**Press release 18th August, 2016**

**For immediate release**

**FMA warns building owners to be aware of the ATEX directive on fans in explosive environments and works with HSE to raise awareness.**

The Fan Manufacturers Association (FMA) is warning company directors and employers that selecting the wrong fan for their working environment could put premises and occupiers at risk. This has become particularly important since the update of the ATEX legislation in April 2016.

The FMA has been so concerned about non-compliance with ATEX that it has been working with the HSE to raise the Executive’s awareness of this regulation, and to help others understand its implications. The HSE has also asked FMA representatives to speak at a meeting in Brussels of an Administrative Cooperation Group (AdCo) which is established to help harmonise legislation and its enforcement across Europe. The FMA has been asked by

the AdCo Group for ATEX to produce a guide that will identify fans not meeting the requirements of the ATEX Directive.

ATEX is European legislation concerning explosive atmospheres, consisting mainly of two directives that deal with safe working in ‘explosive environments’ and the choice of equipment, including fans, for those environments. Unfortunately, explosive environments are more common than many company directors and employers may realise.

FMA Chairman, Mark Jones says: “Explosive environments exist in the most day-to-day situations. It’s not just obviously explosive substances such as gas that need to be considered. Dusty environments can also be at risk of explosion too, and a number of deaths have occurred over the past decade as a result of incorrect fan selection for these environments.”

ATEX is significant for businesses, because it makes company directors liable for accidents which occur as the result of using the wrong type of fan in an explosive environment.

Mark Jones says: “Currently, employers are not adhering to the ATEX regulations for various reasons, and they clearly don’t understand its full implications for them. This puts building occupants at risk, and company owners potentially facing unlimited fines or even imprisonment.”

One of the challenges for customers selecting fans is that currently there is no independent third-party certification for ATEX-compliant fans. The FMA has worked hard on the new EN1498 Standard which will help to address this issue – but businesses need to make themselves aware of what is available before they make the wrong choice of equipment.

The FMA has produced a number of useful documents for building owners who feel their building contain a potentially ‘explosive environment’. These provide quick and clear guidance on the issues at hand and can be downloaded for free from the FMA section of the FETA website ([www.feta.co.uk/fma](http://www.feta.co.uk/fma)).

**Editor’s Notes**

The Fan Manufacturers Association (FMA) is dedicated to professional excellence in fan engineering. It reaches out to all other associations to build on its expertise, strengthening its market intelligence and increase its input to UK, European and global industry issues. The FMA is a group within the Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Manufacturers’ Association (HEVAC).

For more information, see: http://www.fanassociation.co.uk/

**Press information:**

Press contact:

Karen Fletcher at Keystone Communications: karen@keystonecomms.co.uk.

Monika Gaubyte at Keystone Communications: monika@keystonecomms.co.uk