



## **CEIR statement regarding the applicability of the Machinery Directive to valves**

Brussels, 20 June 2018

The question of whether the Machinery Directive applies to industrial valves or not has generated intensive discussions and confusion in Europe over the last year.

CEIR, the European Association of the Taps and Valves Industry, is actively involved in discussions with the European Commission and other stakeholders, in order to clarify the situation of valves in relation to the Machinery Directive.

A working document representing one proposal has been circulated outside of the Machinery working group, but there are other proposals which have been put forward. In June 2018, we do not have a clear decision from the European Commission as to the application of the appropriate legal framework for valves.

CEIR would therefore like to reiterate its official position: valves are in general not in the scope of the Machinery Directive because the “specific application” criteria are not fulfilled. Only in exceptional cases are some types of valves be considered partly completed machinery in the sense of the Machinery Directive. A case-by-case approach is therefore recommended.

Any other interpretation of the applicable legislation, contrasting to the stable and safe practice of Pressure Equipment Directive application for valves for many years, would increase legal uncertainty. Especially, we recommend the utmost caution with regard to a document called on “*Guideline - Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC - Meaning for Valves*” (original title “*Leitfaden - Maschinenrichtlinie (2006/42/EG) - Bedeutung für Armaturen*”), dated May 2018, which has been published by German associations.



### **About CEIR**

The European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry (CEIR) was formed in 1959 as the European federation of national manufacturer associations. CEIR gathers together a large number of European manufacturers in the field of valves and fittings. CEIR is composed of 13 national associations and 13 European corporate members: CEIR represents over 350 taps and valves manufacturers. CEIR supports the principles of a free economy and private enterprise in Europe as well as on a global basis. CEIR represents the common economic, technical and scientific interests of the European valve industries, towards international authorities and in economic and commercial circles.

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