

Safer blasting

because of strict rules and legislation

Any one working with machinery knows this is not without danger. Therefore an increasing number of rules and regulations have been issued concerning the safety level of technical appliances. This in order to reduce the risk of accidents as much as possible. In this respect it is important for employers to know their legal responsibility for the periodical check ups of the equipment provided by them to the employees. They should also be aware of the insurance companies' common policy in case the provided equipment didn't comply with the relevant rules and directives: no or only partial compensation in case of accidents.



A QUICK SCAN OF THE RULES: NON COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS

Because of the painful consequences of non compliance, we summarize the common and specific blasting rules and regulations:

- The *European Work Equipment Directive* states that machinery may not present any danger to the employee.
- The *European Machinery Directive* demands that manufacturers clearly state the safety level of the machinery by means of the CE mark.
- De *Europese Machinerichtlijn* toont middels het CE-kenmerk de veiligheidstatus van de onderhavige machine.
- The *European Pressure Equipment Directive 97/23/EC (PED)* applies especially to blast pots. But this directive doesn't only concern the pressure vessel (as is a common believe). The rules apply to the assembly as a whole. A type of approval by a notified body (NoBo) is needed when the maximum operating pressure times the volume exceeds 200 ($P_s \times V = > 200$).



GRITCO OFFERS ONE HUNDRED+ SAFETY

Gritco's blast pots are manufactured according to module B + C1. The B represents the "EC type examination" The C1 stands for "conformity to type". In practice this means the safety level is (more than) sufficient to 'withstand' an unexpected check by a notified body to verify the compliance with the given type of approval. Gritco's EC type examination is: 08-PED-ROT-B-08.4350-01. The C1 module number in 2011 is: PP002791

NOT JUST THE BLAST POT BUT THE COMPLETE ASSEMBLY

The CE-certificate which comes with Gritco's blast pots is solid proof of the conformity for the complete assembly. Of course the pressure vessel has also been constructed and tested in compliance with the rules. The certificate includes: a. model type b. serial number c. modules d. the respective names and addresses of the notifying body. The inspection of Gritco's module B + C1 is executed by DNV (Det Norske Veritas) with identification number 0427. This number must be shown on the machine plate. In this way the validity of the certificate (including the modules) can easily be verified.



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CLEARLY VISIBLE SAFETY FEATURES

A blast pot (assembly) that has been produced and certified according to the Pressure Equipment Directive can be recognized by the following:

- Type plate of the blast pot's manufacturer showing the number of the notifying body
- Type plate of the pressure vessel's manufacturer showing the number of the notifying body
- Certificate of the blast pot's manufacturer stating the used modules plus numbers and the notifying body plus number. **Just a certificate of the pressure vessel manufacturer is not sufficient!**



APPROVAL FOR COMMISSIONING: A SUPPLEMENT ON THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE

Unlike new machines, the Approval for Commissioning is not (yet) institutionalised on an European scale. Each individual member state has its own rules and legislation. The responsibility rests upon the user, not the manufacturer.

The Dutch situation: According to the Netherlands Approval for Commissioning, approval is required in case the design pressure times the volume exceeds 1000, or: $P_s \times V = > 1000$. In this case a notified body (NoBo) has to check if the machine is connected and used in a proper manner. The manual and the CE-certificate (according to PED 97/23/CE) will definitely have to be presented. Of course Gritco's blast pots come with these important ingredients.

PERIODIC REASSESSMENT: ONE MORE SUPPLEMENT ON THE DIRECTIVE

Like the Approval for Commissioning, the Periodic Reassessment is also not institutionalised at an European level. Each member state has its own rules and legislation. The responsibility rests upon the user, not the manufacturer.

The Dutch situation: Just like all other working appliances, blast pots must be periodically reassessed. In case the design pressure times the volume exceeds 1000, or: $P_s \times V = > 1000$ this reassessment has to be executed by a Notified Body (NoBo). When this outcome is less, the reassessment can be executed as the owner/user sees fit. For obvious safety reasons the original manufacturer or distributor is usually called upon to perform this task.

More information

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<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/pressure-and-gas>

Check your local authority on the
European Commission website:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/pressure-and-gas/pressure-equipment/memberstates_en.htm