

Answers to the main questions about ATEX

*D*epending on your professional activity, a certain number of *practical questions may arise*. ATEX has listed below the most important ones.

ATEX standard changes

- What changes does ATEX certification impose on the equipment?

- ATEX takes account of product ageing and ensures that it remains safe in the event of a foreseeable components failure.

- What difference is there between an ATEX gas certified equipment and an ATEX dust certified equipment?

- Both the enclosure and internal components of gas equipment (“e” enclosure) must be protected.

- Dust equipment is only protected by its enclosure. However, the maximum surface temperature constraints are higher due to the risk of the presence of layers of dust.

You are an end-user

- Our manufacturing process involves the release of potentially explosive dust. What am I obliged to do?

- To conform with Directive ATEX 94/9 CE, in any installation releasing potentially explosive dust, you must equip your sites with ATEX-certified electrical or non-electrical equipment designed for use in zones at risk of explosion 21 and 22.

- The equipment at our manufacturing site is suitable for potentially explosive atmo-

spheres. How does the ATEX standard affect the installation and the equipment?

- Any new installation or extension must be exclusively equipped with ATEX-certified equipment, according to the hazardous zones whether the environment contains dust or gas.

- Can our maintenance department continue to use spare parts or finished products purchased before June 30th, 2003?

- Yes, for maintenance and replacement only, in a zone already equipped with equipment conforming to the previous regulations, provided that Directive 99/92 CE is adhered to.

You are a contractor

- On my customers' sites, what are my obligations in terms of installation and maintenance of products for potentially explosive atmospheres?

- You are authorised to use non-ATEX equipment to carry out maintenance and replacement operations, on sites already equipped in accordance with the previously existing regulations.

- However, to extend an existing installation or for a new installation, you must only use ATEX products.

- As an engineer working in Europe, am I obliged to offer only ATEX products to my manufacturing customers?

- Yes, for all installations to be located in the European Area.
- Outside of the European Area, IEC-compliant products may be sufficient, unless your customer has specified ATEX standards.

- Outside Europe, what do I have to do to satisfy the evolution of market requirements?

- There is an increasing demand for ATEX products outside Europe, as these are the most recent regulations and the latest references in terms of safety.

You are a design office or specifier

- As a specifier, what are my obligations in relation to the new texts, within and outside Europe?

- Since July 1st, 2003 in Europe, it is compulsory for you to specify ATEX equipment in accordance with Directive 94/9 CE and to draw your customers' attention to Directive 99/92 CE which governs the operating conditions for this equipment.

- Outside Europe, comply first with local regulations and meet the expectations of customers who wish to adopt the ATEX regulations.

You are an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer)

- Can I repair products under warranty, which have equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres purchased before 30 June 2003?

- Yes, there is no time limit for you to do this, as long as the installation complies with the requirements of 99/92 CE.

- Please note, however, that ATX have upgraded their product components to make them ATEX-compatible, while maintaining their interchangeability as much as possible.

You are a distributor of electrical equipment

- Can I continue to sell non-ATEX products in Europe?

- No. From July 1st, 2003 you can no longer sell them in the European Area.

- Outside Europe, can I sell non-ATEX products or should I encourage my customers towards ATEX solutions?

- Although you can still sell non-ATEX products, as a European distributor you should try to encourage your customers towards ATEX solutions as these are the latest references in terms of safety.

- Will my customers be able to use non-ATEX products that I have supplied to them before June 30th, 2003 and if so, until when?

- Yes, for all maintenance and replacement operations in sites or zones where such equipment is installed, with no time limit. However, Directive 99/92 CE must be complied with by July 1st, 2006.

- Can my customer still order spare part for non-ATEX products, and until when can I sell it?

- Yes, to ensure the maintenance of non-ATEX products installed before July 1st, 2003. For a new installation, there is no date limitation, provided it complies with requirements of Directive 99/92 CE concerning workers' health and safety.

If you have any other questions

Please send any questions by post, fax or e-mail to the ATX Sales Department, or ask your local representative. They will reply to you promptly.