

Editorial



Dear readers,

Some time ago globalization reached the area of electrical equipment and installation explosion protection. The article about the history of explosion protection in Germany found in this edition of the Ex-Magazine is a historical review of when the regulations governing critical safety areas were largely developed and maintained at a national level.

It has been possible to speak of globalization in the field of explosion protection since the conference in Dresden where the "Parallel Voting" process was decided, and the main work associated with standardization was elevated to the world-wide IEC level.

The impressive progress made by the IEC Ex-Scheme in the past five years emphasises this fact. The earlier conclusion that the work of the national committees had been downgraded to a symbolic act by this development was premature and far from the truth. Particularly in countries where the basic principles of explosion protection were developed, for example in Great Britain, the USA, France and Germany, it is essential to ensure that the level of safety, which has existed for decades would continue to exist in the future. This can be ensured by a fundamental examination of the latest draft standards as well as active participation in the standardization committees.

A comparison of the annual statistics relating to explosion related accidents in the countries mentioned with other regions of the world proves the point.

Other global trends such as ensuring the future of the world-wide supply of energy, are closely associated with explosion protection. It does not matter whether you are considering the crude oil and natural gas industries, the areas of biodiesel and fuel cells, or the mining of anthracite and lignite (black and brown coal, which appear to be experiencing a Renaissance), there is danger of an explosive atmosphere somewhere in the process chain and therefore explosion protection is required.

We are experiencing an interesting time for this special technical field with many challenges for those involved. The Ex-Magazine from R. STAHL will accompany you as usual along this path.

Your Editorial Team

Cover page: Transporting natural gas in liquid form with gas tankers is the most economical method of conveying natural gas from the source to the consumer over large distances (see page 22 and 30).

Impressum

Ex-Magazine 32/2006 (ISSN 0176-0920)
is published on behalf of:

R. STAHL Schaltgeräte GmbH
Am Bahnhof 30, 74638 Waldenburg
Fon +49 7942 943-0
Fax +49 7942 943-4333
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 and Layout

Anja Kircher

Design and Art-Finishing

VISUELL Studio für Kommunikation GmbH, Stuttgart

Production

Wahl-Druck GmbH, Aalen

We cannot be responsible for manuscripts not requested by R. STAHL. Persons submitting manuscripts, letters, etc. consent to editing.

Reproductions only with the Publishers permission!