



Paul Meanwell

An Overview of IECEx-

Uncover key benefits of the IECEx System and its operating scheme; what makes it successful and why everyone can use it from end users to manufacturers and regulators.

Paul Meanwell was born in the United Kingdom in 1959.

After leaving school he started his career in electrical engineering in the coal mining industry with the British National Coal Board (NCB) and studied further for his DMIHE (UK) certificate in electrical engineering. He remained with the NCB for eight years before emigrating to South Africa at the age of 25 with the Gencor mining group.

After three years with Gencor he went to work for a Johannesburg based mining supply company supplying underground mines with communication and control products (Davis Derby). Early in his employment with Davis Derby he also joined the "South African Flameproof Association" as the company representative.

During his 12 years with Davis Derby he rose to the position of Director of the Mining Division before leaving to join Joy Mining as Certifications Engineer. Paul has been with Joy Mining, (now Komatsu Mining Corporation) for the last 20 years and has held a number of positions including manager of electrical engineering and his present role of Manager – Engineering Governance.

In this role he is responsible for a team of people looking after certifications and approvals, risk assessments, engineering projects, engineering processes, and engineering operational excellence.

During his tenure at Komatsu and Joy he rose to the position of President of the South African Flameproof Association, a position held for many years before he took on the role of IECEx Chair in 2020.

In addition to these roles, Paul is also the chairman of the South African Mirror Committee for IECEx, endorsed by the South African National Committee for IEC (SANC) on which he holds a core seat. He is the chair of the South African mirror committee for IEC TC31, and the chair of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) TC065 – Explosion Protection. Paul has participated in and chaired a number of standards writing groups within South Africa in the explosion protection industry and has given many presentations at related functions and seminars around the country in addition to writing technical papers for South African industry publications. Paul was the chair of the AFSEC (The African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission) TC31 until it disbanded in 2018 due to limited participation by AFSEC members. He remains on the AFSEC conformity assessment committee. Paul became involved in the IECEx in 2006 when he attended the annual meetings in Shanghai and has been present at a total of twelve annual meetings, including the 2016 meetings held in Umhlanga, South Africa which was organised by the Flameproof Association. He has served on a number of IECEx working groups including WG13, business development. In 2014 Paul developed and ran the English language section of an IEC60079-10 based workshop in the Democratic Republic of Congo at the request of the IEC affiliate programme. He was honoured with the IEC 1906 award in 2015 for his work in promoting IECEx.

