

MCAA Policy Regarding Certification of Products for Use in Flammable Atmospheres by Nationally  
Recognized Testing Laboratories  
Date: May 22, 2016

Policy: The mission of the MCAA is to serve as an advocate on issues that are germane and significant to its membership and to serve as the leading source of information to the process measurement and control industry. Having found that the current state of OSHA's NRTL system imposes certain disproportionate burdens on MCAA members as well as creating unnecessary inefficiencies that reduce the global competitiveness of its members; it is incumbent on the MCAA to apply its resources in order to try and provide its members with a measure of relief from these shortcomings inherent in the current system. Towards this end it shall be the policy of the MCAA to:

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To recognize and support the significant contribution made to worker safety by designing and manufacturing products intended for use in hazardous locations to applicable nationally and internationally recognized standards and to assure compliance to those standards through independent third-party certifications by OSHA recognized NRTL's with processes that include the goal of being equitable and efficient for all parties involved and to work to correct deficiencies in the processes that inhibit achieving this goal.

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To educate our members and other stakeholders about the hazardous area product approval processes in the USA/North America, our goals and initiatives to improve those processes and to share pertinent developments (e.g. success stories, product approval process advice, etc.) with our members and interested parties.

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To promote and support the general adoption, incorporation and acceptance of the IECEx standards (<http://www.iecex.com/standards.htm>) by stakeholders (customers, local, state and federal governmental authorities, NRTL's and product manufacturers) as the de facto national and global HAZLOC standards, with minimal national exceptions, to replace the historical, individual and proprietary standards produced by various notified bodies in the USA/North America and to the practical extent possible, in other countries and regions of the world.

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To promote and educate stakeholders on the concept of "NRTL Mark Equivalency" under OSHA's current NRTL program. NRTL Mark Equivalency is defined by the fact that in the eyes of OSHA the product test data developed by one NRTL under a standard within the NRTL's OSHA-recognized scope of competency is equally valid as the product test data from any OSHA NRTL with the same standard in its scope of competency. Broader recognition among end users of this fact will potentially increase the range of NRTL's each will accept for products purchased allowing the product suppliers the opportunity to competitively select NRTL's to contract for their product certifications.

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Implementation of this policy shall be the responsibility of the Product Approval Product Committee (PAPC) previously established under the bylaws of the Association and by Association staff assigned to the task by the MCAA President. Plans for and results of activities undertaken to implement the policy shall be reported to the Board of Directors on a timely basis but in no case less than twice per year.