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**Cathodic protection – certification of cathodic protection personnel
and companies**

P. Frenz, DVGW, Deutscher Verein des Gas- und Wasserfaches
E-Mail: frenz@dvwg.de

Klaus Riegel, FKKS, Fachverband Kathodischer Korrosionsschutz
E-Mail: riegel@fkks.de

Introduction, history and current situation

An established quality assurance system helps entities operating in the water and energy to select qualified economic operators. With the European Directives 2004/17/EC and DIRECTIVE 2004/18/EC an instrument is given for coordination of procedures for the award of public contracts.

Article 52 Directive 2004/18/EC allows tenderer as a quality assurance system to introduce either official lists of approved contractors, suppliers or service providers or certification by certification bodies established in public or private law.

In the field of cathodic protection there are two existing standard with intended purpose for certification as quality assurance system.

With the national DVGW Code of Practise GW 11 *Certification of cathodic protection companies* a process for certification of companies has existed in Germany for over 40 years. Furthermore in 2007 there was the successful implementation of the European standard EN 15257 *Cathodic protection - Competence levels and certification of cathodic protection personnel*. Both standards contain quality assurance in the field of cathodic protection.

Many European standards in the field of the cathodic protection require that personnel who undertake the design, supervision of installation, commissioning, supervision of operation, measurements, monitoring and supervision of maintenance of cathodic protection systems shall have the appropriate level of competence for the tasks undertaken. Competence of cathodic protection personnel to the appropriate level for tasks undertaken should be demonstrated by certification in accordance with EN 15257 or by another equivalent prequalification procedure.

But there are gaps of EN 15257 in coverage of contracting rules and also between the German standard for certification of companies and EN 15257.

First to understand the context a short overview of the most important articles and criteria of the two relevant directives is given below.

Contraction rules: DIRECTIVE 2004/17/EC and DIRECTIVE 2004/18/EC

The purpose of DIRECTIVE 2004/17/EC *coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors* and DIRECTIVE 2004/18/EC *on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts* is to make sure that the procedure follows the principles of fairness like equal treatment, non-discrimination, mutual recognition, proportionality, transparency and equivalence.

For contracting entities it is important to achieve the most economic offer with highest quality. To ensure these principles, aspects and criteria are laid down in the following articles:

- Article 44 *Verification of the suitability and choice of participants and award of contracts*
- Article 45 *Personal situation of the candidate or tenderer*
- Article 46 *Suitability to pursue the professional activity*
- Article 47 *Economic and financial standing*
- Article 48 *Technical and/or professional ability*
- Article 49 *Quality assurance standards*

Contracts shall be awarded on the basis of the criteria checked by contracting authorities in accordance with the criteria of economic and financial standing, of professional and technical knowledge or ability referred to in Articles 47 to 52, and, where appropriate, with the non-discriminatory rules and criteria.

Those criteria for qualitative selection are:

- Personal situation of the candidate or tenderer:
 - Participation in a criminal organisation,
 - Corruption,
 - Fraud,
 - Money laundering

- Suitability to pursue the professional activity: Any economic operator wishing to take part in a public contract may be requested to prove its enrolment, as prescribed in his Member State of establishment, on one of the professional or trade registers.

- Economic and financial standing:
 - Appropriate statements from banks or, where appropriate, evidence of relevant professional risk indemnity insurance;
 - The presentation of balance-sheets or extracts from the balance-sheets
 - Statement of the undertaking's overall turnover and, where appropriate, of turnover in the area covered by the contract for a maximum of the last three financial years available

- Technical and/or professional ability:
 - A list of the works carried out over the past five years, accompanied by certificates of satisfactory execution for the most important works.
 - A list of the principal deliveries effected or the main services provided in the past three years, with the sums, dates and recipients,
 - An indication of the technicians or technical bodies
 - A description of the technical facilities and measures
 - The educational and professional qualifications
 - An indication of the environmental management measures
 - A statement of the average annual manpower and the number of managerial staff for the last three years
 - A statement of the tools, plant or technical equipment

- Safety requirements
- Environmental management standards, environmental protection
- Management system

Any economic operator may be excluded from participation in a contract not fulfilling those criteria. To ensure that this will not be the case, an establishment for a quality assurance system is necessary. This system has to cover the criteria completely mentioned above. An appropriate instrument for realization is to install certification systems by certification bodies established in public or private law based on relevant European standards addressing certification.

The answer to the question if EN 15257 and DVGW Code of Practice GW 11 are in accordance with the European directives is given below.

Quality assurance standards

EN 15257

With the European standard EN 15257 a European quality assurance system has been established for cathodic protection personnel. To be in accordance with the contracting rules it is necessary to cover all criteria needed to prove the qualification of the whole company and not only personnel.

What is missing and needed for qualitative selection set down in the DIRECTIVES to cover all criteria:

- Personal situation of the candidate or tenderer
- Suitability to pursue the professional activity
- Economic and financial standing, financial guarantees
- Technical and/or professional ability of the company
- Safety requirements
- Environmental management standards, environmental protection
- Management system

DVGW Code of Practice GW 11

With the German standard DVGW Code of Practice GW 11 a national quality assurance system has been established for cathodic protection companies. This German standard is in accordance with the German contraction rules (VOB) basing upon the DIRECTIVES. On the one hand this standard covers the competence of personnel and on the other hand the requirements for qualification level of companies. But it is not an international accepted system.

Conclusions

The DVGW Code of Practice GW 11 Certification of cathodic protection companies and EN 15257 Cathodic protection - Competence levels and certification of cathodic protection personnel complement one another to cover all criteria for qualitative selection of the European contraction rules. Both standards contain quality assurance in the field of cathodic protection, but not all criteria for qualitative selection are covered by these standards on its own. Furthermore an international accepted certification system of cathodic protection companies does not exist.

To draw a conclusion a new initiative needed to create a quality assurance system for companies dealing with CP covering all criteria for qualitative selection in the DIRECTIVES of contracting rules. A reasonable way should be to develop a European Standard for Cathodic protection — *Competence levels and certification of cathodic protection companies*. Initiator could be CeoCor before a European Standard is written under CEN TC 219.

Reference list:

- [1] European Directive 2004/17/EC *coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors*
- [2] European Directive 2004/18/EC *on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts*
- [3] VOB Vergabe- und Vertragsordnung für Bauleistungen
- [4] EN 15257 *Cathodic protection - Competence levels and certification of cathodic protection personnel*
- [5] DVGW Code of Practice GW 11 *Certification of cathodic protection companies*