Information Bulletin No. IB25-003 **March 06, 2025**

INTERPRETATION
Certified Factory Assembled Refrigeration Systems
Alternative Approach as Identified in CSA B52:23 clause 5.2

This Information Bulletin replaces IB23-035, which has been withdrawn.

INTRODUCTION

This Information Bulletin provides compliance guidance regarding certified factory assembled mechanical refrigeration systems using the alternative approach for design, construction, and testing identified in CSA B52:23 clause 5.2.

Section 6(b) of the *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation* adopts CSA Standard B52, *Mechanical refrigeration code* (CSA B52).

Design registration is not required for pressure equipment components used in a refrigeration system having a refrigerant capacity not exceed 10.5 kilowatts that is exempt in accordance with Section 2(2)(r) of the *Pressure Equipment Exemption Order*.

CSA B52 Clause 5.2 provides an exemption from design registration, fabrication inspection and field testing of refrigeration systems that are certified factory-assembled provided the specified conditions are met.

CSA B52 Clauses 5.2, 5.7.1 and 5.7.3 provide clarification that the exemption may be applied to refrigerant piping, fittings, evaporator and condenser coils, and associated headers.

INTERPRETATION:

A “certified factory assembled refrigeration system” is a system that all pressure containing components for the primary refrigerant have been constructed, assembled and tested together as a system at the factory.

As per CSA B52, clause 5.2, Certified factory assembled refrigeration systems may be exempt from design registration, fabrication inspections and field testing if the system is covered by one of the standards listed in CSA B52 clause 5.2 b) and is tested and certified by an accredited certification body at the factory.

Certified factory assembled refrigeration systems may be exempt if all the clauses of 5.2 including the following conditions are met:

1. A factory supplied document must be presented to ABSA at the time of installation prior to operation. This document may be a standardized form or letterhead and shall include the following:
    - Traceability to the specific certified factory assembled refrigeration system (i.e. specific serial number or series of serial numbers).
    - Prime mover nameplate kW capacity.
    - Refrigerant classification and type (i.e. Class A1, 744/carbon dioxide).
    - The CSA B52 clause 5.2 b) listed standard(s) that the system is covered under (i.e. CAN/CSA-C22.2 No. 60335-2-89).
    - A signature by a factory representative confirming that the system has been tested and is certified by an accredited certification body.

2. These systems shall contain refrigerant classifications of:
    - A1 or A2L with a prime mover rating of 500 kW or less, or
    - Other than A1 or A2L with a prime mover rating of 125 kW or less

3. If more than one system is installed in a single location, the systems shall be
    - Independent of each other and not connected with a common header on the refrigerant side or other means such that failure of one system will not impact on another system, or
    - interconnected and the total rating of all prime movers added together does not exceed the kW rating for refrigerant classification listed in 2.

4. All other provisions of CSA B52 shall be complied with as applicable, including the total refrigerant charge limit, occupancy classification, the use of machinery room, etc.

This exemption and information bulletin does not apply to refrigerant-containing pressure vessels (e.g., heat exchanger, refrigerant storage tank), portions of systems, individual components or field-installed piping and fittings.

<original signed by>

Djordje Srnic, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Administrator, Province of Alberta Pressure Equipment Safety
Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority