

Guideline

9/23

CLAP

FORM N°257

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Directive 97/23/EC

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Putting into service

Technical documentation

Essential requirement

Directive references:

Article 4 - 97/23 EC

Article 5 - 97/23 EC

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Subject: New approach – Inspections under national legislation before putting into service

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 to 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 CLAP 70 - Guideline 1/3 and CLAP 21 - Guideline 8/3.

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