



Impact of Pressure Equipment Directive 97/23/EC (PED) on products already placed on the market

ORGALIME POSITION

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Orgalime is the liaison group for the mechanical, electrical, electronic and metal working industries of 21 European countries. Its 31 member federations include over 100 000 companies of all sizes. With production valued at 1200 billion euros in 2001, and employing 7.5 million people, the engineering industry is the largest industrial sector.

In Article 20, the Pressure Equipment Directive requires that "*Member states must permit the placing on the market of pressure equipment assemblies which comply with the regulations in force in their territory at the date of application of the Directive until 29 May 2002, and permit such equipment and assemblies to be put into service beyond that date*".

Orgalime position

As a consequence, an item of pressure equipment which has been placed on the market before 30 May 2002 can be used without restriction after that date. There is no legal need for such an item to be made PED-compliant before putting it into service.

Any request from users to manufacturers for upgrading, swapping or buying back their existing stock of products which are not compliant to the PED with a view to replacing it with PED-compliant stock is not a legal requirement arising from Pressure Equipment Directive, but can nevertheless be acceptable, if it is part of an individual commercial agreement.

Guideline 10/3 gives some more explanation on this issue, and on the conditions to be met.

One should note that if an assembly is placed on the market after 29 May 2002, it should comply with the PED. This is possible only if all the items of pressure equipment, which are integrated into it, also comply with the PED, including any such item of pressure equipment that has been placed on the market before 30 May 2002.