Guideline	2/21	CLAP	FORM N°87
			Version : 4

Directive 97/23/EC

Keywords :	Gas	Classification
Directive references:	Annex I § 2.2.1 - 97/23 EC	Annex II Table 1 - 97/23 EC
	Annex I § 2.3 - 97/23 EC	Annex II Table 6 - 97/23 EC

Adopted by WPG: **24/05/2002** **Adopted by CLAP:** **24/05/2002**

Subject: Classification – Unstable gas

Question: Tables 1 & 6 of annex II of PED include a reference to unstable gas (this implies that we should classify the equipment in categories III or IV). How does one define an unstable gas?

Answer:

An unstable gas in this context is a gas or a vapour liable to transform itself spontaneously, producing a sudden pressure increase.

Such transformation as an example can result from a relatively small variation of an operating parameter (e.g. pressure, temperature) in a confined volume.

These substances are generally put on the market in a stabilised form. ADR: 2001, chapter 2.2.2.2.1 contains the general criteria for the classification of gases. An indication is given with the notion "stabilised" in tables A and B in chapter 3.2 of ADR: 2001.

Typical examples of unstable gases: acetylene (UN 1001), methyl acetylene (UN 1060), vinyl fluoride (UN 1860).

NOTE: Directive 67/548/EEC on classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances does not deal with this point.

Modification compared to previous adopted version: copy of guideline 2/21 (24/05/02) and editorial correction on 2004-09-16.