

In-Service Pressure Equipment National Approach

Date:

Full Name:

Address:

Country:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Company:

Industry:

Phone:

European Pressure Equipment Research Council
EPERC-AISBL

Registered Office:
B-1030 Schaerbeek (Brussels)
Diamant Building
Boulevard Auguste Reyers, 80
<http://www.eperc-aisbl.eu/>

In some European countries, the national legislation for largely historical reasons requires pressure equipment to be periodically pressure tested in-service in order to re-qualify it for further in service. Other countries allow alternatives to pressure testing to be used for the same purpose with an equivalent level of safety at lower costs. These alternatives tend to be based on the use of modern welding and inspection technology and quality assurance. This situation creates disparities between the efficiency and costs of production in different countries. It distorts competition in the producers' world markets and within a single company operating in different countries without any tangible safety benefits.

A Technical Task Group of EPERC is proposed to launch actions which will enable the sharing of best practice with regard to in-service re-qualification of pressure equipment and alternatives to pressure testing. The aim is to promote discussion about the requirements among technical experts and legislators at a national and European level. In particular EPERC will have the objectives of sharing, preparing and disseminating documents recognized as being good practice covering:

- The situations where an in-service pressure test is considered to be absolutely necessary for re-qualification
- The situations where an in-service pressure test is considered to be not necessary or potentially detrimental to re-qualification on the balance of risks
- The situations where alternatives to in-service pressure testing may be used for re-qualification, and the choice of alternatives and good practices that are available.

This Task Group will interest companies with operations in different European countries and companies seeking alternatives to in-service pressure testing, as well as inspection organizations and regulators.

Currently It is known which tests (as hydrotest, NDT's) have to be done during manufacturing, installation and commissioning for new pressure vessels thanks to Codes as ASME, PED 2014/68/EU and/or local regulation but there is no specific European rule for in service inspection.

To know how pressure vessels are managing in service inspection at European level it is necessary to conduct a survey in order to try to harmonize the criteria to return the equipment in service.

Could you please fill out this quick survey to help us?

Are there any standards, codes or any regulation to manage in service inspection in your country? Which one? It is mandatory?

Is there any categorisation of pressure vessels? How is it carried out? By hazard, fluid, industry, etc.

What kind of inspection levels are defined? In which inspection level are, documental review, NDT exams and pressures tests, required?

What inspections are carried out on your pressure vessels?

How often they are performed and how are they managed with shutdown?

An acceptance criteria is contemplate in this inspection? As API 579/ASME Fitness For Service.?

Can hydrotest be replaced by conducting additional NDT exams, different kinds of pressure tests or combination of both, being supported by technical justification?

It is required an inspection supervision to be conducted by notified body or by third party? It is mandatory?

What documents/schemes are necessarily issued to return the equipment into service? By whom is it issued (third party, owner)? How inspections and repairs are managed in terms of responsibilities?

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