

“Early authorisation according to the new regulations of the Customs Union – a definite advantage on the competitive market”

TÜV NORD CERT supports its client Mahler AGS GmbH on the road to Customs Union product authorisation (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan). For the plant manufacturer this means that they can reliably plan their activities in the region for at least five years.

New rules for imports to Belarus

The order for supply of a nitrogen plant to Belarus for a Dutch customer at the end of 2013 presented an interesting challenge to the company Mahler AGS GmbH. The plant was intended to extend and modernise the refinery of an operator located in Belarus. Although Mahler AGS GmbH has been active in the Russian market since the 1980s, the Technical Regulations (TR) for exports of this kind have changed, as Belarus now belongs to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). As from 1 January 2015, the EAEU in the North East of Eurasia has been an internal market with a customs union. The aim is to facilitate free movement of goods, capital, services and labour and to coordinate economic policy following the example of the European Union. This meant that in supplying the nitrogen plant, Mahler AGS GmbH had to observe the changed import rules, introduced at the beginning of 2013.

The devil is in the detail

“Of course we knew before we received the order that the Technical Requirements for imports into the Customs Union would change, and so we found out about the rules, any changes and their consequences in good time,” says Artur Unrau, Project Manager at Mahler AGS. But even if this was the third time that the Stuttgart-based company had experienced changes in the import rules of the Russian market and they already knew a great deal, the arrangements were not exactly the same this time, and the challenge was to master the large volume of detail. “There are a few small, but very important differences that you have to know about if you want to be successful in the new Customs Union in the field of gas generation plants,” says Unrau. For example, the scope of testing of the pressure vessel weld seams is different from the European one. The



documentation is also based on special rules, and the scope of the certification and the declaration of conformity are also quite different.

Authorisations according to the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union

At Mahler AGS GmbH the decision was therefore made to implement the change to the new Technical Regulations at an early stage. As soon as it was clear that the regulations formerly known as GOST would move towards closer alignment with the EU standards, Mahler AGS adopted the following in-house objectives:

- to gather know-how regarding legally-compliant export of all plant into the countries of the Customs Union, therefore in addition to nitrogen, also for hydrogen, oxygen, biogas and protective gas, and also to acquire



Mahler AGS GmbH is a leading international supplier of generation plant for highly-purified industrial gases like hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen and also for plant for purification and recovery of technical and process waste gases. The company has supplied and put into operation 4,500 plants throughout the world since 1950. One of these was, in 1998, the first fully-automated hydrogen plant in the world, operated without human intervention.

In addition to manufacture, erection and commissioning, Mahler AGS GmbH provides advisory and planning services as well as maintenance and repair of the plants. Ongoing optimisation of procedures and processes, including in cooperation with external partners, guarantee quality, reliability and operational safety.

Further information: www.mahler-ags.com

The Success Story of Mahler Advanced Gas Systems GmbH

- the Series Declaration of Conformity for hydrogen and nitrogen plants as well as for the hydrogen PSA (pressure swing adsorption) plants for the Customs Union,
- the Individual Declaration of Conformity for a nitrogen plant (Belarus project), as this contains some special features,
- certification of a subassembly contained in the nitrogen plant in accordance with TR 012/2011 (explosion protection),
- the Individual Declaration of Conformity for pressure vessels from outside suppliers in accordance with TR 032/2013.

TÜV NORD CERT gives strength and confidence

With TÜV NORD CERT, Artur Unrau took on board a strong partner for a detailed implementation of the Technical Declarations of Conformity which was above reproach from the legal point of view. TÜV NORD CERT accompanies the entire process up to the Declaration of Conformity according to the Technical Regulations. The first step was an in-house training course at Mahler AGS in December 2013, provided by the expert Ludmila Brändle, head of the export support services area at TÜV NORD CERT, including an analysis of the current situation. During a follow-up event in the spring of 2014, the requirements and the procedure for the desired Declarations were clarified. At the same time, the Series and Individual Declarations were applied for and gained in accordance with the current Technical Regulations for the different products of Mahler AGS and for the pressure vessels of outside suppliers. Mahler AGS also took over the Manufacturer's Declarations for the pressure vessels immediately itself, in order to avoid delays and make sure that no obstacles were in the way of delivery of the plant to Belarus. There was then a know-how transfer to the suppliers in the form of a documented procedure including a list of requirements. The nitrogen plant was delivered to Belarus without problems in March 2015.

Obstacles overcome together

However, getting the project home and dry still took longer than expected. "The project took several months, and some plant components required additional safety analyses and certificates," says Artur Unrau. But even if the path was not always straightforward, the project manager is delighted with the support received from TÜV NORD CERT. The cooperation was simple, fitted in precisely with what was needed and always focused on the objective.

And TÜV NORD CERT also reacted fast as situations demanded. "We have achieved all our goals. Without the support of a competent partner it is not possible to manage this whole process, as one also has to have the right contacts with the certifying bodies and official authorities in Russia, Belarus or Kazakhstan. TÜV NORD CERT also gave very valuable support in this area," said Unrau.

TR Certificates of Conformity for import to the Customs Union

With the development and introduction of Technical Regulations (TR) the Customs Union above all lays down general safety requirements – in a similar way to the European Directives. Gradually, the TR Declarations and Certificates of Conformity based on these are replacing the GOST-R, -B and -K and the Russian TR Certificates. For Mahler AGS GmbH, the TR Series Declaration of Conformity is an important factor for export success: on the one hand the company can supply plant, equipment and products to the Customs Union for the next five years quickly and easily, which offers long-term security when planning. At the same time, the Certificate provides a considerable advantage within the competitive environment of the booming natural gas and petroleum markets in the entire EAEU: many refineries in the Customs Union will be developed or modernised in future, and it is difficult for the countries of the region themselves to provide all the highest-quality products that will be required.



"In relation to our exports into the EAEU, TÜV NORD CERT was a reliable partner for the implementation of technical and legal details, with its specialist competence, in-depth knowledge of the sector and helpful contacts in the market."

Artur Unrau, Project Manager

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