

Information Bulletin No. IB02-002

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DIRECTIVE
Certification of In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspectors

This directive is effective immediately and shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements herein unless varied or specifically superseded by regulations or another directive.

1.0 Background

A certification system for in-service pressure equipment inspectors is being introduced to promote the application of consistent and appropriate inspection standards for assessing the integrity of in-service pressure equipment.

This directive addresses the certification of in-service pressure equipment inspectors. This directive also addresses changes by the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Technical Council restricting the certification of Safety Codes Officers in the Boilers discipline to those working for the jurisdictional authority.

Persons who certify in-service pressure equipment and who are not employed by the jurisdictional authority must hold an In-Service Inspector's Certificate of Competency. The responsibility and authority of the certificate holder will be limited to those duties designated by his/her employer under the employer's Pressure Equipment Integrity Management (Owner/User) Quality System that has been accepted by the jurisdictional authority. (Hereinafter referred to as "accepted owner/user program")

Persons employed by the jurisdictional authority to inspect and certify pressure equipment must hold Safety Codes Officer certification. Safety Codes Officer certification may only be issued to persons employed by the jurisdictional authority. Such certification expires when the Safety Codes Officer leaves the employment with the jurisdictional authority.

Candidates for certification as in-service inspectors or as Safety Codes Officers are required to satisfy certain requirements that include:

- a) Documented evidence of education and pressure equipment experience satisfactory to the Administrator.
- b) Documented evidence of having satisfied certification requirements as established previously by the Safety Codes Council for certification as a Safety Codes Officer in the Boilers discipline,
- c) Documented evidence of having passed the National Board Commission examination or the American Petroleum Institute API 510 Inspector examination.
- d) Successful challenge of an examination on Pressure Equipment Safety Legislation (PESL) as established by the Administrator.

2.0 Application of this Directive

This directive applies to all persons who certify in-service boilers or pressure vessels that are subject to the Safety Codes Act and to persons who perform certain other duties under an accepted owner/user program. The authority and responsibility of the holder of an In-Service Inspector's Certificate of Competency, and the activities for which certification is mandatory are described in point 4 below.

2.1 The term "certify pressure equipment" in the context of an accepted owner/user program means:

To authenticate, by signature or other means established in the accepted owner/user quality system manual, that the equipment has been thoroughly inspected in accordance with the accepted owner/user program to determine its condition and the period of time for which it may be safely used until the next thorough inspection. Any inspection reports submitted to the jurisdictional authority shall be certified as defined above.

2.1 The term "in-service pressure equipment" means pressure equipment including boilers and pressure vessels, as defined in the Safety Codes Act, for which the manufacturing process has been completed and documented on a manufacturer's data report that has been certified by the manufacturer and by an Authorized Inspector.

3.0 Certificates

An In-Service Inspector's Certificate of Competency may only be issued to a person who is not in the employ of the jurisdictional authority. One of the following certificates may be issued to a person who satisfies the certification requirements.

3.1 In-Service Pressure Vessel Inspector Certificate of Competency

To be eligible for this certification, the candidate would have been holding permanent certification as a Safety Codes Officer Level III (Boilers) or will have the necessary education and experience, pass the PESL examination and either hold API 510 certification, or would have successfully challenged the API 510 certification examination within the previous 5 years.

3.2 In-Service Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspector Certificate of Competency

To be eligible for this certification the candidate would have been holding permanent certification as Safety Codes Officer Level II (Boiler) or will have the necessary education and experience, pass the PESL examination and either hold a National Board Commission, or would have successfully challenged the National Board Commission examination within the previous 5 years.

3.3 Current Safety Codes Officers who work outside of jurisdictional authorities

Safety Codes Officers who are currently certified by the Safety Codes Council, who work outside of jurisdictional authorities, and who wish to conduct in-service inspections have

the opportunity to apply to the Alberta Boilers Safety Association for a Certificate of Competency for in-service inspections. Level II Safety Codes Officers who apply, will receive a Certificate of Competency for in-service inspection of Boilers and Pressure Vessels. Level III Safety Codes Officers who apply will receive a Certificate of Competency for in-service inspection of Pressure Vessels.

4.0 Authority and Responsibility of Certificate Holders

The authority and responsibility of the certificate holder will be limited to those duties designated by his/her employer under the employer's accepted owner/user program.

4.1 A holder of an In-Service Inspector's Certificate of Competency shall be directly involved in the inspection activities and must be present at the plant-site:

- a) to conduct and supervise inspections during equipment shutdowns when there are boilers or pressure vessels which require internal inspection, and
- b) to inspect boilers or pressure vessels that have been repaired when the owner/user is responsible to certify the repair .

In performing inspections of pressure equipment, the holder of an In-Service Inspector's certificate of competency may be assisted by persons who do not hold an In-Service Inspector's Certificate of Competency, provided these persons have been appropriately trained and certified in accordance with the accepted owner/user program.

4.2 In-Service Inspector certification is mandatory for any person designated under the accepted owner/user program to:

- a) perform the duties of chief inspector or equivalent, or
- b) certify pressure equipment, or
- c) approve repair reports, inspection reports, inspection procedures, inspection and test plans and other documents as specified in the accepted owner/user quality system, or
- d) act as owner's inspector for owner/user program certified repairs.

4.3 The scope of an In-Service Inspector's Certificate of Competency does not specifically include pressure piping. Owners of pressure piping system are responsible to maintain the integrity of their pressure piping systems under the accepted owner/user program. This would include inspections by a person qualified in accordance with the accepted owner/user quality system.

5.0 Timeline of Implementation

Certification becomes mandatory 2003.01.01 for all persons responsible for the certification of pressure equipment.

There is no deadline for certification without examination for persons who hold valid Safety Codes Officer certification.

6.0 Compliance

Pressure equipment owners are responsible to ensure their pressure equipment is properly inspected and certified by an inspector holding appropriate certification to conduct in-service inspections.

Safety Codes Officers employed by the jurisdictional authority conduct audits to verify compliance with this directive

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