



COMPETENCE

There are fundamentals that apply to protection in hazardous atmospheres which need to be known and understood by applicants seeking any of the specific units of competence. These common requirements are covered in Unit 001 – Basic principles of protection in explosive atmospheres, and are then supplemented by the specific requirements for the particular units of competence:

- Performing classification of hazardous areas
- Installation of explosion-protected equipment and wiring systems
- Maintaining equipment in explosive atmospheres
- Overhauling and repairing of explosion-protected equipment
- Testing electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres
- Performing visual and close inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres
- Performing detailed inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres

- Designing electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres
- Performing audit inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres

Full details for each unit are provided in IECEx Operational Document OD 504.

The latest standards in the IEC 60079 series emphasise the need for an assessment and record of competence. This necessitates theoretical and practical assessments and evaluations such as provided in the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competence scheme, operated by SGS Baseefa, where applicants are assessed on their theoretical knowledge, practical skills and experience.

WHY SGS?

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. SGS is recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 95,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 2,400 offices and laboratories around the world.

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

