

Directive 97/23/EC

Keywords :

Category

Safety chain

Pressure equipment

Safety accessory

Risk analysis

Directive references:

Article 1 § 2.1.3 - 97/23 EC

Annex II - 97/23 EC

Adopted by WPG: 18/03/2004

Adopted by CLAP: 18/03/2004

**Subject:** Classification – Category of pressure equipment included in a safety chain**Question:** When a safety accessory consists of a safety chain which itself includes “items of pressure equipment” (for example a valve or a cylinder), in which category shall this “equipment” be classified?**Answer:** When items of pressure equipment are integrated in a safety chain, they are considered as parts of the safety chain and therefore fall under the hazard analysis of the safety chain, which include the pressure containment aspect of this item. When the hazard analysis of the safety chain shows that the failure of an individual item of pressure equipment within the chain would have no detrimental effect on the safety function to be ensured (i.e. fail-safe), the requirements of a category lower than category IV for the said "item of pressure equipment" can satisfy the requirement resulting from the hazard analysis of the safety chain.

Its integration in the safety chain is achieved by using the category IV or the category of the equipment for which the chain is specifically designed.

Note 1: This does not preclude the use of standard CE-marked items of pressure equipment as parts of a safety chain.

Note 2: A safety accessory, even when it is a safety chain, cannot be classified as an assembly.

Modifications compared to the previous adopted version: Editorial correction on 2004-09-16.