

ContiTech Power Transmission Systems

Drive Belts Need No ATEX Certificate

Hannover, January 2017. Drive belts cannot obtain any separate type approval certification to Directive 94/9/EC (ATEX 95), because in and of themselves they do not represent a potential ignition source and thus are not subject to the provisions of the regulation. ContiTech Power Transmission Systems in Hannover draws attention to the fact that only machines, devices and protective systems for use in explosive atmospheres have to be certified.

Since the end of the grace period for the EU-wide regulation on June 30, 2003, Hannover has been receiving countless queries each day from unsettled customers. Drive belts alone are not capable of being tested under the so-called ATEX provisions. This is because the whole drive system of which the belts are a part always has to be taken into consideration.

An electrostatic charge or overheating can transform a drive system (consisting of belt and pulley) into a potential source of ignition. Wherever there is an acute danger of explosion, ContiTech recommends therefore that only electrically conductive variants certified to ISO 9563 or ISO 1813 and of the same line be used. They are also flame-retardant to UL 94 HB and self-extinguishing. On request ContiTech can issue a test certificate confirming the electric conductivity of each individual belt. This certificate is not, however, the same as a type approval certification to Directive 94/9/EG. The whole system has to be tested. Belts in and of themselves are components of a system and thus do not fall within the scope of application of the ATEX regulation. Our experience has shown that if the correct belt/pulley selection is made and if the two are harmonized, the drive unit does not pose any risk, not even in explosive atmospheres.