

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

## INDIVIDUAL STANDARDIZING AND CERTIFYING BODIES

Note by the Secretariat

### Addendum

The present document includes additional information on individual standardizing bodies in the United Kingdom.

Country: United Kingdom

1. Name of Organization: British Approvals Service for Electrical Equipment in Flammable Atmosphere (BASEEFA).
2. Date of Establishment: 1967
3. Membership: Not applicable - BASEEFA is part of the Laboratory Services Division of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) which is an agency of the Department of Employment, which is a government department.
4. Organizational Structure and Management:

BASEEFA has three Sections all under a Director and a Deputy Director. The three Sections deal respectively with:

  - (i) Heavy Current and Reliability Concepts;
  - (ii) Light Current and Intrinsic Safety;
  - (iii) Flameproof and Pressurisation.

The Director is responsible to an Electrical Certification Management Board, which comprises representatives from HSE, Industry, and ERA Technology Ltd., and to an Advisory Council.

Appointments to the Management Board and to the Advisory Council are made by HSE.

Staff are Civil Servants.
5. Financing: Financing of certification activities is by way of fees and charges. Standards activities and certain advisory functions are non-attributable.

6. Activities:
- (a) Both standards-writing and certification.
  - (b) Published only its own standards.
  - (c) Solely concerned with certification to standards, but staff could be required to act as technical witnesses in court cases.
  - (d) Participant in national CENELEC and IEC activities.
  - (e) Certification of apparatus to standards.
  - (f) BASEEFA Guide and Newsletters.
7. Fields of Standardization:
- (a) Areas of work: Electrical equipment for use in flammable atmospheres, e.g. alarms, communications equipment, detectors, generators, measuring equipment, switches and transformers.
  - (b) Number of Standards Adopted: 4
8. Fields of Certification: Electrical equipment for use in flammable atmospheres.
9. Status of Publication:
- (a) Zone 2 Standards.
  - (b) British Standards; BS 4533, Electric Luminaires; BS 4683, Electrical Apparatus for explosive atmospheres; BS5000, Rotating Electrical Machines; BS5501, (EN's 50 014 - 020).
  - (c) BASEEFA has no enforcement function in respect of technical regulations.
  - (d) None.

Country: United Kingdom

- 1 Name NATIONAL TESTING LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME (NATLAS)
- 2 Date 22 October 1981
- 3 Membership Is voluntary, and open to any laboratory conducting objective tests, whether it is independent, or part of a larger organization such as a Government Department or other public body, a consultancy, a university or technical college, or an industrial concern. More than 100 laboratories have been accredited to date, covering Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical and Physical testing.
- 4 Organization, structure and management The scheme is administered by the NATLAS Executive, located at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL). The Executive acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Industry and has the authority to grant, renew and withdraw accreditation under the scheme. NATLAS does not employ a staff of assessors for accreditation, but will obtain suitably qualified assessors from other organizations or will use independent consultants.  
  
The Secretary of State for Industry is advised on the operation of NATLAS by the Advisory Council on Calibration and Measurement (ACCM). A Steering Committee appointed by the ACCM guides the development and operation of the scheme.  
  
The members of the Committee were chosen to cover the interests of testing laboratories, their customers, and organizations involved in laboratory accreditation.  
  
The ACCM also advises on the running of the British Calibration Service, which is managed by NPL and which will collaborate closely with NATLAS.

Technical support for NATLAS will be provided by a series of discipline-orientated technical committees comprising recognised experts in appropriate fields of testing. Four such committees have been set up, covering chemical, electrical, mechanical and physical testing. They are encouraged to form small ad-hoc groups to deal with problems associated with testing particular types of product or with specialised testing methods. Further committees will be set up subsequently, if necessary.

5 Financing The Department of Industry will contribute to the administrative costs of NATLAS during the first three years. Thereafter it is intended that all direct costs of the service provided will be recovered. Charges to laboratories will cover payments to assessors as well as costs of administration. Each laboratory will be charged for initial assessment and an annual subscription.

6 Activities

(a) Neither.

(b) Neither.

(c) No statutory powers of enforcement, but has the authority to grant, renew and withdraw accreditation.

(d) None. But is associated with the International Laboratory Accreditation Conference (ILAC) and is represented at its meetings.

(e) NATLAS terms of reference include the fostering of international recognition of the competence of accredited laboratories through ILAC and other international bodies, and its functions therefore relate indirectly to the implementation of the Standards Code.

(f) NATLAS Prospectus and Directory.<sup>1</sup>

7 Fields of standardization

(a) None in this context.

(b) None.

8 Fields of certification Not applicable.

9 Status of publications

(a) None in this context.

(b) None in this context.

(c) None in this context.

(d) As at 6(f) above.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the NATLAS Prospectus is available for consultation in the GATT secretariat, Centre William Rappard, Office No. 1073.

Country: United Kingdom

1. Name of Organization: British Approvals Service for Electric Cables Ltd., (BASEC)
2. Date of Establishment: December 1973
3. Membership:

The following organisations are members of BASEC:

British Standards Institution  
Electric Cable Makers' Confederation  
Electrical Contractors' Association  
Electricity Council  
ERA Technology Ltd  
Engineering Equipment Users' Association  
Fire Offices Committee

4. Organizational Structure and Management:

Board of Management

Governing body of BASEC is the Board of Management, on which is represented each of the member organisations. The Board consists normally of twelve persons plus an independent Chairman and an observer from the UK Government, and is so constituted as to ensure a balance of interest.

Certification Committee

The Certification Committee is appointed by the Board of Management, and the Government has its right to appoint an additional member or observer. The Committee is responsible for progressing applications and the issue of licences for the detailed operation of the Schemes of Supervision and Control and the assessment of the performance of licensees. The Committee has the right to temporarily suspend the use of the certification trade marks but the responsibility for withdrawing licences rests with the Board of Management. The members of the Certification Committee have no commercial interest in the information which may become available to them. They are answerable to the Board but in order to preserve confidentiality, the Committee will not disclose to the Board any information on manufacturer's detailed operations without the written consent of all parties concerned.

Licensees have the right to appeal in writing against any decisions taken by the Committee (see Paragraph 3.7). Such action will require permission from the licensee to disclose confidential information if this is deemed necessary by the Committee.

#### Operating agent

The Board of Management has appointed the Hemel Hempstead Centre of the British Standards Institution as the operating agent for BASEC responsible for day to day operations.

5. Financing: Income from certification, testing and inspection fees.

6. Activities

- a) Certification
- b) Technical Regulations only
- c) Yes
- d) CENELEC Marks Committee and CENELEC HAR Group
- e) None
- f) Various trade press articles

7. Fields of Standardization:

- (a) Maintenance of safety and quality of insulated electric cables, flexible cords and wires, whether manufactured in the United Kingdom or abroad and whether used therein or exported therefrom.

(b) 12

8. Fields of Certification:

As at 7(a).

9. Status of publications:

- (a) None
- (b) None
- (c) None
- (d) None