

IECEX Certified Equipment Scheme – Nemko Group AS

About the IECEX

The IECEX Certified Equipment Scheme is an international equipment certification scheme operated under the IECEX Conformity Assessment System (see www.iecex.com) which has a main objective to facilitate international trade in equipment and services for use in explosive atmospheres, while maintaining the required level of safety.

The IECEX Certified Equipment scheme provides a means for manufacturers, regulators and users of equipment used in hazardous areas to address the risk of fires or explosions from flammable gases or dusts. Certification is against international standards to facilitate the sale of safer products internationally at a lower cost for the manufacturer.

About Nemko

In 1933, Norges Elektriske Materiellkontroll was established as a foundation for mandatory safety testing and national approval of electrical equipment in Norway.

We expanded rapidly to new areas, such as testing of radio interference requirements. It didn't take long for us to become a trusted name in Scandinavia. We became known as Nemko. In the last 20 years, we've recognized the immense opportunities for growth, both in the scope of service and in expanding our presence beyond Scandinavia.

In 1990 we became an independent, self-owned foundation, with a supervising council of representatives from different interest groups, including industry and trade organisations, consumer associations, and utilities. The foundation established and became the sole owner of Nemko AS, the central operating company responsible for the Nemko Group. Today, Nemko offers [testing](#), [inspection](#), and [certification](#) services concerning products and systems on a worldwide basis. Our global network of experts and partners in Asia, North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa helps customers comply with an increasingly complex set of requirements in more than 150 countries. We are proud to serve our customers in a reliable, efficient, and open manner, providing local presence coupled with global knowledge.

Nemko is a recognised certification body with the IECEX Certified Equipment Scheme. As a member of this scheme, we operate our certification process in accordance with the IECEX Rules and procedures. These documents outlines the key elements of the scheme and how it is implemented within Nemko.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Application

An application for certification shall be placed with Nemko Group, as IECEX Certification Body (ExCB). This application will describe the key features of the product, the responsible parties and critical facilities that will be part of the quality assurance auditing program.

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We will then communicate with one of our affiliated Ex testing Laboratories (ExTL). The ExTL will work with the Manufacturer to establish a test and assessment program and ensure close collaboration with the ExCB to facilitate the progression through the certification process.

The documentation provided will include technical documentation and an application form. Our standard scheme requirements are located here and are supplemented by Scheme specific requirements as documented in this scheme description. The Application will form the basis of our certification agreement with the Manufacturer.

An application can be processed if Nemko, following review of the application, determines that there is sufficient information to follow a certification process, and that Nemko has the necessary scope of recognition and resources to process the application.

Technical criteria will be published International standards that have been accepted in the IECEx scheme.

Evaluation

Testing and evaluation will be performed by the ExTL in accordance with the test and assessment plan. Where necessary, testing may also be performed by entities who have entered into a testing agreement with Nemko as per the IECEx procedures for outsourcing testing. This can be to manufacturers, other laboratories or witnessed by Nemko in accordance with the procedures.

The manufacturer's site, as well as any external manufacturing sites, will be audited by Nemko, as per a defined audit programme, in accordance the requirements given in the ISO/IEC 80079-34, resulting in the issuance of a Quality Assurance Report (QAR) for the production process.

A full re-assessment of the QAR is performed every 3 years, with a surveillance within 18 months for ISO 9001 registered facilities with an appropriate scope, or annually within 12/24 months for non-ISO 9001 registered facilities.

The QAR and type testing can be performed in parallel.

Results of the Quality Assurance auditing and the type testing will be provided to the ExCB in Nemko for review and a decision on certification.

If the manufacturer / the manufacturing site(s) already holds a valid IECEx QAR covering the same type of product and the same type(s) of Ex protection this will be taken into account.

Certification

After testing the test report will be evaluated to ensure that the product complies with relevant standards and scheme requirements. The evaluation will be followed by a review of the result from the evaluation before a decision of certification is made. The certification procedure includes aspects of the scheme such as technical review of the test report during evaluation. The review will also document that relevant standards have been used, and that the Test report is according to the scheme requirements. In addition, the review will document that all factories listed have a Quality Assurance Report.

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Marking

Nemko does not authorize a certification mark under the IECEx certified equipment scheme. The IECEx logo can only be used in accordance with the IECEx licensing arrangements as described on the IECEx website. [Guides | IECEx](#)

Maintenance

To maintain an IECEx certificate, it requires that ongoing Quality Assurance auditing is performed in accordance with the audit programme for the registered manufacturer / manufacturing site(s). In addition, it requires that the manufacturer fulfills its obligations of the IECEx scheme and Nemko's certification agreement. This involves ensuring that Nemko is kept informed of proposed changes in the product or facilities. All Nemko scheme requirements are documented here <https://www.nemko.com/about/nemko-scheme-requirements>

FEES

The cost of testing, auditing and initial certification will be quoted before project commences. The fees for maintaining the Nemko IECEx Certificate(s) of Conformity, will be paid by the applicant.

UPDATES

A Nemko IECEx Certificate of Conformity can be updated for technical or administrative reasons. All updates will be handled according to the certification process above as applicable and will result in the certificates being updated within the IECEx online database following re-issue by Nemko. Any proposed changes or modifications to the product must be informed to Nemko for evaluation of retesting and re-certification prior to implementation.

VALIDITY

A Nemko IECEx Certificate of Conformity is valid until cancelled/withdrawn by the applicant or by Nemko in accordance with the scheme requirements unless stated otherwise in the certificate.

SUSPENSION and WITHDRAWAL

Certificates may be suspended and subsequently withdrawn (Cancelled) or re-instated by Nemko in accordance with the policies and procedures of the IECEx scheme as documented in IECEx -02 and OD 209. These publications are available on the IECEx website (www.iecex.com). The Certification Manager is responsible for the withdrawal of certificates and reporting procedure towards involved certification organizations and respective authorities where relevant.

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Nemko does offer a complaints process to customers through which we will actively engage on complaint resolution should the situation arise.

Nemko also offers an appeals process to manufacturers where a disagreement on a decision of Nemko can be heard and acted upon.

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Complaints and appeals should be directed to:

Certification Manager
Nemko Group AS
Certification@nemko.com

As per IECEx 02 Rules, Complaints and Appeals regarding the actions of Nemko may be lodged with the IECEx via the ExMC secretary.

Our IECEx Scheme Services:

At Nemko Group we provide all the necessary guidance and support to comply with the IECEx scheme standards. Our teams of experts conduct testing, on-site inspection and conformity assessment of equipment operating in potentially explosive atmospheres. Our services include:

- Selection of IEC standards and definition of the required testing scope to obtain the IECEx CoC (Certificate of Conformity).
- Explosion-proof testing of equipment and protective systems by IECEx ExTR (Test Report).
- Issuing of IECEx CoC certificate of conformity and publication in IECEx on-line database.
- Assessment and auditing of the quality assurance system at the manufacturing premises, and on-going surveillance of the production process according to requirements given in the ISO/IEC 80079-34, in order to issue and maintain an IECEx QAR (Quality Assessment Report).

NOTE: *ExTR, CoC and QAR can be individually applied for, and issued by, different bodies.*

Our IECEx Certification Body services are issued by Nemko Group AS in Oslo, Norway. Further information about the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme is available from the IECEx website:

www.iecex.com (reference is made to the IECEx publication IECEx 02)