



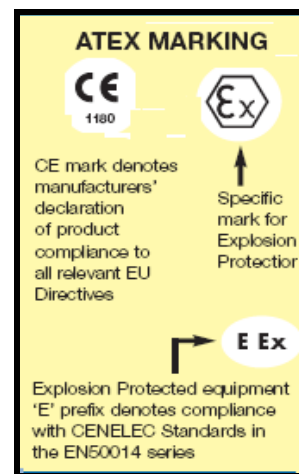
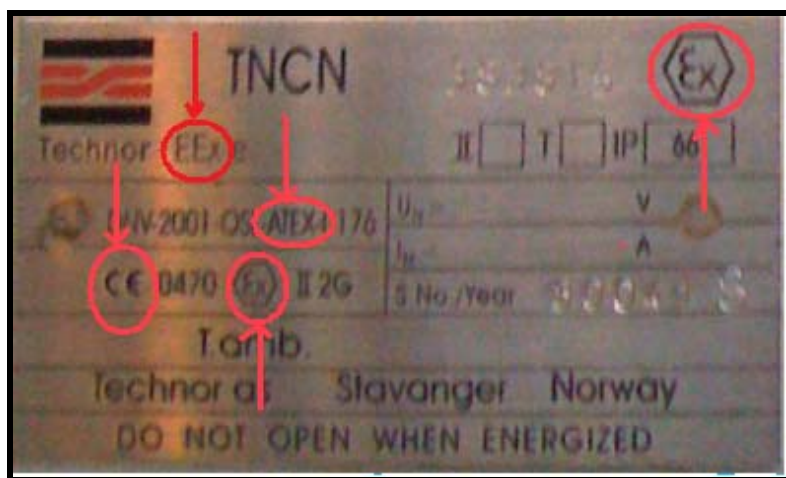
CG-5431
Office of Vessel Activities
Domestic Compliance Division

MI Notice 01-12
February 7, 2012

Marine Inspection Notice (MIN)

ATEX certified Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Areas on U.S. Ships

While conducting oversight of vessels enrolled in the Alternate Compliance Program or that completed plan review under NVIC 10-82, the Coast Guard discovered electrical equipment installed in hazardous areas certified by “Notified Bodies” under the European Union’s (EU) ATEX Directive 94/9/EC. Equipment certified under this ATEX Directive does not comply with 46 CFR 111.105-7(a); therefore, the equipment is not acceptable for use within certain hazardous areas on U.S vessels. The ATEX certification scheme accepts manufacturer testing in lieu of independent or third party laboratory supervision. Equipment certified under the ATEX Directive can be identified by the “ATEX”, “CE”, “Hexagon Ex” and/or “EEx” markings; see the illustrations below.



If installed on U.S.-flagged vessels, ATEX Directive certified equipment should be either replaced or proven to have been tested to the IEC 60079 series standards by an independent laboratory accepted by the U.S. Coast Guard. The U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center’s Engineering Division (MSC-2) is available to assist in determining whether specific ATEX-certified equipment is approved for use in hazardous locations.

Some recent examples of ATEX certified equipment installations and OCMI actions include:

- ATEX certified high level alarms and tank gauging equipment was found on newly built Class I, Group D, Grade "A" tank barges. The corrective action included a reduction in cargo carrying authority to grades D and E cargo.

- An ATEX certified solenoid valve was found on a winch within the hazardous area on an existing U.S. crude oil tanker in the TAPS trade. The solenoid was replaced with a solenoid that met the requirements of 46 CFR 111.105-7.

Guidance and actions to U.S. Coast Guard inspectors regarding this notice will be provided separately. OCMI's should immediately notify local vessel operators that could be impacted, so they can take proactive measures to remedy this situation. Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the Office of Vessel Activities, Domestic Compliance Division (CG-5431) at 202-372-1224 or CG5431@uscg.mil. Questions about ATEX certified equipment should be referred to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center Electrical Branch (MSC-2) at (202) 475-3402 or MSC@uscg.mil.