

UK Pressure Equipment

A guide to the information to be supplied to the PSSR competent person for drawing-up a written scheme of examination

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Foreword

This document has been developed by the Pressure Equipment Consultation Forum (PECF), Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed) and the Engineering Equipment and Materials Users Association (EEMUA) in consultation with LRQA and other stakeholders within the pressure equipment industry to help users, competent persons and owners of pressure equipment achieve their legal requirements before pressure equipment is put into service in the United Kingdom.

This document has been prepared using technical advice provided by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Within this document are references to UK Legislation, GB Regulations and variations of the two. This document was published in 2024, at the time of publication the UK had legislated to continue recognition of CE marked equipment. The relationships of UK Legislation, GB Legislation and CE marking will likely change as technical and administrative divergence commences. The reader is encouraged to confirm the in-force legislation.

In producing this document, the authors noted that many of the roles and responsibilities overlap and it is recommended that the entire document is read, not just a single section as some content is shared and may be missed on selective review.

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1. Introduction

This document has been written to aid stakeholders in the process of transfer of knowledge from those responsible for the manufacture of equipment, assemblies and systems to the user/owner and competent person, who are responsible under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR) for a Written Scheme of Examination (WSE). To draw up an effective WSE and enable effective examinations, inspections, repairs and modifications to the equipment once it enters service, the transfer of such information and knowledge is imperative. The authors have assumed a certain amount of basic knowledge exists in the readership and recognise that the legislation covered encompasses a broad spectrum of equipment assemblies and used cases.

Whilst this document primarily relates to pressure systems containing a relevant fluid as defined under the PSSR, where a relevant fluid is not present, other applicable legislation such as PUWER, COMAH and DSEAR must be consulted. Where a WSE, or risk mitigation document is required under such regulations, the methodology in this document may still be a useful means of obtaining the information.

The Pressure Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016 (PE(S)R) was originally transposed European Directive 2014/68/EU and following various amendments remains the UK law relating to design, manufacture and supply of pressure equipment in the UK which has a pressure greater than 0.5 bar gauge.

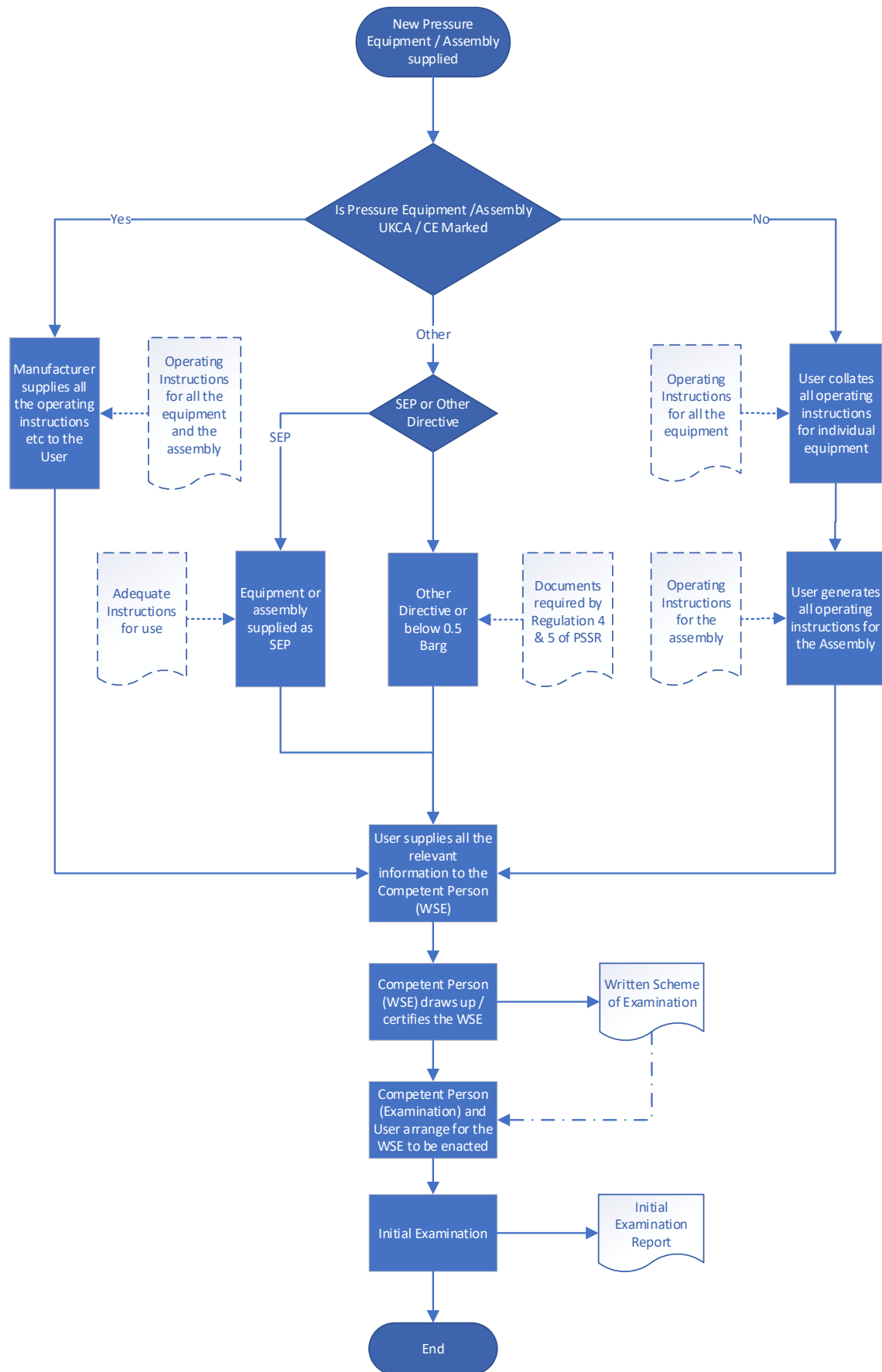
The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (PSSR) 2000 are the UK law pertaining to pressurised equipment containing a relevant fluid. However, it should be noted that in certain areas PSSR is not aligned directly with PE(S)R as the lineage of these regulations is considerably different. For example, PSSR deals with steam at any pressure, specifically the scalding effects of steam and hence considers this below 0.5 barg, whereas PE(S)R is limited to applications greater than 0.5 barg.

It is illegal to operate pressure systems which fall under the PSSR without establishing safe operating limits and having a suitable WSE in place. This document aims to help in the understanding of information supplied by those responsible for manufacture to the user / owner and competent person to aid in the production of a suitable WSE.

2. Nomenclature

ACOP	Approved Code of Practice (recognised by UK regulatory authority)
COMAH	Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015
CE marking	Conformity assessment marking for products placed on the market in the European Economic Area (EEA)
DSEAR	The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002
EEMUA	The Engineering Equipment and Materials Users Association
ESR	Essential Safety Requirements as defined in PE(S)R
GCA	Global Conformity Assessment
HSE	Health and Safety Executive (UK regulatory authority)
NDT	Non-destructive Testing
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
PECF	Pressure Equipment Consultation Forum

PED	Pressure Equipment Directive 2014/68/EU
PE(S)R	Pressure Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016
PS	Maximum pressure as defined in PE(S)R
PSSR	Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000
PUWER	Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
SAFed	The Safety Assessment Federation
SEP	Sound Engineering Practice
UKCA marking	Conformity assessment marking for products placed on the market in the United Kingdom
UKNI marking	Conformity assessment marking for products placed on the market in Northern Ireland
WSE	Written Scheme of Examination



Note: Reference to Operating Instructions is detailed in Appendix A.

Figure 1 - Flow Chart for information to be supplied to the user and subsequently to the competent person