

Guideline**3/15****CLAP****FORM N°233****Version : 3****Directive 97/23/EC****Keywords :** Permanent joint

Assembly

Category

Welding

Directive references: Article 10 § 2 - 97/23 EC

Annex I § 3.1.2 - 97/23 EC

Adopted by WPG: 07/09/2004**Adopted by CLAP:** 07/09/2004**Subject:** Assembly – Classification of permanent joints**Question:** How are the categories of permanent joints in an assembly determined?**Answer:** The category of permanent joints between the items of pressure equipment of an assembly shall be determined individually, taking into accounts the effect of the joining on the integrity of each of the items to be joined.

For example, the connection of a pipe to a vessel through a nozzle (already connected to the vessel) will, in general, be made according to the category of the pipe, provided that it does not affect the integrity of the vessel.

Note 1: For assemblies, the directive defines a global conformity assessment procedure and determines the category to be followed for essential safety requirements related to design (as stated in Article 10 paragraph 2b), and for the assessment of the protection (as stated in Article 10 paragraph 2c). For the other essential safety requirements applicable to the assembly (see CLAP 169 – Guideline 3/12), in the absence of specific Information in the directive for the category, it should be based on the categories of the items concerned.

Note 2: This is consistent with CLAP 41 – Guideline 2/15, which makes a distinction between the category used for the assessment of the design, and the determination of the category regarding essential safety requirements.

See also CLAP 234 – Guideline 3/16 for the category of the global conformity assessment procedure.

Modifications compared to the previous adopted version: copy of guideline 3/15 (07/09/2004).