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# Compliance with ATEX Directive Obtained for Panasonic's Ruggedized PC "Toughbook"

*Conformity Results in Notebook PC Being One of the First to be Usable in Potentially Explosive Environments*

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**A**s the need has increased for deployment of IT technologies in locations that may have explosive atmospheres, such as in electric or gas utility plants, so too has the need for adequate control and safety measure certification of those devices.

The Panasonic IT Products Division, which is the computer business division of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., declared compliance with the ATEX Directive 94/9/EC in May 2004 for the CF-18 model of the Toughbook brand, known as Panasonic's ruggedized notebook PC. This model is much favored by a wide

range of industries, particularly in North America and Europe, including electric, gas, water utilities, phone and insurance companies.

Since July 1, 2003, when the ATEX Directive came into effect, the control and safety devices for all types of electrical and non-electrical equipment that are used in potentially explosive atmospheres must be made to satisfy the requirements set in this directive. The ATEX Directive is a New Approach directive for CE Marking and replaces three Old Approach directives.

Deployment of IT technologies in locations with such explosive atmospheres is on the increase, and there has been a growing need for IT equipment that complies with the ATEX Directive in recent years. Panasonic has addressed these market needs by commissioning TÜV Rheinland to conduct ATEX Directive conformity assessments, which resulted in issuance of this Declaration of Conformity.

Conforming with the Directive required investigation of technical standards, research and experimentation on the notebook PC circuits and repeated design changes. Ultimately, success was achieved in developing a notebook PC that can be used in Zone 2 (Category 3) explosive atmospheres. This success represents a brilliant first for Panasonic, and it should contribute significantly to

promoting the deployment of IT technologies in the ATEX market.

Toshiyuki Takagi, General Manager of the Technology Center, IT Products Division of Panasonic, commenting on the recent certification acquisition said, "Through our cooperative work with the TÜV Rheinland inspectors, Panasonic further acquired know-how on the process for obtaining certification."

Inspector Rath of TÜV Rheinland Japan, who guided the evaluation process, also expressed his pleasure at the result. "It was a quite interesting and challenging task to combine all the required expertise of Panasonic and TÜV personnel to satisfy the numerous requirements of the ATEX Directive," he said. ▲

## Toughbook References

PANASONIC GERMANY  
<http://www.panasonic.de/toughbooks>

PANASONIC FRANCE  
<http://www.panasonic.fr/toughbook>

PANASONIC UK  
<http://www.panasonic.co.uk/toughbook>

PANASONIC JAPAN  
<http://panasonic.biz/pc/top/index.html>



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