CLAIMS

1. A method for valve type recognition of a valve connected to an actuator, said valve having a valve rod movable by an actuator spindle of the actuator, said valve being one of a first valve type and a second or further valve type, wherein said actuator spindle of the connected actuator has a maximum allowable stroke defined by a displacement of the actuator spindle between a first end position and a second end position, said second end position being defined as the position of the actuator spindle when being operatively connected to said valve rod in a fully closed position of the valve, said method comprising the steps of:

determining for the connected actuator if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is larger than a reference value,

determining that the valve connected to the actuator is of the first valve type if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is the same, or smaller than, said reference value,

determining that the valve connected to the actuator is of the second or further valve type if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is larger than said reference value.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is larger than a reference value is preceded by the step of:

determining for the first valve type, a first type maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle between said first and said second end positions, the first type maximum allowable stroke being the same as, or smaller than, said reference value.

3. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of:

determining in said second end position and for the first valve type, a reference position of an end surface of the valve rod being in contact with said actuator spindle.

4. A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

for the second valve type, moving said actuator spindle past said reference position.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said first end position is a top end position.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said second end position is a bottom end position.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of:

operating the actuator in a first mode of operation if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is the same, or smaller than, said reference value.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of:

operating the actuator in a second mode of operation if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is larger than said reference value.

9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said reference value is a reference stroke.

10. An actuator for controlling movement of a valve rod in a valve to which the actuator is operatively connectable, said actuator comprising:

an actuator spindle,

wherein, when said actuator is connected to a valve, said actuator spindle is arrangeable in a first end position and in a second end position, said second end position being defined as the position of the actuator spindle when being in contact with the valve rod in a fully closed position of the valve, wherein the maximum allowable stroke for the actuator when connected to

the valve is defined by a displacement of the actuator spindle between the first end position and the second end position;

means for determining if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is larger than a reference value;

wherein the actuator is adapted to:

operate in a first mode of operation if the determined maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is the same, or smaller than, said reference value,

operate in a second mode of operation if the maximum allowable stroke of the actuator spindle is larger than said reference value.

11. The actuator as claimed in claim 10, wherein

in said first mode of operation the actuator is adapted to apply via the actuator spindle a first force to the valve rod, and

in said second mode of operation the actuator is adapted to apply via the actuator spindle a second force to the valve rod,

wherein said second force is greater than said first force.

12. The actuator as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11, wherein

in said first mode of operation the actuator is adapted to apply at least one of

- a first speed of the actuator spindle,
- a first control signal to actuator displacement function, and

in said second mode of operation the actuator is adapted to apply at least one of

- a second speed of the actuator spindle,
- a second control signal to actuator displacement function.

13. The actuator as claimed in any one of claims 10-12, wherein said means for determining comprises a control unit in which said reference value is stored.

14. The actuator as claimed in claim 13, wherein the control unit is adapted to control the actuator to operate in one of said first and second modes of operation depending on the determined maximum allowable stroke.