ANNEX I

ESSENTIAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

3. **Manufacturing processes**

Vessels shall be constructed and subjected to production checks in accordance with points 2, 3 or 4 of Annex II.

3.1. *Preparation of the component parts*

Preparation of the component parts (for example forming and chamfering) shall not give rise to surface defects or cracks or changes in the mechanical characteristics likely to be detrimental to the safety of the vessels.

3.2. *Welds on pressurised parts*

The characteristics of welds and adjacent zones shall be similar to those of the welded materials and shall be free of any surface or internal defects detrimental to the safety of the vessels.

Welds shall be performed by qualified welders or operators possessing the appropriate level of competence, in accordance with approved welding processes. Such approval and qualification tests shall be carried out by notified bodies.

The manufacturer shall also, during manufacture, ensure consistent weld quality by conducting appropriate tests using adequate procedures. These tests shall be the subject of a report.