



Supplementary Bulletin

Explosive Mixtures

Supplementary to point 4.4.1.9, Technical Regulations 2019

Flammable liquids, gases, and dust are considered to be hazardous substances in the context of § 2 (1) of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance. The handling of such hazardous substances can produce explosive mixtures that are harmful to persons, property, and the environment.

Based on Directive 1999/92/EC, an assessment of the explosion hazards inherent in the use of such substances is mandatory throughout Europe, and thus the requirement is not limited to Germany. Basically, the requirement for an explosion protection risk assessment done by the manufacturer of the system or machine, is stipulated in Directive 2006/42/EC (Machinery Directive) respectively Directive 2014/34/EU (ATEX Directive). With respect to tradeshow activities, the exhibitor will act not only as a manufacturer but also as an operator, and therefore Directive 1999/92/EC must also be taken into account. This is transposed into German law by the German Industrial Safety Ordinance and the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance, which therefore govern these tradeshow activities.

Explosion Safety Document

Based on § 6 (9) of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance, an explosion protection risk assessment must be prepared (developing an explosion protection concept and an explosion protection document). The explosion protection concept will assess whether the formation and also the ignition of hazardous explosive mixtures must be expected and what protective measures are appropriate for use in these cases. Implementation of the protective measures specified in the explosion protection concept is then described in an explosion protection document in accordance with § 6 (2) of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance.

The exhibitor is responsible for preparing the explosion protection document, including confirmation that the specified protective measures have been properly executed and implemented. Deutsche Messe AG will assist the exhibitor by offering a bilingual (German/English) template for the explosion protection document well before the trade fair begins. This will help exhibitors to describe and evaluate their machines. This template is the same for all exhibitors, and thus provides a uniform and comparable basis for evaluation. Evaluations that deviate from this template are not recommended, as this could increase the amount of work involved and incur additional costs for the exhibitor.

The explosion protection document based on this template, which is to be filled out completely in German or English by the exhibitor, together with the accompanying documentation from Deutsche Messe AG, must be made available at least one month before the trade fair begins.

Explosion Safety Examination

Based on these documents provided by the exhibitor, an explosion safety examination will be conducted, as required according to § 15 in connection with Annex 2, section 3, number 4.1 of the German Industrial Safety Ordinance. The requirement for the above-referenced explosion safety examination is independent from the size of the system or its operating time. In general, namely without exception, the explosion safety examination must be completed before commissioning.

It should be noted at this point that the explosion safety inspection will be based on the documents provided and the machine as constructed. Explosion protection documents that are incompletely filled out or lacking in some way, with missing or incorrect accompanying documentation, as well as with incomplete machine systems, can lead to significant deficiencies in the examination, with the result that the respective machine system will be prohibited from operation.

Deutsche Messe AG wishes to enable each of the exhibitors to operate their systems, and so exhibitors are strongly advised to provide complete documentation as required, and to adhere to the specified deadlines. The sooner the documents required by Deutsche Messe AG are made available and the machine systems are set up, the sooner any existing deficiencies or inconsistencies can be detected and remedied.

Please understand that exhibitors are responsible for the costs of the explosion safety examinations, which will be conducted by third parties and not by Deutsche Messe AG. Any additional follow-up examinations that are required due to non-compliance with deadlines or insufficient cooperation by the exhibitor will incur additional costs. To comply with data protection legislation, exhibitors are hereby informed that the explosion protection documentation will be forwarded to the service provider under contract to do the examinations.