



# Screening: Explanatory Meeting Occupational Safety & Health

Brussels, 8 February 2006





# **Directive 1999/92/EC - minimum requirements for improving safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (Fifteenth Individual Directive) (I)**

## **1. Objective**

Establishment and harmonisation of minimum requirements for improving the protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (ATEX)





# Directive 1999/92/EC - minimum requirements for improving safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (II)

## 2. Key provisions

- ATEX = a mixture of flammable substances with air under atmospheric conditions, in which after ignition, combustion spreads to the whole mixture
- Exceptions to scope of application
- Prevention principles: to avoid the formation of ATEX (1), to avoid the ignition (2), to mitigate detrimental effects of explosion (3)



# **Directive 1999/92/EC - minimum requirements for improving safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (III)**

## **2. Key provisions (cont'd)**

- General requirements for a safe working environment including supervision during workers' presence
- Assessment of risks.
- Drawing up of explosion protection document
- Coordination of workers from several undertakings





# **Directive 1999/92/EC - minimum requirements for improving safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (IV)**

## **2. Key provisions (cont'd)**

- Differentiation between "old" and "new" workplaces and equipment (30/01/2003)
- Classification of places (Annex I)
- Special requirements for training, work permits, equipment and explosion protection matters (Annex II)



## **Directive 1999/92/EC - minimum requirements for improving safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (V)**

### **3. Implementation**

- Commission has set up a non-binding guide of good practice for the implementation (COM(2003)515). The guide must be taken into account in drawing up the national health and safety policy to the largest possible extent (Article 11 of the Directive).
- Implementation closely linked with Directive 1994/9/EC (equipment and protective systems in for use in potentially explosive atmospheres).

