

ATEX European Directives

Two European Directives

On July 1st, 2003, two important European Directives concerning electrical equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres, introducing part of the new approach, came into force :

- . 94/9 EC for manufacturers
- . 99/92 EC for users

Both of these result from articles 100 A and 118 A of the Treaty of Rome (1957).

1- Directive 94/9 EC

Directive 94/9 EC defines the minimum requirements aimed at improving protection, in terms of health and safety, for workers likely to be exposed to risks of potentially explosive atmospheres.

It also defines the equipment capable of ensuring the desired safety and the resources to be employed in selecting, installing, using and maintaining this equipment.

This specifies safety requirements for both electrical and non-electrical equipment, designed for use in hazardous locations as a result of the presence of gas or dust.

As of July 1st, 2003, all electrical

equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres sold within the European Area must have ATEX certification, as a result, they must bear the standard ATEX marking on the product certification plate, in accordance with the new European Classification of products.

2- Directive 99/92 EC

From 1st July 2003, it is incumbent on the managers of industrial sites to comply with the minimum safety regulations described in the Directives which need to be followed routinely in hazardous locations.

The obligations on the employer or site manager are mainly (section 2, article 3) to:

- . draw up a risk analysis document (article 8)
- . implement measures aimed at preventing the formation of potentially explosive atmospheres and avoiding the ignition of these atmospheres
- . minimize the “harmful effects of an explosion in the interests of workers’ health and safety”.

From a practical point of view

- It is compulsory for all equipment installed after June 30th 2003 to be ATEX-compliant and therefore in conformity with 94/9 EC.
- Any installation created prior to June 30th 2003 must meet the minimum safety standards specified by directive 99/92 EC, by June 30th 2006 (article 9, paragraph 4).



99/92 EC. Section 2, article 3.



99/92 EC. Section 2, article 8.



99/92 EC. Article 9, paragraph 4.



Directive 94/9 CE.