

EUROPEAN GUIDELINES SET NEW STANDARDS

Elster products are *certified*

In the last few years, the European Parliament has laid down several guidelines in order to eliminate trade barriers arising from technical details while at the same time observing the standardised European objectives on safety. For example, the European guideline EMC 89/336/EG has been in force since 1989 and, from a national point of view, was converted into the "Law on electro-magnetic compatibility" (EMC) in September, 1998.

Elster volume correctors fulfilled the requirements of the EMC even before it came into force and are therefore certified according to this guideline. This means that it is not necessary to make any modifications to the Elster devices.

More recently, we have seen the introduction of the EU guideline 97/23/EG on pressure devices (29 May, 1997). In the gas industry, this applies to gas pressure regulators, safety devices and all types of gas volume metering devices where the minimum operating pressure is 0.5 bar. It does not yet cover pressure ranges below 0.5 bar.

Although they are designed for use with a much higher operating pressure, volume correctors are not covered by the guideline. Following a transition phase, starting from 29 May, 2002, all products must fulfill all of the requirements of the guideline and must be certified by a "Centre" which is recognised by the Central Office for Technological Safety. The certification centre belonging to the DVGW is one of the above-mentioned centres.

Every device must be marked with the CE sign and a product identification number (PIN). The PIN includes information concerning the test centre involved in the certification and production control process as well as the identification of the product itself.

If the gas pressure regulator is covered by any European guidelines involving other aspects of the CE sign, then one only needs to state the PIN. It can then be assumed that all of the relevant guidelines have been adhered to.

In a previous edition of Profiles we already talked about the European certification of our

gas pressure regulators and large-volume meters. In the meantime, we have received most of the appropriate certificates. As far as the remaining uncertified devices are concerned, all of the applications have been handed in and in the near future we hope to have a complete EU certification.

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