

Guidelines

5/18/07

9. Miscellaneous

Guideline 9/1
<p>[Original version as adopted on: 29 Jan 1999]</p> <p>Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC Commission's Working Group "Pressure"</p> <p>Guideline related to: Article 3 Paragraph 3</p> <p>Question: What is to be understood by "sound engineering practice"?</p> <p>Answer: "Sound engineering practice" means, without prejudice to article 4, paragraph 1.2, that such pressure equipment is designed taking into account all relevant factors influencing its safety. Furthermore, such equipment is manufactured, verified and delivered with instructions for use in order to ensure its safety during its intended life, when used in foreseeable or reasonably foreseeable conditions. The manufacturer is responsible for the application of sound engineering practice.</p>
Accepted by WPG on: 18 Sep 1998
Accepted by Working Group "pressure": 29 Jan 1999
Remarks:
Guideline 9/2
<p>[Original version as adopted on: 08 Nov 1999]</p> <p>Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC Commission's Working Group "Pressure"</p> <p>Guideline related to: Article 11 Paragraph 1</p> <p>Question: What does "material recognised as being safe to use before 29 November 1999" in Article 11, first paragraph mean ?</p> <p>Answer: Recognised as being safe to use means a material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with well-known characteristics, and - with a well-established history of safe use in the pressure equipment field. <p>To be approved under Article 11, such a material must fulfil the relevant essential safety requirements of Annex I.</p>
Accepted by WPG on: 10 Jun 1999

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **08 Nov 1999**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/3

[Original version as adopted on: *08 Nov 1999*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 11 Paragraph 1](#)

Question: Is the approval of a material manufacturer part of the European Approval of Material procedure for "a material recognised as being safe to use before 29 November 1999" ?

Answer: No, the purpose of such a European Approval of Material is to certify the conformity of types of materials with the corresponding requirements of the Directive, not to approve a material manufacturer.

Accepted by WPG on: **26 Feb 1999**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **08 Nov 1999**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/4

[Original version as adopted on: *29 Jun 2000*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 11 Paragraph 1](#)

Question: May a European Approval of Material for a "material recognised as being safe to use before 29 November 1999", be restricted to one or more material manufacturers ?

Answer: No, see guideline [9/3](#).

Note: If a material which is covered by an European Approval of Material is patented, or has a patent pending, this information shall be included in the European Approval of Material.

Accepted by WPG on: **17 Feb 2000**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **29 Jun 2000**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/5

[Original version as adopted on: 08 Nov 1999]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 5](#)

Question: In which conditions is it possible to use a document other than a harmonised standard (national standard, professional code or private technical document) for the design and manufacture of pressure equipment for the application of PED ?

Answer: 1) The use of the harmonised standard is not mandatory.

2) However, the directive did not include provisions to give presumption of conformity to documents other than harmonised standards.

A manufacturer using another document shall describe in his technical documentation the solutions adopted to meet the essential requirements of the directive.

The notified body (or the user inspectorate) shall validate, if required by the module chosen, these solutions.

3) The technical requirements of the Directive are given in Annex I. When using a national standard, a professional code or a private technical document for fulfilling Annex I, only the technical content of this document is relevant. Further provisions of this document (e.g. about bodies or certification procedures) are not relevant for the application of PED.

NOTE: See also guideline [9/6](#).

Accepted by WPG on: 15 Jul 1999

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Remarks:

Guideline 9/6

[Original version as adopted on: 08 Nov 1999]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 5](#)

Question: Is it possible to use partially one or more harmonised standards, codes or specifications to design and manufacture a pressure equipment conform to the Pressure Equipment Directive ?

Answer: The different parts (design, manufacture, inspection, ...) of an harmonised standard, a code or a specification for pressure equipment form a consistent set of documents which should be followed.
Nevertheless, the partial use of an harmonised standard, a code or a specification is not forbidden. In these conditions, the essential requirements covered by the part(s) of harmonised standards, codes or specifications used shall be identified.
The essential requirements not covered by the part(s) of harmonised standards, codes or specifications shall be subject to an analysis to judge the validity of the adopted solutions.
Then , if several different parts of harmonised standards, codes or specifications are used, it shall be verified that there are no incompatibility or inconsistency between these parts, particularly for the application data (permissible stress, safety coefficient, extent of the inspection, ...).

NOTE: See also guideline [9/5](#)

Accepted by WPG on: **10 Jun 1999**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **08 Nov 1999**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/7

[Original version as adopted on: *03 Nov 2003*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 1 Paragraph 2.1.3](#) , [Article 1 Paragraph 3](#) , [Article 3 Paragraph 1.4](#)

Question: Under what circumstances shall safety accessories placed on the market not bear the CE marking according to the PED ?

Answer:

Safety accessories exclusively manufactured and put on the market for specific pres-sure equipment or assemblies covered by Article 3 paragraph 3 of the PED shall not bear the CE marking under the PED (but see Note 2).

Furthermore, safety accessories exclusively intended for equipment not covered by the PED are also not covered by the PED.

Also safety accessories covered by the PED and assessed by a user inspectorate shall not bear the CE marking.

Note 1:

The specific use shall be clearly mentioned by the manufacturer of the safety accessory in the instructions.

Note 2:

This does not forbid the use of a CE-marked safety accessory on an Article 3 para-graph 3 equipment.

Accepted by WPG on: **14 May 2003**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **03 Nov 2003**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/8

[Original version as adopted on: *08 Nov 1999*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 15 Paragraph 2](#)

Question: Conformity with the PED is required for some piping per Article 3.1.3, which are part of an industrial installation. May all such piping for a given installation be covered by a single CE marking ?

Answer: Yes, providing the CE marking is prominently displayed and the accompanying documentation supplied by the manufacturer to the user clearly defines the boundary of the installation.

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Remarks:

Guideline 9/9

[Original version as adopted on: *29 Jun 2000*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 3 Paragraph 3](#)

Question: If an item of pressure equipment is covered by Article 3.3, and there exists an EN product standard for this type of pressure equipment, does this mean that the EN standard explains the meaning of the sound engineering practice?

Answer:

Not necessarily

The manufacturer is always responsible for the application of all relevant procedures and techniques, whether they are given in the standard or not, in order to fulfil the requirement of Article 3.3. Standards and other professional codes are useful frame of reference in this context.
See also guideline [9/1](#).

Accepted by WPG on: **14 Dec 1999**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **29 Jun 2000**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/10

[Original version as adopted on: *29 Jun 2000*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Annex I Section 4.2](#) , [Annex III Section B.4.1](#) , [Annex III Section B1.4.1](#)

Question: When performing an EC type examination or an EC design-examination by using particular appraisals for materials, are these appraisals applicable to all items of pressure equipment covered by this examination ?

Answer: Yes

Accepted by WPG on: **15 Dec 1999**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **29 Jun 2000**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/11

[Original version as adopted on: *28 Feb 2002*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Annex I Section 4.2](#)

Question: When performing a particular appraisal for materials recognized as being safe to use before 29.11.1999, shall the existing data for these materials be taken into account when assessing the suitability of this material? **(GL revised 28-Feb-2002)**

Answer: Yes, and if this data as referred to in Guideline 9/2 is sufficient for the proof of conformity, in principle no additional testing should be performed .

The manufacturer (and the Notified Body) shall take into account the material properties of the actual deliveries when claiming the history of safe use for a particular material, if its specification has significantly wider limits.

Reasons:

1. Even though the PED does not specify the content of a particular material appraisal, the concept of safe history applies similarly as for EAMs.
2. It would be incorrect to assume that every batch supplied to the wider specification has equally good properties.

For example, in many steel specifications, sulphur may be permitted up to 0,030%, but modern steelmaking techniques produce lower sulphur levels consistently less than 0,010%. The good impact toughness associated with the low sulphur content will not be obtained if another batch of steel is supplied at or near 0,030% sulphur.

Note: Where such commonly used materials are not covered by harmonised standards or EAM, particular material appraisal is the only other route that remains.

The original version had been adopted on 29 June 2000

Accepted by WPG on: **21 Nov 2001**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **28 Feb 2002**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/12

[Original version as adopted on: *29 Jun 2000*]

**Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"**

Guideline related to: [Article 3 Paragraph 3](#) , [Annex I Section 4](#)

Question: Do the requirements of Annex I.4 regarding materials also apply to pressure equipment described in Article 3.3 (Sound engineering practice) ?

Answer: No

Any pressure equipment covered in Article 3.3 does not have to meet the Essential Safety Requirements of Annex I and consequently does not fall under the regime of the material requirements contained therein.

See also guideline [9/1](#).

Accepted by WPG on: **18 Feb 2000**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **29 Jun 2000**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/13

[Original version as adopted on: *29 Jun 2000*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Annex I Section 4.2](#)

Question: What are the formal requirements of a particular material appraisal?

Answer: The particular material appraisal shall be part of the technical documentation of the pressure equipment. Its approval follows the normal course of the technical documentation according to the category of the equipment being assessed. The PED does not require the involvement of a notified body for the particular material appraisal for category I and II equipment, whereas it is required for category III and IV.

Reason: This was clearly the intention of the Council. It should be noted that some linguistic versions are unclear on this point.

Accepted by WPG on: **05 May 2000**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **29 Jun 2000**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/14

[Original version as adopted on: *08 Nov 2000*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 12](#) , [Article 14 Paragraph 1](#) , [Annex I Section 4.2](#)

Question: May the particular material appraisal (referred in the third indent of 4.2 b) of Annex I) be carried out by a user inspectorate as part of the conformity assessment of pressure equipments based on modules A1, C1, F or G ?

Answer:

YES for module G.

Indeed, article 14 indicates that, by way of derogation from the provisions relating to the tasks carried out by the notified bodies, the conformity of pressure equipment can be assessed by a user inspectorate. And so the particular appraisal referred in annex I 4.2 c) can be carried out by a user inspectorate if, in accordance with article 12, it has been appointed for module G.

NOTE: For module A1, the particular appraisal is carried out by the manufacturer. For module C1 and F, the particular appraisal was carried out previously as part of modules for design.

Accepted by WPG on: **03 Oct 2000**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **08 Nov 2000**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/15

[Original version as adopted on: *19 Oct 2001*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 14](#)

Question: A user places an order for pressure equipment on a manufacturer in Member state A, where the Member state has chosen not to implement Article 14 ; but the pressure equipment is intended to be put into service as part of an industrial installation in Member state B, where article 14 is implemented. May member state A refuse to allow the user's inspectorate, which has been authorized according to Art. 14 in another Member state, to operate on its territory, thus preventing the user inspectorate from undertaking conformity assessment of the pressure equipment ?

Answer: No, provided the transfer takes place directly from the manufacturer to the user, and it takes place in Member State "B" the User Inspectorate may legally undertake the conformity assessment activities in Member State "A".

Reason:

Article 14, Paragraph 1 says : "... *Member States may authorize in their territory the placing on the market, and the putting into service by users, of Pressure Equipment... which ... has been assessed by a User Inspectorate designated in accordance with the criteria...*".

It is clear that the putting into service will take place in Member State "B" and therefore can be authorized in conformity with the Directive.

Accepted by WPG on: **10 Jan 2001**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **19 Oct 2001**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/16

[Original version as adopted on: *27 Jun 2001*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 4 Paragraph 1.1](#) , [Article 5 Paragraph 1](#) , [Annex VII](#)

Question: Must a CE-marked item of pressure equipment, or an assembly, be supplied with an EC declaration of conformity, when it is placed on the market ?

Answer: The manufacturer of CE-marked pressure equipment or assembly should be aware that the declaration of conformity must be made available for national authorities immediately upon re-quest. Otherwise the presumption of conformity as provided for in Article 5, paragraph 1, is in doubt. For this purpose the manufacturer or his authorised representative established within the Community must draw up a written declaration of conformity and keep a copy of it for a period of ten years after the last pressure equipment has been manufactured.

However , Article 4, paragraph 1.1 requires that Member States provide free movement for pressure equipment and assemblies which comply with the PED and bear a CE mark, but there is no provision in the PED that an EC declaration of conformity must be mandatorily supplied with the pressure equipment or assembly in order to comply with the PED.

In addition, the manufacturer should be aware that the declaration of conformity is a helpful document to the distributor or user because it is a summary of design, manufacture and conformity assessment.

The manufacturer should also be aware that some Member States require that the declaration of con-formity is available at the user premises at the time of putting into service and for subsequent in-service inspections of the pressure equipment.

The manufacturer should also be aware that the EC declaration of conformity is an essential document for the manufacturer of an assembly into which a CE-marked item of pressure equipment is to be inte-grated.

It is therefore highly recommended to provide the EC declaration of conformity for all products which are intended to be put into service as such, with the product.

Note :

The EC declaration of conformity does not need to be a separate document ; it may be included in the instructions for use.

Accepted by WPG on: **16 May 2001**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **27 Jun 2001**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/17

[Original version as adopted on: 28 Nov 2001]

**Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"**

Guideline related to: [Article 3 Paragraph 3](#)

Question: How shall a manufacturer established outside the European Economic Area (EEA) fulfil the requirement of the sound engineering practice (SEP) of a Member State ?

Answer: A manufacturer outside of EEA may choose the SEP of one of the Member States.
SEP from countries outside EEA does not automatically fulfil the requirement of Article 3, paragraph 3.
However, as a general rule, it can be assumed that the SEP of a Member State is met if :
- the product has been legally marketed in one Member State of EEA for many years, or
- the product fulfils technical specifications recognised by one Member State of EEA.

Refer also to guidelines [9/1](#) and [9/9](#).

Reason: Article 3 paragraph 3 of PED stipulates mutual recognition of SEP of Member States in order to avoid barriers of trade. The level of safety is assumed to be sufficient in all Member States. So the equipment must in be fact safe.

Accepted by WPG on: **21 Feb 2001**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **28 Nov 2001**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/18

[Original version as adopted on: *03 Nov 2003*]

**Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"**

Guideline related to: [Article 4 Paragraph 1.1](#)

Question: Article 4.1 of PED provides for free placing on the market or putting into service of CE-marked pressure equipment. Under what circumstances can the application of national regulations (e.g. by public authorities or private authorised bodies) on periodic testing constitute a barrier to trade?

Answer: Differentiation between in-service inspection periods for similar CE-marked items of pressure equipment for the same purpose should be based on technical reasoning and the conditions of use of the equipment.

Specification of **formal** requirements for :

- the involvement of a specific notified body or bodies,
- the compliance with a specific (e.g. national) design code to the exclusion of other technically justifiable/equivalent solutions would constitute a barrier to trade.

Accepted by WPG on: **14 May 2003**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **03 Nov 2003**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/19

[Original version as adopted on: *28 Nov 2001*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 3 Paragraph 3](#) , [Article 4 Paragraph 1.2](#)

Question: What information should be supplied with an item of pressure equipment, or an assembly, which falls under article 3, paragraph 3 (sound engineering practice, SEP) when it is placed on the market, to indicate that it complies with the provisions of article 3, paragraph 3 ?

Answer: There are no specific provisions in the directive on how the manufacturer must indicate that such equipment complies with the PED.

Nevertheless, the manufacturer must supply adequate instructions for use, and provide markings to permit identification of the manufacturer or its authorized representative established within the Community.

However, manufacturers should be aware that it is likely to be helpful if they include with the product a reference to the PED indicating that the requirement of sound engineering practice of a Member State (see guideline [9/1](#)) has been met. This can for example be achieved by a statement included with the instructions of use, by a separate document attached to the equipment, or by an addition to the marking.

Note: The manufacturer must not draw up, an EC declaration of conformity, nor affix the CE-mark for such equipment in the context of PED.

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Remarks:

Guideline 9/20

[Original version as adopted on: *03 Nov 2003*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 2 Paragraph 2](#) , [Article 4 Paragraph 1.1](#) , [Annex I Section 2.3](#) , [Annex I Section 2.10](#) , [Annex I Section 2.11](#)

Question: Are national requirements additional to PED for the design, conformity assessment and installation of safety systems of CE-marked boilers for

generating steam or superheated water intended for operation without continuous supervision permissible?

Answer:

No.

When:

- the boiler is intended for operation without continuous supervision,
- the specific hazards due to this situation are taken into account in the hazard analysis and design of the assembly and its safety systems ,
- this assembly meets all relevant provisions of the PED (including a description of the intended operation mode and of the associated safety systems in the instructions for use) any additional design requirements would constitute a restriction on or impediment to the placing of this product on the market.

National requirements may oblige the user to check the function of the safety system periodically. The requirements shall be based on technical criteria of the design of the safety system in order to guarantee that for similar safety systems the same operational requirements apply.

See also guidelines [3/4](#), [8/3](#) and [9/18](#).

Note :

Guideline 8/15 (under preparation) will identify significant ESRs applicable to boilers intended for operation without continuous supervision.

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Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **03 Nov 2003**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/21

[Original version as adopted on: *03 Nov 2003*]

**Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"**

Guideline related to: [Article 4 Paragraph 2](#) , [Annex I Section 3.1](#) , [Annex I Section 3.3](#) , [Annex I Section 3.4](#)

Question: Article 4 of the Pressure Equipment Directive allows Member States to require the information for pressure equipment described in Annex 1 sections 3.3 and 3.4 to be provided in the language of the country in which the equipment or assembly reaches the final user. If so required, does this impose the task of translating on the manufacturer?

Answer:

The PED allows Member States to require translation and consequently to take restrictive measures if this requirement is not fulfilled. Manufacturers, distributors and importers should be aware of this requirement.

If the national legislation requires the translation, it has to be fulfilled. When the equipment is not placed on the market in the Member State of the final user, the person introducing the equipment in the linguistic area (e.g. the importer, the distributor, the manufacturer of an assembly including such equipment) must ensure the requirement is fulfilled.

For pressure equipment specifically manufactured for a defined end user which is subject to contract between the supplier and user, they can also contractually agree who shall do the translation(s) taking into account the national law.

Accepted by WPG on: **15 May 2003**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **03 Nov 2003**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/22

[Original version as adopted on: *18 Mar 2004*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 10 Paragraph 4](#) , [Annex VII](#)

Question: In which language must the EC declaration of conformity be written ?

Answer: The EC declaration of conformity shall be drawn up in one of the official languages of the European Union, as chosen by the manufacturer or agreed by contract with the client.

See the guide to the implementation of directives based on New approach and Global approach § 5.4.

Note : In the process of the market surveillance, a national authority may request a translation of the EC declaration of conformity into its official language (see the guide to the implementation of directives based on New approach and Global approach § 8.2).

Accepted by WPG on: **13 Nov 2003**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **18 Mar 2004**

Remarks: Reservation from Belgium

Guideline 9/23

[Original version as adopted on: *18 Mar 2004*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 4 Paragraph 1.1](#) , [Article 5 Paragraph 1](#)

Question: What aspects must not be assessed during inspections under national legislation before putting into service products falling in the scope of the

Pressure Equipment Directive (PED)?

Answer: Pressure equipment and assemblies bearing the CE mark and the EC declaration of conformity are presumed to conform with the requirements of the PED. Therefore, during inspections under national legislation of such products, performed before putting into service, it is not permissible that :

- the fulfilment of essential requirements of the PED, e.g. integrity of welds or the sustainability of the design, is assessed again.
- product-related documentation (other than operating instructions and the EC declaration of conformity) is required to be provided by the user or manufacturer.

Note 1: The said inspections may e.g. verify whether the pressure equipment or assemblies have suffered from transport damage, whether their integration in the surrounding environment and/or their joining to the rest of the installation has been performed correctly according to national legislation or whether the operators have sufficient expertise.

Note 2: Any re-assessment of essential safety requirements already covered by the conformity assessment of the PED would be illicit double testing and constitute an impediment of the putting into service of equipment complying with the PED.

Note 3: This guideline does not address market surveillance activities, under the responsibility of public authorities, by application of Article 2.

Note 4: See also guidelines [1/3](#) and [8/3](#).

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Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **18 Mar 2004**

Remarks:

Guideline 9/24

[Original version as adopted on: *18 Mar 2004*]

Pressure equipment directive 97/23/EC
Commission's Working Group "Pressure"

Guideline related to: [Article 1](#) , [Article 2 Paragraph 2](#) , [Article 3](#) , [Article 4 Paragraph 1.1](#) , [Article 5](#)

Question: What additional requirements for the design, manufacture and assessment of pressure equipment and assemblies covered by the Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) containing explosive/inflammable fluids are allowed in national regulations in addition to the requirements of the PED?

Answer:

1) All technical (design, manufacturing, conformity assessment) requirements addressing hazards related to pressure are covered by the PED. Any additional national requirements related to pressure would constitute an impediment of the free movement of products falling into the scope of the PED and are not permissible. The following are examples of non-permissible additional requirements:

- Specific requirements for protection against the release of the fluid .
- Specific requirements for materials due to the nature of the fluid .

- Specific requirements to avoid explosions/fires triggered by pressure (e.g. local heating due to pressure energy converted into thermal energy) . These aspects shall have been taken into account by the manufacturer as part of the hazard analysis.

2) The PED does not consider the prevention of and protection against explosions/inflamations, which are not triggered by pressure (e.g. electrostatic ignition of an explosive fluid, etc.). These hazards may be addressed by national legislation, unless it is covered by other European legislation (e.g. ATEX Directive).

Note 1: This question is of particular relevance for national legislation on LPG, natural gas and hydrogen installations.

Note 2: The PED provisions on risk analysis and categories for conformity assessment take into account the explosive/inflammable nature of the fluid.

Note 3: However, national requirements can address installation

conditions of the pressure equipment or assembly, e.g. in order to protect operators, environment or the pressure equipment / assembly itself.

Accepted by WPG on: **25 Feb 2004**

Accepted by Working Group "pressure": **18 Mar 2004**

Remarks: