

The manufacturer VYC Industrial obtains accreditation for its safety valve testing laboratory



ENAC has recently granted accreditation in accordance with the ISO 17025 standard to the laboratory of the manufacturer VYC Industrial, a company with extensive experience in the design, manufacture and sale of fluid regulation and interception valves. Specifically, the company has received the first accreditation for the tests carried out by its laboratory on its safety valves, becoming the first accredited entity for tests on safety devices for protection against excessive pressure in accordance with the ISO-4126-1.

Miquel Espí Pumarola, General Manager at VYC Industrial, addresses in this interview the reasons that led to requesting accreditation for this type of testing.

Why did the company decide to bet on accreditation for these trials?

VYC Industrial, founded in 1914, is one of the pioneering companies in the study and manufacture of all types of fluid interception and regulation valves in Spain and, in particular, safety valves.

To obtain the CE marking, safety valves are covered by the ISO-4126-1 standard, which requires manufacturers to carry out type tests prior to standardizing the manufacturing process.

In Spain there was no accredited laboratory to carry out this type of test. In Spain we contacted universities, testing laboratories, national export institutes, manufacturers' associations, etc., and we expressed our concern to them. Spain is a power in the manufacture of valves and we do not understand this gap. Nobody gave us a solution.

Now, VYC industrial is the only laboratory accredited by ENAC that certifies, with gas as the test fluid and following the test guidelines of the UNE-EN ISO 4126-1 standard on safety valves, the results of the actual discharge flow, coefficient of discharge (Kd) and reduced coefficient of discharge (Kdr).

“We believe that performances like this help us improve day by day and allow us to compete with an advantage against the elite of world manufacturers”

What are the benefits of having an accredited internal laboratory for a manufacturer like VYC Industrial?

To date, we had contracted the tests abroad where we could opt for different options, qualitatively very different. We always chose the most reliable option, but it was very expensive and seemed like a protective tariff.

On the other hand, although this option allowed us to certify our valves, it did not allow us to optimize our designs. We were looking for a support tool for our R+D+i process that would allow us to correct our simulation programs to the highest levels of perfection, combine simulations and real results, correct and test again... and so on until the product is optimized.

We set a roadmap and, in collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, we designed our own laboratory for fluid dynamic tests. Now we carry out functional and performance tests at high pressures with large flow rates using steam, air or water as the test fluid, making us the only accredited laboratory in Spain and, without a doubt, one of the most complete in the world for carry out these tests for tests of any fluid conveyance element, mainly valves and, especially, safety.

It is a service that has not been designed solely for our needs, but we try to provide a solution to all those who need to validate per se or for third party real tests.

With the large volume of tests that are carried out in your laboratory, do you consider continuing to bet on accreditation to provide the maximum guarantees in your manufacturing processes and your customers?

Given the high cost of the facilities, it is possible to extend our ENAC accreditation according to the needs of our clients and collaborators.

We believe that performances like this help us improve day by day and allow us to compete with an advantage against the elite of world manufacturers. Not surprisingly, to this day, after consulting with accrediting bodies, we are not aware of another manufacturer of safety valves in the world that has a similar certification.