

1. INTRODUCTION

The ExCS product certification mark scheme is a certification process by which a third party (For example: Explolabs Certification Services), gives assurance that a product fulfils specified requirements.

The product certification scheme of ExCS applies to products / commodities for which technical South African National Specifications (SANS) exists.

The ExCS mark is a recognizable symbol of providing assurance to the industry and powerful marketing tool, which strengthens your point-of-sale impact, and gives your product greater credibility and prestige in the marketplace.



The on-going improvement of your quality management system, including production quality, is an essential part of ExCS mark scheme and is there for a clear demonstration of your Organisation's dedication to specification conformance and product quality.

The following points are some of the key reasons why every South African Manufacturers, repairers and Importers should obtain the ExCS product certification mark:

- Strengthens your point-of-sale impact, which may result in more sales and greater revenue
- As an Independent Certification Body, ExCS provides assurance and peace of mind to your management team and your customers that product quality is maintained as per the industry specification requirements
- As an established organisation, you can be proud of the quality of product(s) that you provide to the market, by having it independently certified and tested proves that your Organisation have achieved the design, manufacturing and / or repair capability objectives.
- Your organisation's quality management system, including the quality control/quality assurance system, receives a regular update, thereby ensuring that your production operations achieve consistent good quality product(s).

2. NON- DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

The services of Explolabs Certification Services (ExCS) are available to all applicants whose activities fall within testing, certification and training of explosion protected equipment, electric motors and specified electrical & mechanical equipment. There are no undue financial conditions / restraints on the client and access is not conditional upon the size of the applicant or membership of any association or group, nor is certification conditional upon the number of certificates already issued. If certification / project is declined by ExCS team, reasons will be clarified in the quality management system.

Explolabs Certification Services will not and shall not discriminate based on a company's or persons' race, colour, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation in any of its activities. Any breach regarding this policy, by any of the ExCS personnel or relevant individuals, can be brought to the attention of ExCS management for review and investigation.

3. HOW TO OBTAIN THE EXCS MARK

First step, talk to one of our friendly & experienced personnel of Explolabs Certification Services. They will provide advice on the steps to follow towards product certification – see below the certification process flow chart, for a short summary of the process.

Second step, the personnel will assist with identifying the relevant SANS standards, which will set out the characteristics and the performance, safety, and quality criteria that your product must comply with to qualify for the ExCS Product Certification mark. If required, one of the personnel of ExCS will visit your organisation / facility to assist you with the application process, to discuss and ensure that the correct product range are identified so that the appropriate technical specification(s) can be identified for product testing, etc. (This will not be applicable to abroad companies, unless local distributor, etc. is available)

Third step, complete the application, forward to ExCS for processing and approval, and when all is in order, quotation, with a specific prepared of "Product Certification Agreement" for your Organisation, will be forwarded to be completed and to be signed off.

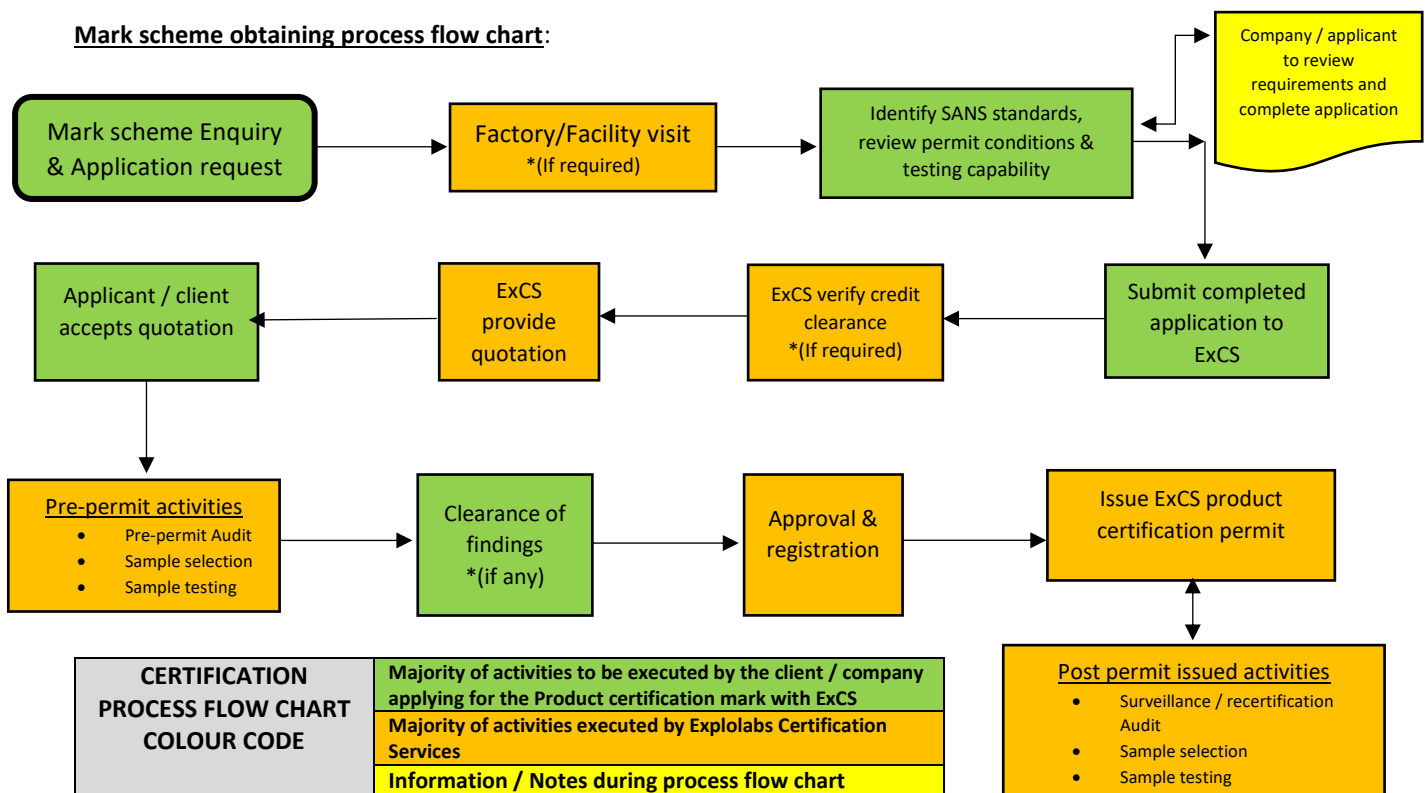
Fourth Step, Once the quotation is approved / signed off, as well as the Product certification agreement, and ExCS receive this documents, Pre-permit process may commence. A date will be allocated and agreed with the Organisation of when the Pre-permit audit will be executed.

Fifth Step, the pre-permit will be executed by performing the audit onto the entire production / facility operations relevant to the scope of application, as well as the Quality management system (QMS) of Organisation, where relevant. If the organisation operates a QMS which is certified by a certification body for ISO 9001, then only selected sections of the QMS will be evaluated during the Pre-permit audit. However, if QMS is not certified by a third party, then the QMS items listed in the Product certification Agreement will be evaluated accordingly. It is not mandatory to be ISO 9001 certified to apply for product certification. Also, during the Pre-permit stage, the auditor will select a sample(s) that need to be tested & evaluated by the preferred ATL of ExCS.

Sixth step, once Pre-permit is executed, all findings (Non-conformances – if any) are closed out, and complied test report is received, then the auditor will submit portfolio for review and approval at the review department. Once approved by review department, the Product Certification permit will then be awarded to the Organisation / applicant, and certification status updated accordingly onto the website of Explolabs.

Finally (Seventh step), once permit is issued, post permit activities will commence, which will include scheduled surveillance audits (one every six months), annual sample testing, and recertification audit prior the expiry of the mark scheme permit.

Mark scheme obtaining process flow chart:



TYPICAL PRODUCTS ExCS MARK SCHEME MAY BE APPLIED FOR			
1.	Explosion Prevention & protective related equipment	2.	Cable glands (Mechanical, compression glands, etc.)
3.	Luminaires	4.	Electro-technical apparatus (Lugs, ferrules, conduits, cable trucking, etc.)
5.	Electric motors (Rotating machines)	6.	Fuel dispenser system & units (Petrol pumps)
7.	Any other specific Mechanical or Electrical related product which ExCS may assist with.		

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