

The Use of Soft Starters in Hazardous Area Applications (Ex, Exn etc)

1. Unless prior approval has been given by a certifying body, Fairford Electronics Soft Starters must NOT be placed WITHIN a hazardous area.
2. However, authorities normally allow explosion -proof motors Ex, to be started by soft starters without derating the motor, providing:-
 - The soft starter module is located outside the hazardous area.
 - The motor is by-passed at completion of the ramp up.

(Please note that different authorities have different perspectives towards reduced voltage starting, and it is important that the authority concerned is aware of the intention to fit a soft starter.)

3. Certain manufacturers have obtained certification body approval (e.g. from PTB in Germany), for Soft Starter products using key elements supplied by Fairford Electronics Ltd. and which are suitable for use within and with hazardous area operation and equipment. It should be clearly understood that any approval granted ONLY applies to the particular manufacturer's product and NOT to Fairford Electronics' products in general. Therefore, NO claim as to applicability can be made. Fairford Electronics Ltd., will NOT accept liability for any claim or loss arising from the failure to observe the foregoing.
4. Agents or Customers of Fairford Electronics Ltd., who wish to offer Soft Starter products for use in hazardous areas or with Ex - rated motors etc., must apply for approval from their own national regulatory body. Acceptance of that authority outside the sphere of regulator's interest must not be assumed.
Approval is usually a lengthy process