

Conformity declared: Elster diaphragm meters now with MID approval

As from April 2007, Elster will be one of the first manufacturers of gas meters to be able to supply diaphragm meters that comply with the new MID Measuring Instruments Directive. In conjunction with the PTB, the German National Metrological Institute based in Braunschweig, the company mapped out and followed the new methods described in the MID for the first time.

A little more time will be required for obtaining approvals for other devices such as rotary meters, turbine meters and volume correctors since all the applications that have been submitted will understandably take some time to clear.

The previous Directive 71/318/EC has been invalid since 30 October last year and has been replaced by the MID since that time even though all national regulations have not yet been amended. Previous approvals can still be used until their expiry date, with the latest possible date for their validity being 30 October 2016. Measuring instruments that comply with the "old" approvals may only undergo minor modifications; any major modifications must be done within the framework of obtaining an MID approval.

As a result of the long transition periods, it is likely that nothing will change in the short term for non-temperature-compensated meters since the approvals under Directive 71/318 were already valid for the whole of the European Union and, as a result of the introduction of EN 1359, the error limits as prescribed by the MID have already been established. The situation is different for temperature-compensating diaphragm meters. These meters were not covered by any pan-European approvals and the MID means that it is now possible to declare the conformity of these meters legally for every country in the EU.

A rumour about the MID has proved to be stubborn: We constantly hear claims that under the MID gas meters will only be subject to random sample testing. It is correct that the MID includes a provision

of this possibility. It is not correct that Elster is considering the possibility of creating a lead over its competitors at the expense of quality.

However, our decision does not mean that all of our competitors will decide to take the same route. This implies that if you are considering buying MID meters, you should find out the conditions on

which the certification was achieved and what quality philosophy the manufacturer uses. If everything runs smoothly, you will find that measuring instruments whose conformity has been declared under MID and which do not bear the calibration stamp that you have been familiar with for decades will also not create any problems whatsoever.

