

Safety devices for welding and cutting acc. to EN 730 and EN ISO 15615 Differences between BAM-Certification and Type approval according to the German acetylene ordinance (Acetylenverordnung)

The former procedure of a national approval according to the Acetylene ordinance is no longer in practice. The purpose of the following statement is to give the reasons and to show new alternative methods of conformity assessment.

Approval codes for type approved safety devices have been generated as follows: "XXN-ZZZZZDD" (XX for key number of German competent authority, N for manufacturer's nationality, ZZZZZ for registration number and DD as abbreviated form of device type), since about 1989 "BAMXXYY" (XX for serial number per year and YY for respective year). BAM has tested, but not approved these devices. Type approval/approval numbers were assigned by the competent authorities of the German Federal States on base of a BAM test report (as e.g. approval number 82D-03178E by "Regierungspräsident Arnsberg"). Legal basis of these approvals was §10 of the German acetylene ordinance (Acetylenverordnung), i.e. the validity of approvals/approval numbers was only confined to Germany and to acetylene as fuel gas. BAM approved products did never exist in this area. Products were tested by BAM and approved by the competent authority in Germany. In this respect labels such as "BAM approved" being occasionally added by some manufacturers were neither correct nor valid.

Now the legal basis of this approval type is no longer in force, as the German acetylene ordinance has been withdrawn on January 1st, 2003. In Europe these products are covered by the Pressure Equipment Directive (97/23/EC) as pressure accessories. In cases where connecting diameters are less than 25 mm, "Sound Engineering Practice" shall be applied only and CE-marking is inadmissible.

By BAM Certification manufacturers are offered the opportunity to demonstrate that their products are still tested and monitored by a third party.

Products certified by BAM are marked with the following label:

1. BAM logo
2. "BAM Certified and under surveillance"
3. Number of certificate: "BAM/ZBA/XXX/YY" (XXX: serial number for the respective year; YY: year of certification).

For more information on the certification procedure see:

<http://www.bam.de/english/expertise/secretariats/bzs.htm>

List of currently valid BAM certificates:

http://www.bam.de/kompetenzen/geschaeftsstellen/gesch_medien/bzs_gngb_2004_11.pdf

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