

MID Certification for “Measuring Systems for Liquids other than Water”

Welmec Guide 8.8 “The Voluntary Modular Approach” explained

The modular approval approach

In practice, measuring systems are often constructed in a modular fashion; a measurement sensor from supplier A, combined with a flow computer from supplier B, etc. However, the MID only recognises complete measuring systems as a certifiable instrument, not components thereof. By means of Guide 8.8, Welmec (European cooperation in Legal Metrology) has created the possibility to voluntarily obtain what effectively could be called “Part Approvals” for components of a measuring system. This in turn enables suppliers of parts to obtain certification on their respective components and EC Type Examination Certificates for complete measuring systems to be drawn up, based on these documents.

The “letter of the Law” and the “Workaround”

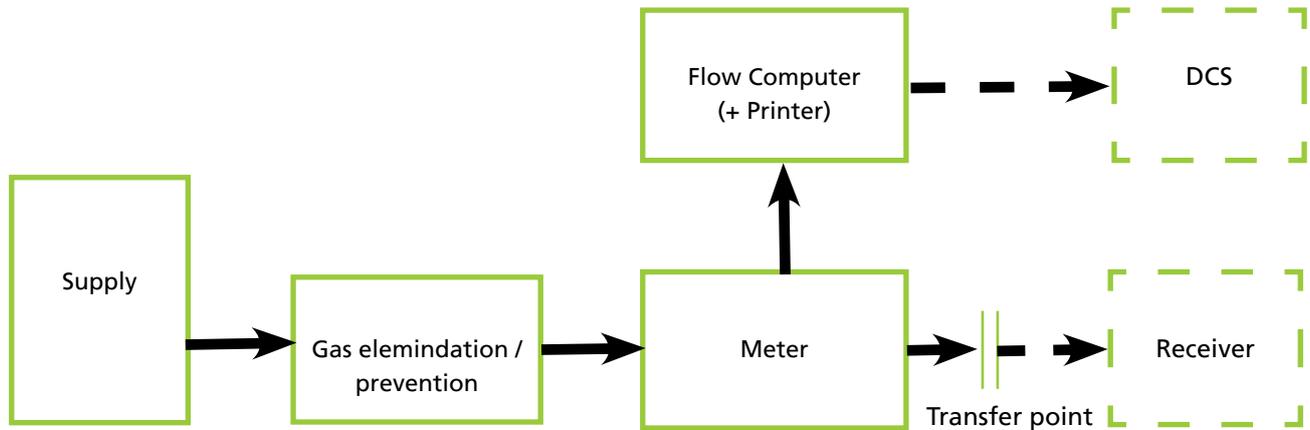
Legally speaking there is no such thing as a “Part Approval” – only EC Type Examination Certificates for complete measuring systems exist. For practical reasons however, Welmec created a non-mandatory possibility to have components certified against the relevant MID requirements. This voluntary scheme essentially offers two routes. One route is through “Part Certificates” which can freely be used by others on which to base their EC Type Examination Certificates. The second route is through “Evaluation Certificates” where the use of the certificate is limited to those having written permission from the certificate owner to do so. These two options enable certificate owners to either protect their certification efforts or choose to simplify complete measuring system certification by others.



Certification/tests on which components?

Measuring systems for liquids other than water are typically constructed around two or three essential parts – the measurement sensor (meter), the flow computer and a gas elimination device. Other components that can be included are, for example, temperature and pressure transmitters. When these have all been provided with Part/Evaluation Certificates and are compatible with each other, the Module B (Type Examination) usually requires little more than checking compatibility and verifying the hydraulic layout/piping, resulting in the issue of an EC Type Examination Certificate for the complete measuring system.

Typical measuring system



OIML, MID, Welmec, EU and the rest of the world

Welmec Guide 8.8 stipulates that, along with the Part/Evaluation Certificate, an OIML Test Report and Documentation Folder should also be issued. Using the well-known OIML Recommendations as a basis for component certification, it matches the majority of legal metrology requirements in the EU as well as many other parts of the world. In other words, the benefits of investing in modular certification could reach well beyond its initial purpose. In addition, WG 8.8 introduces a possibility for Notified Bodies to act as a so-called “trusted third party” allowing potentially sensitive information to be distributed to only those needing it.

Mandatory or voluntary – it is up to you

To summarise, the modular approach is not a mandatory route, but a possible solution for suppliers of components of complete measuring systems. Firstly, it shows interested parties that their components are in line with MID and OIML requirements. Secondly, it enables others to base their system approval (EC Type Examination Certificate) lar-

What NMI offers you

In the specific field of MID Certification for “Measuring Systems for Liquids other than Water”, NMI offers you the following services:

- MID EC Type Examination Certificates
- Modular testing and certification through:
 - Evaluation certificates, and
 - Part certificates (Welmec Guide 8.8)
- Module F (initial verification) of measuring systems,
 - Including Certificate of Conformity
 - Welmec 7.2 certification
- Training
- Consultancy



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