Introduction

This IECQ Technical Notice is intended to clarify the criteria for Companies holding STACK International Certificates to obtain IECQ Certification under the IECQ Approved Component Scheme or the IECQ Approved Process Scheme, in accordance with established cooperation between STACK International and IECQ.

1.0 Introduction

In line with the long standing cooperation between STACK International and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) System, the IECQ, this Technical Notice (TN) sets out the criteria to be used by IECQ Certification Bodies (IECQ CBs) when receiving applications from manufacturers and suppliers holding STACK International Certificates. This criteria is intended to provide a smooth and cost effective transition from STACK International Certification to IECQ Certification under either:

• The IECQ Approved Process Scheme – in accordance with IECQ 03-2
• The IECQ Approved Component Scheme – In accordance with IECQ 03-3

Companies gaining International IECQ Certification are free to select any of the IECQ Approved Certification Bodies as listed on the IECQ website www.iecq.org

International IECQ Certificates are issued via the IECQ “On-Line” Certificate System meaning that IECQ Certificates are fully and publicly visible on the IECQ website the instant that they are issued and provide immediate “proof” that IECQ certification exists, with all certificates issued by all IECQ CBs, located in the one IECQ website to provide ease of immediate checking by industry.

2.0 General Approach

In general, IECQ CBs may consider a company holding STACK International Certificates and seeking to apply for an IECQ Certificate, similar to a company seeking to transfer from one IECQ CB to another IECQ CB, meaning that a site or factory audit by the IECQ CB receiving an application from the company, prior to issuing the IECQ Certificate, is not considered necessary under all of the following criteria:

a) The specification used in the STACK Certificate is to be the same or equivalent to that for which IECQ Certification is sought. A later version/edition or similar Standard/Specification may be used where the IECQ CB has reviewed the differences between the Standard/Specification for IECQ Certification against that used for the STACK Certification and determined that the differences do not warrant a dedicated site visit/audit prior to issuing IECQ Certification. This does not preclude the IECQ CB from seeking evidence of compliance by way of copies of the manufacturers procedures and/or records;

b) The time period since the last STACK International audit or assessment has not been more than 18 Months. Where time interval is greater than 18 months then the IECQ CB shall conduct or arrange for another IECQ CB to conduct an audit, (either an on-site or off-site audit as determined by the IECQ CB) which would be regarded as a surveillance audit;

c) That the IECQ CB receiving the application has confirmed that there are no outstanding major Non Conformances of a systematic nature, from the last STACK International Audit/assessment; and

d) The IECQ CB receiving the application includes the company into their surveillance audit program as required by the IECQ Rules and Operational Documents with the first surveillance audit to be conducted not more than 12 months from the issue of the IECQ Certificate.
3.0 Specific Matters

The following specific matters are noted in relation to gaining IECQ Certification:

a) The relevant IECQ Rules of Procedures apply, refer to www.iecq.org for current editions;

b) The IECQ CB remains responsible for the issuing and maintaining of IECQ Certificates they issue and therefore, according to International Standard practise, as reflected in ISO/IEC 17021 series and ISO/IEC 17065, the IECQ CB reserves the right to seek the necessary objective evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Standard or Specification declared by the company seeking IECQ Certification;

c) Applications are lodged by companies seeking IECQ Certification, directly to IECQ CBs of their choice, whom operate on a fee for service basis in a competitive environment;

d) There are no member fees to be paid to the IECQ by companies seeking IECQ Certification however, IECQ CBs charge for their audit services in accordance with their own internal pricing structure. IECQ does NOT participate in any form of price fixing among the IECQ CBs in this regard.

e) The IECQ System operates a complaints and appeal process by way of contacting the IECQ Secretariat at info@iecq.org however, it is a requirement that the internal complaints and appeal process of the IECQ CB shall first the first approach by any company seeking to lodge a complaint or appeal and should only contact the IECQ Secretariat where this process has not satisfied their concerns. The IECQ Appeal process is detailed in IECQ 01 publication available from the IECQ website.

4.0 Additional Information

Attention is drawn to the following additional information, largely for the benefit of Companies holding STACK International Certification and now seeking IECQ Certification.

a) IECQ is an operation of the IEC, a non-profit International Standards Body operating since 1906 and recognised by International organisations such as World Trade Organisation (WTO), United Nations (UN) and others;

b) The Statutes and Rules of the IEC apply equally to the operation of the IECQ;

c) The IEC thru the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) have delegated the day to day management of the IECQ to the IECQ Management Committee, with membership on a country by country basis;

d) Experts from industry are encouraged to participate in the various specialist groups of the IECQ as part of the development and maintenance of the IECQ Schemes Rules and Operational Procedures, termed (ODs);

e) Daily operation of the IECQ is supported by a dedicated Technical Secretariat that is available to assist with general inquiries on matters related to the operation of the IECQ, via info@iecq.org

For any questions regarding this IECQ Technical Notice, please contact the Secretariat as follows:

IECQ Secretariat
E-mail: info@iecq.org