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INTERPRETATION

*Definition of pressure vessel
with respect to gas-insulated switchgear and controlgear*

Effective immediately and until further notice to the contrary, Section 1(1)(d) of AR293/94 does not apply to Gas-Insulated Switchgear and Controlgear.

Background

Gas-insulated "switchgear" and "controlgear" are not for the storage or processing of the pressurized gas for use elsewhere but must contain and retain the gas as a dielectric. At its 1999 Annual Meeting, the CSA Technical Committee on Boilers and Pressure Vessels (B51) passed a motion to exempt (*gas-insulated*) switchgear and controlgear from the requirements of CSA B51, *Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Pressure Piping Code*. Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) safety data for switchgear and controlgear was reported at the meeting as indicating that this equipment is safe, from a pressure-retaining perspective, and that the main safety concern would be with electrocution.

Note: CSA has adopted the following CENELEC standards (European electrical standards) for switchgear and controlgear:

- a) CAN/CSA C50052-99, Cast Aluminum Alloy Enclosures for Gas-Filled High-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear;
- b) CAN/CSA C50064-99, Wrought Aluminum and Aluminum Alloy Enclosures for Gas-Filled High-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear;
- c) CAN/CSA C50068-99, Wrought Steel Enclosures for Gas-Filled High-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear;
- d) CAN/CSA C50069-99, Welded Composite Enclosures of Cast and Wrought Aluminum Alloys for High-Voltage Gas-Filled Switchgear and Controlgear;
- e) CAN/CSA C50089-99, Cast Resin Partitions for Metal-Enclosed High-Voltage Gas-Filled Switchgear and Controlgear; and
- f) CAN/CSA C1264-99, Ceramic Pressurized Hollow Insulators for High-Voltage Gas-Filled Switchgear and Controlgear

Since CSA B51 Technical Committee resolved to exempt this equipment from the requirements of CSA B51 Code and the equipment is adequately covered under other CSA electrical standards, additional controls via the pressure equipment legislation are unwarranted. With the above consideration and taking similar action as other Canadian pressure equipment jurisdictions, this equipment will not be deemed as pressure vessels under the Safety Codes Act in the Province of Alberta.

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