

## **Approval of Ex (Electrical) Equipment for use/installation in Hazardous Areas.**

Requirement under Rule 102 of the Petroleum Rules, 2002 lays down that no electrical wiring shall be installed and no electrical apparatus shall be used in Petroleum Refinery, storage installation, storage shed, service station or any other place where petroleum is refined, blended, stored, loaded/filled or unloaded unless it is approved by the Chief Controller of Explosives. It is in this context that electrical equipment which has to be used in an Hazardous area covered under Petroleum Rules, 2002 shall require approval from the Chief Controller of Explosives.

For the purpose of installation of electrical equipments, the areas have been divided into 3 categories of hazardous areas namely :

- i. Zone '0' area where inflammable gas and vapours are expected to be continuously present eg., inside the tank.
- ii. Zone '1' area where inflammable gas and vapours are expected to be present under normal operating conditions eg., on the mouth of the vent pipe or near fill point, unloading point etc., during the operation.
- iii. Zone '2' area where inflammable gas and vapours are expected to be present under abnormal operating condition eg., during the failure or rupture of the equipment.

The extent of the hazardous area for petroleum refineries/processing plants storage installation, storage sheds and service stations shall be determined as laid down in Fourth Schedule of the Petroleum Rules, 2002. Various types of protection techniques have been developed to make these electrical equipments safe for use in hazardous areas, viz -

- I. **Flameproof protection** :- In this type of protection the enclosure which houses the electrical equipment is designed in a manner that the explosion inside the enclosure due to ingress of explosive/flammable gas or vapour will not be transmitted/communicated to outside hazardous atmosphere.

- II. Intrinsically safe :-** In this type of protection the equipment is designed in such a manner that the electrical energy which can enter explosive environment is so low or restricted in a manner that it cannot ignite a explosive gas air mixture.
- III. Pressurised protection :-** In this type of protection the pressure inside the enclosure housing the electrical equipment is maintained at a positive pressure (higher than atmospheric pressure outside enclosure) so as not to allow ingress of inflammable/explosive gas air mixture thus avoiding possibility of explosion.
- IV. Encapsulated protection :-** The principle of this type of the protection is that the apparatus to be protected is submerged/potted in a suitable substance in liquid state which is then allowed to cool and form a solid block. This prevents direct contact between the electrical apparatus and the explosive atmosphere.
- V. Increased safety type of protection :-** This type of protection is achieved by adopting measures in the design and manufacture of electrical apparatus to ensure security against occurrence of arcs, sparks and excessive temperature. In addition to the type of protection provided, the nature of explosive gas which will occur in the atmosphere around the equipment has also to be borne in mind.
- VI Type 'n' or non sparking type :-** For achieving this type of protection, it is to be ensured that the equipment is so constructed and maintained that no incendive spark is formed in normal operation and no fault is likely to occur in equipment which can lead to ignition of explosives gas mixture
- VII. Oil Immersion :-** When an electrical equipment capable of igniting explosive gas mixture is protected by immersion in mineral oil or other suitable protective liquid so that explosive gas mixture cannot come in contact with electrical equipment i.e. oil/liquid acts as a barrier between them .
- VIII. Powder Filling :-** A low energy spark producing equipment, if covered with a layer of appropriate thickness made of granulated material, such as quartz or solid glass particles (electrical non-conducting inorganic materials) of particle size 0.5 mm to 1 mm will prevent propogation of flame from interior of the layer to explosive atmosphere present above the surface of filling material. Such protection can even prevent flame propogation of Hydrogen-air mixture (having lowest experimental safe gap valve MESG = 0.29 mm) if granule size smaller than 1 mm & a layer thickness of 10 mm is used as filling material.

As per the Indian standards the explosive gases are classified under two broad categories viz.,

- i. Group I – Methane
- ii. Group II is subdivided into three types, viz. IIA, IIB, IIC  
IIA represents Propane  
IIB represents Ethylene  
IIC represents Hydrogen and Acetylene

Since areas coming under the Petroleum Rules, 2002 will have presence of hydrocarbons consisting of Carbon chain of C2 and above, the equipment to be used should be appropriate to IIA & IIB classification. However, if the equipment is to find application in petroleum refineries where presence of hydrogen cannot be ruled out, approval under Group IIC would be required in such case.

#### PROCESS OF APPROVAL FOR ELECTRICAL FITTINGS FOR USE IN HAZARDOUS AREAS FALLING UNDER THE PURVIEW OF PETROLEUM RULES, 2002:

**Most Important:-** Only those electrical Equipments/Instruments/Apparatus/Fittings (generally denoted by “Ex Equipments”) finding application/use in petroleum hazardous areas of petroleum refineries/Installations/Terminals and other licensed premises covered under Petroleum Rules, 2002 are only be considered for approval by Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur. It is also mandatory to install CCE approved electrical equipments in the licensed premises where storage, filling and dispensing of petroleum gases like LPG, CNG and Hydrogen mixture is used, as mandated in respective statutory Rules.

Requirements of documents for approval of “Ex Equipments” is based on situation i.e. whether the equipment is imported one or manufactured indigenously in India.

**[A] Documents for indigenous equipments :- Application indicating -**

1. Name and address of applicant/company
2. Name and address of manufacturer indicating place of manufacture.
3. Profile of the manufacturer including documentary evidence about the company including its Directors/Partners (as the case may be) and authorized signatories.
4. Organizational setup of the manufacturer.
5. Quality control setup of the manufacturer at the manufacturing premises.
6. Details of equipments and machinery provided for manufacture and stage wise quality assurance including final Quality Control System.
7. Details of testing facilities available with manufacturer.
8. Service and maintenance setup by the manufacturer.
9. Zone and Gas Group for which approval is sought.
10. Applicable temperature classification of the equipment i.e. – T1, T2, T3, T4, T5 or T6.
11. Applicable standards under which testing of the equipment has been done by the approved Test House.
12. Technical details of electrical components/apparatus if intended to be housed in the flameproof enclosure (for which approval is sought).
13. Copy of Test certificate with copy of approved drawings from the Test House duly recognized by CCE.
14. Scrutiny fee of Rs. 500/- in form of DD drawn in favour of “Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur” payable at Nagpur for approval of each type of Ex Equipment
15. Copy of licence under BIS Marks Scheme with appropriate endorsements. (only for Flameproof equipments/apparatus).

**[B] DOCUMENTS FOR IMPORTED EQUIPMENTS – Application indicating**

1. Name and address of the applicant/Principal company/manufacturer.
2. Profile of the manufacturer.
3. Details of customers in petroleum, petrochemical field to whom the equipment has already been supplied abroad.

4. Name of the Indian subsidiary or Authorized Agent cum Service Provider in India with documents in support of the same like agreement between manufacturer and Indian agents cum service provider.
  5. Profile of the Indian agent or subsidiary and enclosing documents in respect of company like “Certificate of Incorporation from ROC” or Deed of Partnership, list of Directors/Partners and its set up in this country clearly indicating qualified and trained technical service team assigned with responsibilities of initial installation/commissioning of the equipment/apparatus as well as post sales, Technical back-up, repair, maintenance & supply of original spares etc. List of technical persons specially trained by principal company/manufacturer shall be separately attached.
  6. A letter of authorization by OEM/Principals addressed to CCE, authorizing their Indian Agent cum Service Provider/Subsidiary to apply and obtain approval on their behalf.
  7. Name of the product(s) for which approval is sought.
  8. Zone of hazardous area and Gas Group in which the equipment is proposed to be installed/used.
  9. Copies of Test/Examination Certificate of equipment tested in compliance to presently valid Harmonized International Standard under ATEX or IEC Ex Scheme along with copy of the approved drawing, if any duly signed from a Notified Test House under said scheme, with latest supplements (if any) indicating markings assigned including applicable temperature category like – T1, T2, T3, T4, T5 or T6 duly countersigned by the authorized officers of the manufacturer.
- In case EC type Examination Certificate under ATEX Directive (94/9/EC) is furnished, a copy of latest “EC type Declaration of Conformity” issued by the manufacturer along with a valid copy of “Production Quality Assurance Notification” issued by an Accredited Certification Body/Notified Body in respect of manufacturing unit under ATEX Directive shall always accompany the test certificate
  - In case IECEX Certificate of Conformity is furnished as examination certificate, a copy of concerned Test Report (Ex TR) along with a copy of Quality Assessment Report (QAR) shall always be attached.

10. Technical Brochure and details of the equipment i.e, whether an associated apparatus or intrinsically safe system or like, including description of the equipment, its different models/variants, electrical parameters, working principle & operating mechanism (in case of special type of apparatus) and brief operation manual.
11. If the approval is sought for any system/packaged apparatus where number of electrical components are used, separate Test/Examination Certificate and copies of Production Quality Assurance Notification; EC type Declaration of Conformity etc. is to be submitted for each component. Approval will be issued for system/packaged apparatus encompassing each component used.
12. Scrutiny fee of Rs. 500/- for each component or test certificate involved, in form of D.D. drawn in favour of Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur payable at Nagpur.
13. Documentary evidence such as purchase order copy/inquiry/indent letter of Company stating installation in petroleum hazardous area/installation.

**Departmental Action :**

Based on the documentation submitted following assessment will be made :-

- a) Whether the manufacturer is of repute and has the necessary infrastructure to produce safe and quality product.
- b) Whether manufacturer/its subsidiary of Indian Agent has the necessary set up to provide technical back up/maintenance and service to the customers once installed in hazardous area.
- c) Whether the equipment is suitable for the Gas Group for which it is certified and proposed to be installed.
- d) Whether the equipment is suitable for the zone of hazardous area where it is intended to be used based on its type of protection, and for the service, it will be used.
- e) Whether there is scope of any hazard in the use of such electrical equipment in the intended hazardous area and Gas Group.
- f) Whether the equipment has been tested by the Notified/Recognised test house in compliance to latest relevant Harmonised/International standards if intended to be used specially, in Zone 0 areas.

- g) Whether the accessories/sub-components used in the electrical equipment are having proper certification of required explosion protection type and suitably for use in such hazardous area.

If the required documents and other assessments of the equipment and its Indian service provider are found in order, approval will be issued in the favour of the manufacturer specifying the Indian Service Provider's name in the conditions of approval.

[C] **Revalidation of existing Approval - Documents required**

1. Performance reports from the actual user of the equipment like Refinery, petroleum Installation/Depot/Terminals, Storage Sheds, Retail Outlets, Bottling Plants/Gas filling plants, ALDS/CNG installations covered under Petroleum Rules and other rules implemented by PESO. (In case the manufacturer has supplied Ex equipment to other vendor, who used such equipment in his system and supplied to the actual user then the performance report of user and actual supplier to be submitted along with performance certificate of system provider).
2. Supplementary EC type Examination Certificates issued after original certificates, or subsequent issues of the IECEx Certificate of Conformity shall be furnished, (in case of revision/Harmonization of International Standards) along with a copy of Production Quality Assurance Notification and a copy of EC type certificate. Declaration of Conformity of the manufacturer/Ex TR & QAR etc.

If the revised test certificates & Performance Reports are found in compliance to the requirements, a revalidation approval will be issued indicating new Standards & recent Test Certificate of such equipment.