

Directive 97/23/CE**Keywords:**

Type

Family

Version

Conformity assessment

CE type examination

CE design examination

Directive reference:

Annex I § 3.3 a) - 97/23 EC

Adopted by CLAP:**15/05/2001****Subject:** Conformity assessment – concept of family, type and version**Question:** The Directive uses the concepts of family, type and version. What do they cover in practice?**Answer:**

A family is the items of set of pressure equipment covered by a EC type-examination certificate or a EC design-examination certificate.

A family is characterised by the following elements:

- Similar intended use covered by the same operating instructions;
- Use of the same technical document (standard or professional code).

As a consequence, the following criteria shall be taken into account to determine whether pressure equipment is included in a given family:

- design methods (choice of safety factors, calculation or experimental method, etc. ...);
- Material used (chemical and mechanical characteristics, processing methods, delivery conditions, operating temperature);
- Manufacturing, inspection and testing programmes (process of forming, welding, joining, types and extent of inspection...);
- sizing parameters (pressure, temperature, volume, fluid, corrosion, etc. ...);
- Geometrical design and size range;
- Module or combination of modules for conformity assessment.

NOTE 1: The type is the representative sample of the family used for the EC type-examination or EC design-examination.

NOTE 2: All versions covered by the same type constitute the family.

NOTE 3: The Directive uses also the word "type" to distinguish between vessels, piping, pressure accessories and safety accessories. This meaning of type, very general, is different for that defined here.

Modifications compared to the previous adopted version: Editorial correction on 2004-09-16.