

## Statut de la robinetterie industrielle vis-à-vis de la Directive ATEX

### Les robinets manuels ne relèvent pas du champ d'application de la Directive ATEX.

Le statut de la robinetterie industrielle, et notamment les robinets "simples" ou manuels a longtemps fait l'objet de discussions entre fabricants, utilisateurs, organismes notifiés et pouvoirs publics. De ces discussions parfois contradictoires est apparue une situation confuse sur le marché communautaire, où cohabitent des produits déclarés conformes à la Directive ATEX et portant le marquage idoine et d'autres, possédant les mêmes caractéristiques de sécurité, mais sans le marquage spécifique à l'ATEX, le fabricant considérant que son produit ne relève pas de la Directive.

Ce sujet a été traité au niveau de la Commission Européenne et fait l'objet d'une position claire et explicite dans les lignes directrices de la Directive ATEX<sup>1</sup> (article 5.2.1) :

*"The issue of hand operated valves has also been discussed. Given that these will move slowly, with no possibility of forming hot surfaces, as discussed in section 3.7.3 they are not in scope of the Directive. Some designs incorporate polymeric parts, which could become charged, but this is no different from plastic pipes. Given that it is clear that the latter is outside of the scope of Directive 94/9/EC it has been accepted that such valves do not fall within scope. (...)*

*To avoid confusion between those who claim correctly that their valves have no source of ignition, and are out of scope, and those who claim that they have done some very simple design change and wish to claim that their valves are now Category 2 or even 1, it has been agreed that valves having characteristics as described above are out of scope. Nevertheless, as discussed in section 3.7.3, where potentially flammable atmospheres exist, users must always consider the electrostatic ignition risks."*

Par conséquent, PROFLUID souhaite souligner que les robinets à actionnement manuel ne relèvent pas de la Directive ATEX 94/9/CE et ne doivent par conséquent ni porter le marquage Ex, ni faire l'objet d'une déclaration de conformité selon cette Directive<sup>2</sup>. Le champ d'application de la nouvelle Directive ATEX 2014/34/UE étant inchangé en ce qui concerne les équipements, les robinets à actionnement manuel en resteront exclus.

PROFLUID est l'association française des fabricants de pompes et agitateurs, de compresseurs et de robinetterie. Membre de la Fédération des Industries Mécaniques, PROFLUID est au centre d'un vaste réseau de compétences et de partenaires. Développer les complémentarités entre ces organisations, travailler en partenariat et en veillant à la défense des intérêts de notre industrie est une priorité pour plus d'efficacité et un meilleur service aux industriels.

<sup>1</sup> GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF DIRECTIVE 94/9/EC - Fourth edition September 2012 - Update December 2013 - [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/files/atex/guide/atex-guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/files/atex/guide/atex-guidelines_en.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> D'autres Directives peuvent être applicables et nécessiter la fourniture d'une Déclaration de Conformité

## Status of industrial valve in regards to ATEX Directive

### Hand operated valves are out of the scope of ATEX Directive

Manufacturers, end-users, notified bodies and authorities have discussed, since long ago, about the status of industrial valves, and in particular "simple" or hand-operated valves, in regards of ATEX Directive. These contradictory discussions have lead to a confusing situation on the Community market, where exist at the same time products that are declared conform and wear the corresponding marking and other products, with the same security level, but without the ATEX specific marking, since the manufacturer considers the product is out of the scope of the Directive.

This topic was treated at European Commission's level and is clearly detailed in the ATEX Guidelines<sup>3</sup> (article 5.2.1):

*"The issue of hand operated valves has also been discussed. Given that these will move slowly, with no possibility of forming hot surfaces, as discussed in section 3.7.3 they are not in scope of the Directive. Some designs incorporate polymeric parts, which could become charged, but this is no different from plastic pipes. Given that it is clear that the latter is outside of the scope of Directive 94/9/EC **it has been accepted that such valves do not fall within scope.** (...)*

*To avoid confusion between those who claim correctly that their valves have no source of ignition, and are out of scope, and those who claim that they have done some very simple design change and wish to claim that their valves are now Category 2 or even 1, **it has been agreed that valves having characteristics as described above are out of scope.** Nevertheless, as discussed in section 3.7.3, where potentially flammable atmospheres exist, users must always consider the electrostatic ignition risks."*

Consequently, PROFLUID states that hand-operated valves are not covered by ATEX Directive 94/9/EC and therefore shall not wear the Ex marking, neither be accompanied by a Declaration of Conformity issued in the framework of this Directive<sup>4</sup>. The scope, concerning equipment, of the new ATEX Directive 2014/34/EU being unchanged, this status will remain when the new ATEX Directive will be fully applicable.

PROFLUID is the French pumps and mixers, compressors and valves manufacturers association. Member of the mechanical industry French federation (FIM), PROFLUID is the link between many competencies and partners. To develop complementarities between those partners, to build partnerships while defending our industry's interests is a priority towards more efficiency and better service to our members.

<sup>3</sup> GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF DIRECTIVE 94/9/EC - Fourth edition September 2012 - Update December 2013 - [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/files/atex/guide/atex-guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/files/atex/guide/atex-guidelines_en.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Other Directives may be applicable and require a Declaration of Conformity with the equipment