

Editorial



Dear readers,
the seven-year transitional period during which explosion protection of electrical equipment was regulated in the European Community both by the old EC Directive and by the new ATEX Directives 94/9/EC and 99/92/EC ended on 30 June of this year. Only the new Directives apply as of this date.

In past years, we have dealt with this topic very extensively in our Ex Magazine and, in this way, have made a small contribution to clearing up the general uncertainty among those affected.

We are now eagerly awaiting this new epoch in European explosion protection.

We hope that the substantial time taken and material expenditure involved with conversion to ATEX Directives will ultimately be worthwhile for all those involved, will lead to a further simplification in explosion protection and will also lead to a practical increase in harmonisation of the safety level in the countries of the EU. We also hope that these new regulations will prove their worth and will be valid for many years to come.

To force the harmonisation of the standardisation makes the new structure an important step for the dust standards. We wish to keep you up to date on the most recent developments relating to this subject of dust explosion protection.

No sooner have new European regulations on explosion protection been introduced than the focus of interest is concentrating on worldwide harmonisation of explosion protection.

All those actively involved in standardisation took note of the shift in emphasis of standardisation activities to the IEC level within the framework of the parallel voting process, and there was major general approval of this. This means a tremendous simplification of the standardisation process and will result in standards, recognised worldwide and created far faster. We wish to give due regard to this development and also publish experience reports from countries outside of the EU more frequently than was the case previously. We are starting this with an article on Brazil. Brazil has seen some very interesting developments as a consequence of which there will be a gradual transition to the IEC system.

Development of standards which apply and are recognised worldwide is particularly important for companies, which supply machinery and components for international installations. We wish to present the German Flottweg company and the Swedish company Alimak with their products to you in this edition of Ex-Magazine.

We hope that, this time as well, we have managed to compile an interesting mix focussing on the subject of explosion protection.

Your Editorial Team

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R. STAHL Schaltgeräte GmbH
Am Bahnhof 30, D-74638 Waldenburg (Württ.)
Fon: (+49) 79 42 / 9 43-0
Fax: (+49) 79 42 / 9 43-43 33
exzeitschrift@stahl.de
www.stahl.de

Editor
R. STAHL Schaltgeräte GmbH

Editorial staff
Dr. Ing. Thorsten Arnhold,
Dr. rer. nat. Dieter Beermann,
Anja Kircher

Organisation, Graphics and Layout
Anja Kircher

Picture processing
Hela-Werbung GmbH, Heilbronn

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Cover illustration: The sugar loaf in Rio de Janeiro, landmark of Brazil. At present in this country the national standards for explosion protection were adapted to international (IEC) standards.