

## **ESA Position Statement on ATEX Directive 2014/34/EU and its applicability to Fabric Expansion Joints**

**2022 February**

Directive 2014/34/EU applies to equipment and protective systems for use in potentially explosive atmospheres has been mandatory as from 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016. It replaces Directive 94/9/EC. With this revised Directive the essential health and safety requirements have not changed. It was the aim of the revision to harmonise the requirements of the New Legislative Framework – NFL.

There is an official guidance document on the ATEX Directive transition from Directive 94/9/EC to Directive 2014/34/EC:

<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/13132/attachments/1/translations>

This Directive continues to apply across the EU but, now that the UK has left the EU, the EU Withdrawal Act 2018 preserves the Regulations and enables them to be amended so as to continue to function effectively. Accordingly, the Product Safety and Metrology etc. (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 is intended to fix any deficiencies that arose from the UK leaving the EU (such as references to EU institutions) and make specific provision for the GB market. So, except where referenced in this Position Statement, ATEX Directive 2014/34/EU should be considered applicable across the EU and UK.

**The Members of the European Sealing Association (ESA) Expansion Joint Division confirm that the ATEX Directive applies to products, systems and components according to Article 1. Fabric Expansion Joints are therefore not applicable to this Directive.**

**Thus:**

- Issuing an EC declaration of conformity is not permissible.**
- Affixing the CE marking is not permissible.**

There are special electrically conductive fabrics to avoid static electricity during operation which should be used in explosive environments. Please contact one of our member companies to get further advise on the use of fabric expansion joints in explosive environments.