Elster industrial measuring devices with a new label design

A maze of labels or amazing protection?

In my car on the daily commute to work, I often pass a number of traffic signs. It is doubtful whether this "maze" of signposts along the side of the road is really beneficial for all road users.

Marking and signposting is certainly designed to be helpful and ensure safety. Whenever it is a matter of operating devices correctly and safely therefore, it is just as important to affix a label for "protection".

When it comes to gas meters, this involves defining the minimum and maximum operating conditions, such as flow rate, pressure and temperature. From a legal perspective, the requirements of European Directives must also be met. In addition to the "Laws of the Member States concerning pressure equipment … 97/23/EC" (PED) and the "Laws … concerning equipment and protective systems … in potentially explosive atmospheres" 94/9/EC (ATEX), the "Directive 2004/22/EC … on measuring equipment" (MID) has also been in force since 2006.

All the Directives set out detailed requirements of the manufacturer with regard to labelling a device. Among other things, the manufacturer must be clearly recognizable.

In addition, we would also like to account for the wish of certain customers, who have requested that a specific meter number also be affixed to the meter.

All of these requirements have lead to a new Elster concept for labelling rotary and turbine gas meters.

1 All the metrological data, including the approval symbol (national, EC or MID), are printed on the main plate.

2 On a separate label, only those data are printed which are additionally necessary for PED and ATEX and which deviate from the metrological information. The temperature ranges, for example, are not always identical for MID and PED.

The labels are mandatory and are recorded in the metrological and safety-relevant approval documentation. They form an integral part of these approvals and can therefore not be changed at will.

Additional labels can be affixed to the meter if required, which are not subject to approvals.

The previously desired logos, from international sales organizations among others, had to be banned from our main plate due to the obligation to provide clear identification of the manufacturer. This request may nevertheless still be met with an additional label.

If required, a customer-specific number and/or barcode can also be affixed at an easily accessible point on the index head.

Whether a sign maze or a sign of protection – with Elster's new labelling concept both legal requirements and the customers' wishes may be equally met. We would be happy to advise you as to the points of which you must be aware. After all, only a correct label is a seal of quality.

Michael Franz michael.franz@elster.com