

CTC AppNotes

A series of technical documents written by members of the CTC community

What's up with Certifications?

Why we Certify our Products and Processes

It seems like every time we turn around in the modern world there is a new certification recommended or required in order to either do your job properly or to sell a product for a particular location. In this edition of *CTC AppNotes* we will examine some of the certifications that are important in the vibration industry and why we make the extra effort to obtain the relevant certifications.

Process Certifications

Process certifications such as ISO9001 benefit both a customers and manufacturers in many ways. By ensuring a well documented procedural method for all aspects of business operations, customers are more assured of a rigorous quality product that is produced consistently over time. Manufacturers often use the certification process to help them eliminate wasteful operational steps, thus making them more profitable in the long term.

Certification requires that the company have written instructions and policies for virtually every aspect of their business, from personnel policies to how customer complaints are handled.

Written work instructions are a requirement for many industries. These ensure that employee "A" will follow the same manufacturing procedures as employee "Z", thus producing consistent parts all the time.

Safety Certifications

In order to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic accidents many areas have particularly stringent requirements as to how much energy can be utilized by process equipment in selected areas of certain manufacturing facilities. Hazardous or intrinsically safe areas are designated to avoid igniting explosive dusts or gases. In order to make sure that sensors and cables used in these areas will not provide sparks or excessive heat that could



Figure 2-Damage from a sugar factory explosion in 2008. Investigators suspect the explosion was caused by sugar dust.

cause an explosion, manufacturers like CTC have selected sensors certified by independent bodies to be safe for use. This can run to great expense as different countries have differing requirements for certification.

Currently CTC has certifications that meet CSA (North America), ATEX (Europe) and IECEx (international) standards.

Vibration Training Certifications

Even though some companies may advertise that, if you get the right vibration analyzer and have the right computer program, the program will tell you exactly what is wrong with the fan motor you are looking at so you don't need an experienced (expensive) vibration analyst, in the real world we know that having the experience to tell the difference between misalignment and a bent shaft is a valuable asset. Various certifying bodies such as Technical Associates of Charlotte, Mobius Institute, and the Vibration Institute offer certification programs that have been approved by ANSI and/or other certification bodies.

Certification proves to employers and other analysts as well that the certified individual has a certain minimum competency at understanding and interpreting vibration data. CTC currently has seven Vibration Institute certified analysts on staff, including one category IV analyst. This ensures our customers that we can understand the issues they are facing and that we will do our best to assist them in every way possible.

If you have any questions or for further information please feel free to contact CTC directly via Email at techsupport@ctconline.com or call 1-800-999-5290 in the US and Canada or +1-585-924-5900 internationally.



Figure 1—CTC's ISO9001:2008 certificate of registration. Certificates such as this one must be renewed on a regular basis.

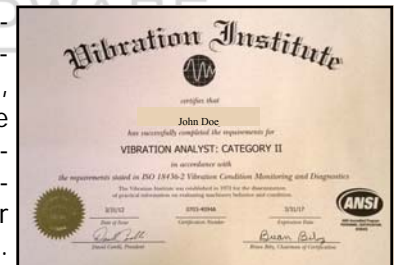


Figure 3-Sample Vibration Institute certificate. A significant achievement for any analyst.

If any CTC vibration analysis hardware product should ever fail, we will repair or replace it at no charge.