



## Personnel certified for explosion safety

Industry and government are continually sharpening controls on proof of personnel competencies. Rightfully so, because they are dealing with highly complex processes and equipment in potentially explosive atmospheres; a slight error can have dramatic consequences. The IECEx system now has a scheme that quantifies and qualifies people's expertise and experience regarding explosion safety. DEKRA is one of the first certification bodies under this scheme to issue 'Certificates of Personnel Competencies' (CoPCs).

### The need for certification

As the search for oil and gas spreads around the world and costs escalate, methods used to extract it are becoming ever more complex. Plants need to be built to exacting standards and must operate safely to protect people from harm, the site from damage, and the surrounding areas from an explosion. What's more, with some plants operating longer than originally intended, maintenance is critical for safe operation.

The IECEx 05 CoPC Scheme is the first international scheme designed to provide personnel with a certificate that is recognized worldwide. A CoPC may cover areas of design, selection, installation, maintenance, inspection, audit, overhaul and repair of Ex equipment, based on the applicant's requirements.

It shows that the certificate holder is capable of:

- ▶ working in the Ex industry safely
- ▶ conducting work on such equipment
- ▶ ensuring that it is operating safely and in accordance with its protection techniques.

### DEKRA & IECEx

The International Electrotechnical Commission System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx) system has put in place a number of conformity assessment schemes which provide assurance that equipment and systems are manufactured and operated according to the highest international standards of safety. The use of the IECEx conformity assessment system and its schemes provides the following clear advantages for industry and governments:

**Cost savings** – reduced need for additional testing and certification resulting in faster access to new markets.

**Improved safety** – the assurance that equipment is manufactured and operated according to strict international standards.

**Instant verification** – the possibility to verify all issued IECEx certificates on [www.iecex.com](http://www.iecex.com).

Certifications are delivered by an approved IECEx Certification Body (ExCB), such as DEKRA, in any of the IECEx member countries. IECEx is endorsed by the UNECE.





The following IECEx certification services are available online:

- ▶ IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme
- ▶ IECEx Certified Service Facilities Scheme
- ▶ IECEx Conformity Mark Licensing Scheme
- ▶ IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies Scheme

DEKRA is an approved Certification Body for all of these schemes.

### Units of competency

- Ex 001 Apply basic principles of protection in explosive atmospheres
- Ex 002 Perform classification of hazardous areas
- Ex 003 Install explosion-protected equipment and wiring systems
- Ex 004 Maintain equipment in explosive atmospheres
- Ex 005 Overhaul and repair of explosion-protected equipment
- Ex 006 Test electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres
- Ex 007 Perform visual & close inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres
- Ex 008 Perform detailed inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres
- Ex 009 Design electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres
- Ex 010 Perform audit inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres

### IECEx 05 Certification of Personnel Competencies

The IECEx 05 CoPC Scheme provides the means for personnel to obtain an IECEx CoPC from DEKRA, which is intended to provide the international Ex community with confidence that such personnel maintain the ability to undertake work or provide services in accordance with the technical and quality system requirements of the IECEx 05 Scheme.

Plant owners may require personnel to maintain skills that are required by law (these may vary around the world) to ensure that the plants are operated safely and they have the responsibility

to protect their operatives. IECEx CoPC provide the necessary confidence that personnel act responsibly and that they have sufficient theoretical and practical technical skills. This all within the boundaries of the units of competency in the certificate's scope.

Employers of individuals holding the IECEx CoPC can demonstrate to potential customers that they have the required competence to work safely in the Ex industry. CoPCs are intended to be accepted in all the IECEx participating countries as equivalent to their national certification.

### How do I get certified?

Anyone working in potentially explosive areas can apply for an IECEx 05 CoPC. A CoPC is issued to an individual, whether self-employed or an employee and must be based on an assessment of his/her academic and professional history, together with relevant training records.

To obtain the certificate, it is necessary to first pass an exam which DEKRA designs and assesses. Some modules require employees to receive training before taking the exam, and for other modules this can be beneficial. In both cases, DEKRA can offer companies and their employees extra support and training. On successful completion of the assessment the applicant will receive a CoPC. Once gained, the competence of the individual will be subject to surveillance every 18 months and re-assessment after three years.

A DEKRA-issued IECEx 05 Certificate of Personnel Competencies is truly an international passport. It allows holders to take their skills anywhere and thus improves safety in the Ex industry worldwide.

### About us

DEKRA Certification Group is a full-service certification organisation with a history going back over eighty-five years. Our subsidiaries and global associates have expertise in management systems, product testing, electrical safety, medical device certification, and explosion & process safety.

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 **DEKRA**  
On the safe side.