



Increased Safety Through Explosion Reduction

Nearly 20 years have passed since SHAPA first published their Practical Guide for Suppliers and Operators of Solids Handling Equipment for Potentially Explosive Dusts—a cornerstone document for ensuring compliance with ATEX regulations. Endorsed by a foreword from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the guide demonstrated best practices to address the risk of dust explosions comprehensively, an area previously overlooked in explosion safety.

The development of ATEX (short for ATmosphere EXplosiv) was groundbreaking, as it extended regulatory focus beyond electrical equipment, which had historically dominated explosion safety standards. With its roots in the "users directive" of 1999/92/EC, compliance requirements were phased in gradually, with final implementation set for July 2006. The complementary "manufacturer's directive" (94/9/EC) was later replaced in 2016 by the updated 2014/34/EU directive.

Updates from the SHAPA Technical Committee

Recently, SHAPA's technical committee reviewed the available guidance and updated two key publications in its technical library:

Compliance with Legislation Implementing the ATEX Directive and the ATEX PowerPoint Presentation, Key updates for manufacturers, importers, and distributors included, Replacing the EC Declaration of Conformity with the EU Declaration of Conformity, Replacing the EC Examination Certificate with the EU Examination Certificate, Importers are now required to include their names and addresses on products and enhanced responsibilities for manufacturers, importers, and distributors in terms of traceability and market surveillance.

For the UK, Brexit, the agreed departure of the UK from the European regulations introduced added uncertainty. While the UK government started to review new UK-specific regulations under the UKCA banner, by the end of 2023, these were not completed and with the recent change in Government these regulations are not likely to change anytime soon.

Non-Electrical Equipment Standards

A significant advancement in 2016 was the publication of IECEx standards ISO/IEC 80079-36 and ISO/IEC 80079-37, enabling non-electrical equipment for use in explosive atmospheres to achieve IECEx certification. These standards address, ISO/IEC 80079-36: General methods and requirements for non-electrical equipment and ISO/IEC 80079-37: Protection types for non-electrical equipment, including 'constructional safety' (c), 'control of ignition sources' (b), and 'liquid immersion' (k).

Accessing Updated Resources

Details of these regulatory changes and their practical implications for equipment design, projects, and installations are now available in SHAPA's updated technical library and are free to download at <https://shapa.co.uk/technical.php>



Atex and DSEAR Training

SHAPA have conducted three training workshops to run through the practical requirements of the Atex and DSEAR regulations for its members and the wider bulk handling community in 2024 and further training courses on this subject are planned for 2025 and beyond. If you feel that you need to understand the regulations in real world situations, these workshops are a great place to start. For more information on these and other training workshops visit the news section of the SHAPA website or LinkedIn feed, where further information and booking details can be found

Supporting Safe Materials Handling

ATEX compliance is just one of many technical and legislative considerations in designing materials handling, storage, and processing systems. SHAPA remains committed to providing its members with clear, concise, and actionable guidance to support safe and efficient operations.

The SHAPA Technical and Marketing Committees continually strive to educate and inform, driving best practices across the industry, and are always looking to improve the knowledge of the membership and the wider community, if you would like to join one of the SHAPA sub committees please contact the general secretary

For further assistance or to access SHAPA's resources, contact:

Email: info@shapa.co.uk

Phone: 01904 373040

Website: www.shapa.co.uk