

### ***Use of welding Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) issued by a British notified body.***

We have raised a question to the European Commission about the above mentioned issue, regarding the PQR issued by a British notified body before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, so before the BREXIT. The question is: are those PQR, as well as the related welder qualifications, still valid in the European Union? Those qualifications related to the welding joints were issued when the British inspection body involved was still a NB, while today it is no more a NB recognized by the EU. It is possible that this inspection body has qualified the welding procedures in a manufacturer's workshop and the manufacturer is still using them, even if the CE marking of the vessel is now certified by another NB.

We have received the following answer.

To answer the question on "the acceptance / non-acceptance of previously issued UK based EU Notified Body work ", please refer to the information notice : "**NOTICE TO STAKEHOLDERS WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EU RULES IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS" of 13 March 2020**).

This document was distributed to all stakeholders already in 2019 and updated in March 2020. It provides important information about the rules for goods placed on the EU or the UK market before the end of the transition period, goods placed on the EU market after the end of the transition period, validity of certificates, etc.

This document is available on the following link: [https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-03/notice\\_to\\_stakeholders\\_industrial\\_products.pdf](https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-03/notice_to_stakeholders_industrial_products.pdf) and also on the PED website on Europa.

A distinction should be made between the following situations:

1. **Goods placed on the EU or the UK market before the end of the transition period** (Part B of the industrial products notice, separation provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement)
  - Such goods can stay on the market with their UK certificate, approval, etc. ("may be further made available on the market of the EU or of the United Kingdom and circulate between these two markets until it reaches its end-user"). This also includes putting into service, where applicable.
  - Important: as stated in Article 41 of the Withdrawal Agreement and further clarified in the notice, this applies to the individual products, not to the type or series in a general manner. Hence one cannot extrapolate from this specific regime a general validity of certificates, approvals, etc. issued before the end of the transition period for the same type of products when placed on the EU market after 1.1.2021.
  - This means that for pressure equipment items/assemblies placed on the market before 31.12.2020 a certificate covering personnel involved in Non-Destructive Testing issued by a UK-based body before 31.12.2020 can be used. But the same certificate cannot be used and is no longer valid for the same type of pressure equipment items when placed on the market after 1.1.2021.
2. **Goods placed on the EU market after the end of the transition period** (Part A of the industrial products notice, and more particularly Section A.2 and footnote 16)GR
  - For pressure equipment placed on the EU market after 1.1.2021, the certificates covering personnel involved in Non-Destructive Testing must be issued by an EU-based body.
  - If the transfer of certificates of the UK-based body to an EU-based body was not completed before the end of the transition period (31/12/2020), the successor EU-based body – once the ongoing negotiations between the parties have been finalised – will have to issue genuine new certificates, i.e. it can no longer be a transfer.

The information above was specifically addressing a question related to certificates related to the qualification of NDT personnel but it applies to any type of certificate or document issued by a UK NB in the context of PED.