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Re: Greasomatic® GM96 – ATEX Directive Assessment

The Greasomatic® GM96 was assessed against the requirements of EN13463-1:2009 (Non-electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres), in order to determine whether it falls under the scope of the ATEX Directive. An integral part of this assessment is to perform an Ignition Hazard Assessment to identify any possible effective ignition sources associated with the equipment. No effective ignition sources were identified by this assessment which would cause the equipment to be covered by the ATEX Directive. The Ignition Hazard Assessment and evaluation against the relevant clauses of the test standard are detailed in TRaC report TRA-006232-33-00A.

Conclusion

With regards to the ATEX Directive 94/9/EC, the Greasomatic® is classed as a 'simple product' which does not possess its 'own ignition source' and as such does not come under the scope of the ATEX Directive. 'Simple products' and 'own ignition source' are defined by the ATEX Guidelines (Third Edition) June 2009 in clauses 5.2.1 and 3.7.2 respectively.

It was noted during the assessment that the equipment is constructed from plastic materials, with surface areas greater than that permitted for some gas groups / categories by EN13463-1:2009.

Although this presents a potential electrostatic hazard during cleaning operations etc., the ATEX Directive states that if the only ignition source is electrostatic charging from process or other operations, such items are not considered to have their own source of ignition, and they are not in scope of ATEX Directive 94/9/EC. In these cases they should not be Ex or CE marked according to ATEX Directive 94/9/EC although the user of such equipment has to consider these ignition sources when undertaking a risk assessment in the workplace.

It should be noted that a paper was drafted by Germany (Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt) and approved at the ATEX Standing Committee Working Group meeting on July 7th 2010. This paper confirmed that this type of automatic lubrication system, which does not incorporate a cell but employs an electrochemical reaction to produce gas, is classified as neither electrical nor non-electrical equipment.

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