

What the New 2015 ATEX Regulations Mean for Manufacturers and End Users of Lights for Hazardous Areas

ATEX, The European regulatory Framework for Manufacture, Installation and Use of Equipment in Explosive Atmospheres, is making important changes to its legislation in 2015. The current version will be withdrawn April 2nd, 2015, and after this date any light certified against this current standard that is not already present on the EU sole will not be ATEX compliant.



For a better understanding of the regulation EN 60079-0:2012 new changes and what they imply, it's important to highlight the role of the ATEX certification in ensuring the health and safety of workers. The ATEX Directive (94/9/EC) regulates that manufacturers supply properly certified electrical equipment to be used in potentially explosive areas. This directive is mandatory and states that each area needs to be classified according to the potential hazardous risk so that only appropriate certified equipment can be used there.

In an ongoing effort of guaranteeing the safety, the regulation has been updated and a new ATEX regulation will come into force during 2015 following the version EN 60079-0:2012.

"For many years we have complied with the ATEX regulations so that our lighting solutions offer the highest safety guaranteed to workers in hazardous atmosphere environments, such as the Fire and Rescue, Oil, Petrol, Pharmaceutical, Chemical, Mining and other industries." Explained Greg Kang, Director of Product Development for Lights at Peli Products. "To meet the exacting requirements of ATEX directive 94/9/EC, our lights are tested to ensure that they pose no threat of ignition when operating within hazardous locations. Using approved laboratories, the lights are tested to guarantee that they will withstand rigorous impact and drop tests, severe environmental exposure and meet a minimum of IP54 water and dust ingress protection. Therefore, longevity and safety are assured by design."

What do the new ATEX regulations mean?

With this change, manufacturers will have to modify and update the ATEX approved lights to make them compliant with the new regulations. Already, some companies are working since last year in order to comply these changes, because after April 2nd 2015 the products placed in the market must conform to the new standard (EN 60079-0:2012).

"We have been working on adapting our products to the new ATEX regulation since 2014, when we were informed about the upcoming variation." Said Greg Kang, Director of Product Development for Lights at Peli Products. "As stipulated by the new regulation, at Peli we are adapting our range of over 16 ATEX lights to the new changes that include the use of anti-static plastic material and coatings in parts of the light. These updates

vary for Zone 0, 1, & 2 lights and also by gas groups, and ensure the safest solutions for volatile environments."

Significant changes of the new standard of the ATEX regulation

Depending on the lights and Zones, some of the more important changes are the need to mould in anti-static material or apply anti-static coating to the lights in order to successfully approve the test. These changes may imply modifications of the light output depending on the model; however, manufacturers like Peli guarantee that the light will remain powerful to effectively illuminate while eliminating all risks for users when using the lighting solution.

"For manufacturers the new ATEX regulation means that after April 2nd the products placed in the market must conform to the new standard (EN 60079-0:2012), however, while the changes in the current models are taking place, any product already in service or in the distribution chain can continue to be used or sold." Explained Scott Jones, Director of Product Management of Lights at Peli Products, in regards to the new changes' impact in the market.

Moving forward, and with safety as the highest priority, new announcements of the updated models of lights in the European markets are to be expected, as soon as the new ATEX regulation starts in April.

About Peli Products' ATEX certified lighting solutions

With safety and efficiency in mind, Peli Products, the global leader in the design and manufacture of advanced portable lighting and high-performance protective case solutions, offers a wide range of ATEX Certified Safety lights. Peli's advanced lighting tools are innovative and tough, and trusted since 1976 by professionals working in the fire and rescue, mining, pharmaceutical, hazmat and other high-risk industries. From NVG-compatible and IR lights to rugged Xenon and LED submersible work lights, Peli's extensive array of advanced lighting tools has a lighting solution for just about any application, including over 16 ATEX certified Zone 1 & 0.

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