

BASEEFA (EECS) Licences

The GMTC offers the following comments concerning hazardous area cable glands certified by BASEEFA.

Introduction

Members of the GMTC have been asked about the status of BASEEFA (EECS) Licences since the closure of EECS in September 2002.

BASEEFA (EECS) started issuing Licences in the early 1990s for three reasons:

1. To licence manufacturers to use the MECS and BASEEFA marks (and also the BASEEFA version of the Ex mark) for National certification (i.e. on certificates to BS standards such as BS4683 and BS229);
2. So that certificates (including European EEx certificates to EN 500XX standards) did not need to be re-issued every three years (previously certificates issued by BASEEFA bore an expiry date and the previous practice was to issue an additional endorsement page to each certificate extending its validity);
3. To indicate that EECS had assessed the manufacturer's QA system.

There was no statutory requirement or CENELEC rule which required manufacturers to hold BASEEFA Licences; this was simply a system imposed by BASEEFA.

These were always intended to fall into obsolescence with the expiry of certificates to the pre-ATEX standards.

Effect of Closure of EECS

Some BASEEFA Licences, however, are expiring now, and haven't been renewed because of the closure of EECS.

Because a BASEEFA Licence in effect validates certificates, including older ones with expiry dates, it

is has been the case up till now that the Licence itself must remain current.

With the closure of EECS, some manufacturers will have 'transferred' their older (pre-ATEX) certificates to another test house, such as SIRA. In this case the manufacturer will have a letter from that test house listing the certificates which have been transferred.

That letter will state that the certificates are still current. This letter in effect takes the place of the BASEEFA Licence.

If a certificate is not listed, that does not mean that the certificate has expired, but it may require the customer to ask the manufacturer for other means of indicating that the certification is still valid.

Manufacturers may also be in possession of a Product Surveillance Certificate, but this is merely a means of showing that another test house has assessed the manufacturer's QA system and does not give validity to any product certification.

ATEX 'Notification'

ATEX certification (to EU Directive 94/9/EC) has been optional since March 1st 1996, and will be mandatory from June 30th 2003. Manufacturers of ATEX certified equipment must hold a Notification from a Notified Body (EU-approved test house). The Notification can be issued by any Notified Body.

An ATEX Notification does not cross-reference any product certificates. It merely confirms the QA status of the manufacturer (as indeed did the old BASEEFA Licence).

This Notification was always going to replace the BASEEFA Licence. The Licence could be viewed as BASEEFA putting in a system pre-empting the new requirements.

Note

This information is issued for guidance only. It has no official or legal standing. The GMTC will not accept any liability for any loss or damage of any kind however caused incurred as a result of acting on the information above.
