

Pressure Equipment Directive

Periodic Inspection and Reassessment of Static Cryogenic Vessels for use in the European Union

Foreword

1. The Pressure Equipment Directive, (PED), has established harmonised conditions for the first placing on the market and the first putting into service in the European Union of static pressure equipment. No member state may add technical requirements to equipment that has been marked with the CE mark as complying with the PED.
2. However, a substantial number of vessels are subsequently put into service in another country other than the country they were first put into service. This number has increased over the years because of the creation of the Single Market and the globalisation of the various market sectors.
3. For the subsequent putting into service each EU member state is free to set up its own conditions of approval, for example, national in-service requirements.
4. The conditions for the periodic inspections are very different from member state to member state of the European Union, these include:
 - The frequencies of the periodic inspections vary from country to country;
 - The extent of the periodic inspections can vary from a simple visual external inspection to an internal inspection and a hydraulic test;
 - The bodies that are authorised to perform the periodic inspection may vary from the user to a third party notified body, authorised by the competent authority in a Member State; and
 - Some Member States are implementing regulations that are more stringent for CE marked equipment, than they were for similar equipment manufactured in their own country under previous national rules.
5. There is no mutual recognition of the periodic inspection performed in another country unlike equipment that complies with the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive (TPED).
6. The different regimes of periodic inspections and for putting into service that exist in the EU at the present is hampering the free movement of pressure equipment, specifically static cryogenic vessels and are a technical barrier to trade.
7. Unlike the TPED, the PED does not address the reassessment of existing national approved vessels.

Future Action at the European Union Level

8. EIGA believes that action at Community level is the only possible way to harmonise the periodic inspection regimes of cryogenic vessels, their mutual recognition by the member states, repeated putting into service and repeated use aspects.

9. EIGA also believes that the possibility of reassessing existing national static cryogenic vessels should be given such as is allowed by TPED. This possibility exists for transportable pressure equipment, including gas cylinders and transportable cryogenic pressure vessels.

The specific action that is required implies a decision by the European Union. The appropriate legislative proposal would play the same role for the PED as the TPED is playing for the RID/ADR/ADN Framework directive. It is proposed that it would harmonize the requirements for the Notified Bodies and mandate European standards for the harmonisation of the periodic inspections. EIGA has developed, with CEN, a harmonised standard for the periodic inspection of cryogenic vessels (EN ISO 21009-2, *Cryogenic Vessels. Static Vacuum Insulated Vessels, Operational Requirements*). This standard is already recognized by some national authorities; if a European regulation makes it mandatory for Europe, harmonisation will be reached.

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