ATEX / DSEAR

Complying with the directives
ATEX / DSEAR

How likely is your process to form explosive or flammable atmospheres?

Have you a risk assessment that demonstrates how you have reduced the risks to people and minimised the extent of flammable zones?

ABB provides technical and engineering services to improve performance in the areas of compliance, operations and engineering to customers in the chemical, petrochemical, oil & gas, power, pharmaceuticals, metals and consumer industries worldwide.

In order to comply with ATEX or DSEAR, an employer must:

- Risk assess activities involving dangerous substances, being able to demonstrate a hierarchy of control
- Have effective technical and organisational measures to eliminate or reduce the size of flammable atmospheres
- Undertake a documented area classification to identify and manage flammable areas
- Select appropriately certified new equipment or retrospectively assess equipment brought into first use before July 2003
- Provide equipment and procedures to deal with accidents and emergencies
- Provide information and training to employees, so those persons can demonstrate adequate and suitable levels of competency

Capabilities
Our team of professional consultants have proven engineering expertise in all matters relating to:

- Risk assessment and hazard study leadership
- Retrospective risk assessment for both electrical and mechanical equipment
- Area classification to a number of industry codes
- Installation and maintenance of hazardous area equipment
- Supporting safety management policies and procedures

Our experience
We cover the full life cycle of the equipment including:

- Design
- Operations
- Maintenance
- Safety management

Our combined experience, practical approach and pragmatic methodologies equip us to offer effective and efficient solutions to the problems of using equipment in compliance with ATEX or DSEAR.

Our consultants are active on a number of related British and International Standards committees. We can provide a cost effective and technically robust service for all your ATEX or DSEAR-related requirements.
The full Route to ATEX / DSEAR compliance
ATEX / DSEAR compliance requires operators to consider hazardous area management as a ‘cradle to grave’ concept consisting of the containment, as far as possible, of flammable materials so as to minimise the extents of zoned areas; the appropriate classification of these areas; the selection of suitably specified equipment and good management so as to ensure ongoing compliance. By using hazard studies and area classification we seek to justify reductions in the size of hazardous zones, thereby reducing the reliance on the control of ignition sources as a basis of safety. Using containment, handling the substance outside of its flammable range, or improving ventilation as a basis of safety are more reliable controls as well as, in most cases, being more cost effective.

Non electrical equipment retrospective review process
The HAZMEC© approach to assessing mechanical equipment uses an efficient method, based on the guidance in the BS EN80079 ‘Non-electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres’ suite of standards, to efficiently and effectively identify potential ignition sources and then to recommend ignition source control measures. Numerous customers, in all industry sectors, have used this approach to continue using existing equipment safely and with confidence.