

# Any question...?

Customers ask – We give the answer

**?** Will the new law of the Russian Federation regulating safety requirements for technical products change the previous practice of GOSGORTECHNADZOR to accept tests of explosion protected electrical equipment by a foreign testing authority such as the PTB or BVS (EXAM)?

**!** The Russian Federation passed a new law on technical regulations on 27 December 2002 and the new law came into force on 1 July 2003.

The new law has the task of eliminating trade barriers and forms the framework for a complete restructuring of legislation relating to the sectors of manufacture, storage, transportation, installation and use of technical products. It causes a change to the regulations on standardisation, testing, conformity assessment, accreditation and market scrutiny by adaptation to EU regulations and WTO-compliant structures.

Various existing laws (e.g. laws relating to the certification of products and standardisation) are to be deleted or replaced by further single laws within the 7-year transitional period. A list of the 23 legislative documents soon to be elaborated has already been drawn up.

The new system of legal regulations will ultimately come very close to the EU Directives on the basis of the so-called "New Approach", in particular in respect of the formulation of essential health and safety requirements, which are currently anchored practically exclusively in GOST-R Standards.

Russia as well will probably assign the standardisation to two sectors, firstly the legally regulated area, in which the standards comply with the essentially formulated legal requirements and secondly, the area of voluntary standardisation, in which manufacturers themselves

are able to verify and declare conformity.

Products which are to be assigned to the legally regulated area will be summarised in an annually updated list, which also states the standards to be complied with for the products.

Accreditations and certification procedures will remain in place during the transitional period until they are replaced by the new laws. Certificates issued before 1 July 2003 will remain valid until any expiry date stated on them.

One particularly heated discussion topic at present is Article 30, which regulates the recognition of foreign tests. The wording foresees that foreign certificates of conformity, conformity marks, test reports and quality management audits can be recognised only, if corresponding intergovernmental agreements are concluded at the governmental level.

This passage (at least in the opinion of the author) should be interpreted in such a way that it makes a statement of the Russian Federation to other states. Legislation at this level should not be viewed as an instruction for national Russian test laboratories and certification bodies on how to act or proceed.

Recognition of test results of renowned, foreign test laboratories in relation to explosion protection by Russian authorities has a long tradition and is based on the regulations in the internationally recognised ISO/IEC Documents 65 and 17025, which are also applied in Russia. Inasmuch, no change in the procedures regarding the export of explosion protected equipment to Russia should occur in the short term.

In the medium term it may, perhaps, even be anticipated that the approval ("rasrescheniye") by the State Industrial and Mining Authority GOSGORTECHNADZOR, also required to date in addition to the Russian certificate or appraisal report, could be dropped. [W. Dill]

**? When repairing flameproof motors, it is frequently necessary to re-machine the flameproof joint. Are the joint dimensions in accordance with Tables 1–4 of Standard EN 50018 binding when doing this?**

**!** The dimensions specified for joints in Tables 1–4 of Standard EN 50018, November 2000, Electrical apparatus for potentially explosive atmospheres, Flameproof enclosure “d”, represent stipulations of the Standard and are a necessary condition which may, however, possibly not be adequate. Additional measures may be required to reliably prevent flame transmission of an internal ignition. The flame transmission test required for the type test is the deciding factor. Joints with less gap or more width than the values in Tables 1–4 would allow are frequently required in order to pass this test.

Consequently, the joint dimensions – as designed and declared by the manufacturer – are always binding after the successful type test has been confirmed by a notified body in the manufacturer’s test documentation. This means that, when reworking joint surfaces, the corresponding manufacturer’s documentation must be available and the dimensions, which this documentation specifies, must be complied with.

A verification of compliance with the explosion protection requirements must be conducted in Germany by an officially recognised expert – before the flameproof equipment or apparatus repaired in this way is brought back into service.

The applicable German national regulation defines: this task must be performed by a member of staff of an approved inspection authority or, alternatively, by a “competent person” of the concerned company provided this person is approved for these verifications by the responsible public authority (§ 14 (6) of the German Operating Health and Safety Regulation (Betriebssicherheitsverordnung)).  
[D. Beermann]

**? What is understood by the term “Parallel Voting Procedure” when developing Standards”?**

**!** This question is very current in relation to explosion protection of electrical equipment and thus of special importance to the users. So-called “parallel voting” on Draft Standards is based on the “Agreement on common planning of new work and parallel voting” between the International Electrotechnical Commission IEC and the related European Standardisation Organisation CENELEC.

The agreement was elaborated in 1991 in Lugano and is now put into practice in the form agreed on in Dresden in 1996. It serves to avoid work being done twice by IEC and CENELEC by joint elaboration of Standards under the auspices of one of the two organisations.

This procedure has now become particularly important for explosion protection of electrical equipment since the Technical Committee CENELEC TC 31 “Electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres”, decided in 2001 to elaborate European Standards (EN) in the future in this specialist area by adopting IEC Standards unchanged – wherever possible.

However, European Standards on explosion protection must also comply with ATEX Directive 94/9/EC with its “Essential Health and Safety Requirements”. Consequently, prior to publication, they are reviewed by the ATEX Consultant, who works on behalf of the EU Commission to check whether they are appropriate to list in the Official Journal of the European Communities with reference to the ATEX Directive.

Essentially, there is a need for adaptation in marking apparatus and operating areas; while technical subjects have already been clarified up front.

The experts of the European national electrotechnical committees, such as the German Electrotechnical Commission (DKE) within DIN and VDE, working at IEC in Committee TC31 and its Sub-Committees and



→ Working Groups, ensure this.

Thus, in the future, updating of existing Standards or new projects for explosion protection of electrical equipment will kick off as early as the planning stage at IEC.

These Draft Standards will be submitted as CDV (Committee Draft for Voting) or FDIS (Final Draft of International Standard) at the end of the draft phase and will then be distributed not only as an IEC Document but also, in parallel with this, as a prEN (Draft of a European Standard) and voted upon by CENELEC.

The Dresden Agreement also allows for one linguistic peculiarity: the official languages for IEC Standards are English, French and Russian. CENELEC Standards must, however, be written in English, French and German. Thus, pursuant to the Dresden Agreement, a German-speaking expert (to be appointed by the DKE by agreement with Austria and Switzerland) is to participate in editing the final version at IEC.

Likewise, also a German version should be available for voting at CENELEC, and this is a major task for the DKE in view of the large number of ongoing standardisation projects.

If voting is positive both at IEC and at CENELEC, the IEC Standard is published and the parallel European Standard (EN) is submitted to the Technical Board (TB) of CENELEC for ratification.

The standards are always published as European Standards by the national standardisation organisations, generally in their national language. The three language versions in English, French and German at CENELEC are considered to be binding in cases of doubt.

Examples of parallel voting have already occurred. The latest version of Standard "General Requirements" (previously EN 50014) receives number EN 60079-0, since it is to be adopted by IEC under the same number. The most recent edition of EN 50019 "Increased Safety" was also adopted in the corresponding IEC Standard under number 60079-7. The Standards relating to dust explosion protection have the new number: EN 61241-. The number 6 after the abbreviation EN indicates that it is a Standard adopted by IEC. Explosion Protection

Standards of purely European origin begin with EN 5.

In the event of differing voting results at IEC and CENELEC, procedures are in place even for this, aimed at achieving final agreement.

The special importance of parallel standardisation is of major consequence for the world market. Since the IEC Standards form the basis for certification in the IECEx Scheme and also in accordance with the ATEX Directive 94/9/EC, there will in future no longer be any differences between the equipment for the various markets regarding the requirements.

[W. Dill]