

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE EQUIPMENT FOR EXPLOSIVE ENVIRONMENTS INITIATIVE

I. Objectives of the Sector Project “Equipment for Explosive Environments”

1. The specific purpose of the Sector Project is to develop common regulatory objectives (CROs) for the regulation of placing Equipment and Services for Explosive Environments placed on the market. The CROs shall include area classification, verification of the equipment and its production, installation, inspection, maintenance, repair and the related conformity assessment procedures for products, services and competency of personnel. The aim is to eliminate barriers against the free trade of equipment and services.
2. Equipment and services for Explosive Environments must have a high level of safety in order to protect workers and the environment against explosions in the various fields of industry.
3. The group of the Sector Project will work closely with the UNECE Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) Team. The START Team will provide the Sector Project, when required, with assistance and guidance on policy matters for its work according to the “International Model for technical harmonization based on good regulatory practice for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations via the use of international standards”.

II. Composition of the Sector Project: Membership and participation in its meetings

4. The Sector Project will offer a platform for regulators of the participating countries to give them the possibility to discuss their concerns and approaches with experts of the producing industries and the different users of this equipment.
5. It should include experts and representatives not only from countries in the UNECE region but also from other interested United Nations Member States. It will work with international organizations, as well as representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as observers, particularly the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Electrotechnical Scheme for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEX).
6. The UNECE secretariat will provide, within available resources, the necessary support and guidance to the Task Force and its teams.

III. Reporting

7. The Sector Project shall report to the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and frequently inform the START Team of its work.
8. The terms of reference and duration of work of the Sector Project will be reviewed regularly by the Working Party in accordance with UNECE rules and procedures, and will be submitted for decision to WP.6.

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