

Finally!! A North American-based Certification Body Accredited under the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies (CoPC) Scheme

QPS is pleased to announce an expansion of our scope within the IECEx System. In addition to our accreditations as a Certification Body (ExCB) and Testing Laboratory (ExTL) under IECEx02 within the Certified Equipment Scheme, we are now the first and only North American-based Certification Body accredited to IECEx05, The Certification of Personnel Competencies Scheme. As such, QPS can issue Certificate of Competencies for;

- Unit Ex001 General Haz Loc Knowledge; and,
- Unit Ex002 Area Classification.

Additional Units (see below) will be added in the near future.

What is the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies (CoPC) Scheme?

This (IECEx05) Scheme is an International Conformity Scheme that provides the global Ex industries with a single system that is transportable across borders, for the assessment and qualification of persons meeting the competency prerequisites needed to properly implement the safety requirements based on the suite of IEC International Standards covering explosive atmospheres, e.g. the IEC 60079 and IEC 61241 series of standards.

The objective of the Scheme is to ascertain the competence of personnel as it relates to installation of, and working with equipment used in, or associated with explosive atmospheres.

What requirements are used to assess and certify personnel?

The following documents provide the basis for the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competence Scheme:

- IECEx 05, *IECEx Scheme for Certification of Personnel Competence for Explosive Atmospheres – Rules of Procedure*
- IECEx OD 501, *Assessment Procedures for IECEx acceptance of Certification Bodies(ExCBs) for the purpose of issuing and maintaining IECEx Certificates of Personnel Competence*
- IECEx OD 502, *Application for an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competence, documentation and information requirements*
- IECEx OD 503, *ExCB Procedures for issuing and maintaining IECEx Certificates of Personnel Competence*
- IECEx OD 504, *Specification for Units of Competence assessment outcomes*

What are the Units of Competence?

IECEx Units of Competence are as shown in the following Table

Reference	Title	Scope Limitation ^{a)}
Unit Ex 001	– Apply basic principles of protection in explosive atmospheres	Not applicable
Unit Ex 002	– Perform classification of hazardous areas	3
Unit Ex 003	– Install explosion-protected equipment and wiring systems	1, 2, 3, 4
Unit Ex 004	– Maintain equipment in explosive atmospheres	1, 2, 3, 4
Unit Ex 005	– Overhaul and repair of explosion-protected equipment	1, 2, 4
Unit Ex 006	– Test electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres	3, 4

Finally!! A North American-based Certification Body Accredited under the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies (CoPC) Scheme

Unit Ex 007 – Perform visual and close inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres	3, 4
Unit Ex 008 – Perform detailed inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres	3, 4
Unit Ex 009 – Design electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres	3, 4
Unit Ex 010 – Perform audit inspection of electrical installations in or associated with explosive atmospheres	3, 4
^{a)} Limitation by: 1. Explosion-protection technique or 2. Product Type 3. Group 4. Voltage	

Where is Ex equipment commonly found?

Flammable gases, vapours and mists, as well as combustible dusts create potentially explosive atmospheres.

Industries include but are not limited to:

- Automotive refuelling stations or petrol stations
- Oil refineries, rigs and processing plants located Onshore or Offshore
- Oil and gas tankers, drilling ships and FPSOs (Floating Production Storage Offloading vessels)
- Chemical processing plants
- Printing industries, paper and textiles
- Hospital operating theatres
- Aircraft refuelling and hangars
- Surface coating industries
- Underground coalmines
- Sewerage treatment plants
- Gas pipelines and distribution centres
- Grain handling and storage and processing (flour-milling industry)
- Woodworking or light metal working, where dust and fine particles can appear
- Sugar refineries

How is competence applied?

Competence is intended to be applied as it relates to the specific work function of an individual person and includes (but not limited to) management awareness, area classification, design of installations, selection of equipment, installation, inspection, maintenance and repair/overhaul. Evidence of qualification or trade credentials for similar work in non-hazardous areas will need to be presented and verified prior to being assessed for work in hazardous areas and this will include any regulatory

Finally!! A North American-based Certification Body Accredited under the IECEx Certification of Personnel Competencies (CoPC) Scheme

requirements for certificates or licenses etc., within each country for which the person is making application for the Certification to be valid.

The assessment can only be conducted by an ExCB that is specifically accredited within the IECEx05 Scheme, such as QPS. And a Certificate of Personnel Competence (CoPC) can only be issued when compliance with the Scheme requirements has been achieved and the person is competent according to the Units of Competence in the scope of the application.

More information?.....Please contact:

Dave Adams, P.Eng
QPS Evaluation Services Inc.
Manager, Hazardous Locations Department
dadams@qps.ca
Office: (587) 351-3000
Mobile: (780) 224-4414

OR Rob Kohuch, P.Eng
QPS Evaluation Services Inc.
Senior Engineer, Hazardous Locations Department
rkohuch@qps.ca
Office: (780) 634-0826
Mobile: (780) 224-6005