

To our customers

Ober-Mörlen, 13 December 2012

Explosion Protection Guideline for EXMAR unions and valves Application of "ATEX" Directive 94/9/EC

Dear Sirs

As a major supplier to the European machine and equipment industry, we are periodically asked for our position regarding the conformity of EXMAR products to the EC Directive 94/9/EC (better known under the name "ATEX"). This reflects the uncertainty of many manufacturers as to whether their products fall into the category of this explosion protection guideline or not.

Regardless of whether a machine or device is used in or in connection with a potentially explosive environment or not, the manufacturer is obligated to analyse hazards of whatever kind that could occur during intended operation – as well as in case of "reasonably foreseeable misuse" – of the respective product. The risk analysis according to 94/9/EC is to be done independent of any required certification by a body appointed by the manufacturer.

The Directive categorizes products as:

- equipment
- protective systems
- components
- safety, control or regulation apparatus

EXMAR unions and valves are considered "non-electrical products" to the valve accessories and thus fall under the category of components. Possible sources of ignition in non-electrical valves are mechanical sparks, hot surfaces and electrostatic charge. While static discharge is, according to the Directive, the responsibility of the operator, avoiding hot surfaces and mechanical sparks depend on a correct system layout, correct selection of materials and correct installation according to the instruction manual. This too is the responsibility of the operator.

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By nature, our products do not possess an inherent source of ignition. Even when used in a potentially explosive atmosphere, EXMAR unions and valves do not fall under the application area of Directive 94/9/EC. They are not considered equipment in the sense of the Directive. Responsibility for the necessary precautions, so that the use of our products complies with general technological safety regulations, lies with the operator.

Of course, other relevant directives could at some point in the future apply to our line of products, for example in markets with high hygiene or safety requirements, etc. Due to the very broad range of applications in which our products are used, this particular situation would need to be specified by our customers on a case-by-case basis.

We hope that this statement serves as a basis for your decisions and if you have any further questions, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely
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