



Business Area | **Energy Management – Boiler Room**
Technical focus | **Directive 97/23/CE**

The Directive on pressure equipment (97/23/EC or PED) was adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council in May 1997. It is part of a series of technical harmonization standards for machinery, electrical equipment, medical devices, simple pressure vessels, gas appliances, etc.

It initially became law on November 29, 1999. Between 1999 until May 29th, 2002 manufacturers could choose between applying the Directive or the application of national legislation in force. From May 30th 2002 the Directive is mandatory throughout the European Union.

The Directive provides an adequate legislative framework at a European level for equipment subject to danger due to the pressure. This directive combines with:

- Directive related to simple pressure vessels (2009/105/EC)
- Directive related to transportable pressure equipment (99/36/EC)
- Directive related to aerosol dispensers (75/324/EEC)

The PED Directive is a European Community program with the goal of eliminating technical barriers to trade. It is formulated in the framework of the "new approach to technical harmonization and standards". Its aim is to harmonize the national Member States laws with regard to the design, manufacture, testing and conformity assessment of pressure equipment. The aim is therefore to ensure access to the free market equipment within the European Union and European economic area.

Formulated under the new approach, the Directive provides a flexible regulatory environment that does not impose any detailed technical solution. This approach allows the European industry players to develop new techniques and therefore be more competitive.

The Directive applies to components such as tanks, pressure tanks, heat exchangers, steam generators, boilers, industrial pipes, safety devices and pressure accessories. Such pressure equipment is widely used in process-based industries (oil and gas, chemical, pharmaceutical, plastics and rubber, food and beverage), process-based industries using high temperatures (glass, paper and cardboard), in energy production and utilities, heating, air conditioning gas storage and transportation.