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PSL/60 ISSUE 1 REV B

PED – BINDT Certification Services

THE EUROPEAN PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE - 97/23/EC

The Pressure Equipment Directive - 97/23/EC - was formally adopted by the European Parliament and Council on 29th May 1997, and was published in the Official journal of the European Communities No. L181 of 9th July (ISBN 011 916 0927). It entered into force on 29th November 1999 but compliance with its requirements will be optional until 29th May 2002.

The purpose of the directive is to harmonise national laws regarding design, manufacture and conformity assessment of pressure equipment and assemblies (vessels, storage containers, heat exchangers, shell and water tube boilers, industrial pipework, safety devices and pressure accessories) subject to an internal pressure greater than 0.5 bar.

Equipment is categorised within four levels (I to VI) according to degree of hazard: category III and IV equipment will require conformity assessment by 'notified bodies' and 'recognised third party organisations'.

The British Institute of NDT is a 'Recognised Third Party' organisation ...

The United Kingdom Secretary of State has appointed the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing as a Recognised Third-Party Organisation under regulation 20 of the European Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999 which implement the provisions of Directive 97/23/EC of the European Parliament concerning pressure equipment.

The scope of the appointment is for the approval of personnel to carry out non-destructive tests on permanent joints for pressure equipment in categories III and IV in accordance with section 3.1.3 of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.

The United Kingdom Secretary of State has notified the European Commission and other EEA States of this appointment to act for the purposes stated above and it will be made public.

The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing offers PCN qualification examinations through its network of Authorised Qualifying Bodies in the United Kingdom and in many locations throughout the world (details of examination availability are published in PCN document PSL/4). Success in these qualification examinations results in the award of PCN certificates satisfying the PED.

All existing valid PCN certification related to the testing pressure equipment is encompassed within this approval, which is subject to the British Institute of NDT continuing to satisfy the relevant criteria for notification as verified during annual surveillance and four yearly re-assessment by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

In addition, the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing offers an audit and approval service for 'in-house' NDT personnel qualification systems for companies seeking to satisfy the provisions of the PED. This involves an audit of company written practices against external criteria such as SNT-TC-1A, the validation of specified training courses, and the issue of a statement of approval for specified personnel conducting specific non-destructive tests. This can be provided as a stand-alone service or in conjunction with services provided by a Notified Body (according to PED Article 12) against all conformity assessment procedures (PED Annex III) as well as for European approval of material (PED Article 11), approval of operating procedures of permanent joints (PED Annex I, 3.1.2) and approval of personnel for permanent joining (PED Annex I, 3.1.2).



The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing is an accredited certification body offering personnel and quality management systems assessment and certification against criteria set out in international and European standards through the PCN Certification Scheme.



References

97/23/EC: The Pressure Equipment Directive
EN13445: Unfired pressure vessels (part 5 : Inspection and testing)
EN 13480: Metallic industrial piping (part 5 : Inspection and testing)
EN 473: General principles for qualification and certification of NDT personnel
ISO 17024: General criteria for certification bodies operating certification of personnel

Relevant extracts

97/23/EC Article 13 clause 1: Members states shall notify the Commission and the other member states of the third party organizations which they have recognised for the purposes of the tasks referred to in Annex 1, sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.

97/23/EC Annex I clause 3.1.3: Non-Destructive Tests. For pressure equipment, non-destructive tests of permanent joints must be carried out by suitable qualified personnel. For pressure equipment in categories III and IV, the personnel must be approved by a third party organisation recognized by a member state pursuant to Article 13.

97/23/EC Annex IV: Criteria to be met when designating the notified bodies referred to in Article 12 and the recognised third party organizations referred to in Article 13. (*attached hereto for reference*).

EN 13480: part 5 - Inspection and testing - clause 8.4.3 (Personnel qualifications). Personnel performing tests shall be qualified and certified in accordance with EN 473 for the appropriate testing method (this requirement is repeated in clauses 8.5 to 8.9 which cover NDT methods VT, MT, PT, RT and UT).

EN13445 part 5 - Inspection and testing - clause 2 (Normative references) includes reference to EN 473.

EN13445 part 5 - Inspection and testing - clause 6.1.3.5.7 (Qualification of NDT personnel): NDT personnel shall be qualified and certified in accordance with EN 473 except for visual examination and leak testing (for which personnel shall be qualified but not certified). NDT personnel shall hold an appropriate certificate of competence at level 1, 2 or 3, as appropriate, which is delivered as described in tables H-1 and H-2 depending on the conformity assessment module (tables H-1 and H-2 state that for category III and IV equipment, qualification and certification of NDT personnel *may be* (is?) carried out by recognised third party organisation).

N.B. Equipment manufactured to harmonised Euro-Norms (e.g., EN 13445 : Unfired pressure vessels; EN 13480 : Metallic industrial piping) developed in support of the directive will be presumed to comply with the essential safety requirements of the PED.

Further information?

Further information on the Pressure Equipment Directive, including methods of compliance and related services offered by the British Institute of NDT, is available from the above address.