

## IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>New Board Member</i> .....	1
<i>ABSA Code Update Seminar</i> .....	1
<i>Pressure Equipment Integrity Management Systems</i> .....	2
<i>Summary of Accident Reports - Learning from the Past</i> .....	2
<i>AB-500 Documents</i> .....	3
<i>What's New in Design Survey</i> .....	3
<i>Online Power Engineer Certification Transfer Exam</i> .....	4
<i>Documents Issued by ABSA</i> .....	4

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## NEW MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON ABSA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr. Tony Robinson



Mr. Alejandro Carvallo

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Robinson for his significant contributions and valued leadership as he steps down from his role on ABSA's Board of Directors after serving two terms. Tony was selected by a nominating committee to be a manufacturing representative for pressure equipment manufacturing in July 2011. Tony provided leadership and governance to the Board and served as both vice-chair and chairperson during his terms. He will be replaced by Alejandro Carvallo.

Alejandro's appointment to ABSA's board for a 3-year term starts on July 1, 2017. He was selected by a two-member nominating committee consisting of a current board member and a member-at-large.

Alejandro is the owner of Braeside Fabricators Inc. in Calgary, Alberta. Prior to acquiring Braeside, he held managerial and executive positions with an international engineering and procurement company.

He will be joining current board members Mark Demchuk (Industry Representative), Robert Emmott (Industry Representative), Neil Fassina (Education Representative), and Michelle Colleton (Minister's Appointee, General Public Representative). We look forward to the industry insight and strategic guidance that Alejandro will bring to ABSA. ❖

## ABSA CODE UPDATE SEMINARS

Relatively significant revisions to several sections of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code are expected this year when new code editions are published in late July. A technical team at ABSA has been assembled to study the upcoming changes in order to prepare material for our annual Code Update Seminars. This year's seminars are scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton, October 20<sup>th</sup> in Calgary, and October 27<sup>th</sup> in Red Deer.

The Code Update Seminar is typically held in October of each year, and is designed to serve industry by providing attendees with relevant and valuable information about changes to the most commonly used codes and standards that are adopted by Alberta legislation. Although the venues for the presentations in Calgary and Red Deer are yet to be confirmed, registrations are being accepted for all three presentations. Please refer to the 'Seminars' section of our website at <http://www.absa.ca/seminars/course-listing/> for further information and to register. ❖

## PRESSURE EQUIPMENT INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR) defines an integrity management system as “a system for ensuring that pressure equipment is designed, constructed, installed, operated, maintained, and decommissioned” in accordance with legislated requirements; it specifically requires that all owners of pressure equipment have an integrity management system. Pressure equipment owners are therefore required to have an effective quality management system to manage the operation and integrity of their equipment through its entire life cycle. A pressure equipment integrity management system (PEIMS) is a type of quality management system that addresses aspects of equipment ownership and use, and an effective PEIMS can allow for optimization of both physical and human resources, having the effect of reducing equipment downtimes and helping to increase operational efficiency. It contributes to the level of safety achieved by establishing standards for purchasing, routines for inspection and maintenance, and procedures for some types of repairs and alterations.

In addition to the basic requirement that an owner have a certificate of inspection permit, the PESR allows the Administrator to require that an equipment owner hold a certificate of authorization permit with respect to that equipment. When the Administrator invokes this requirement, the owner is required to make an application to ABSA and to include in their application a written description of their quality management system – in this case, of their pressure equipment integrity management system. The regulation further specifies that such a quality management system must be “acceptable to the Administrator.” In order to clarify what features a PEIMS must have in order to be acceptable to the Administrator, ABSA has issued a publication, *AB-512: Owner-User Pressure Equipment Integrity Management Requirements*, which specifies the Administrator’s requirements. The requirements listed in this document become mandatory for an equipment owner only once the Administrator has required the owner to obtain a certificate of authorization permit pursuant to section 11(3) of the PESR.

Invocation of this requirement has followed a phased-in approach, beginning with owners having a large amount of equipment and therefore a greater overall level of associated risk. Each year, a qualitative risk assessment is undertaken using pressure equipment records maintained by ABSA to identify the highest-risk owners, and these owners are individually directed by the Administrator to apply for a certificate of authorization permit. Some of the items considered in assessing owner risk include overall equipment volume and pressure, plant type, fluid type, and proximity of the equipment to populated spaces. ❖

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## SUMMARY OF ACCIDENT REPORTS—LEARNING FROM THE PAST

ABSA is now providing a summary list of reported pressure equipment accidents and incidents on our website. This summary is provided to make users aware of the general nature of accidents and incidents that have occurred, with the intent of heightening awareness so that others can learn of the nature of incidents that tend to occur and take measures to ensure that history does not repeat itself. To access this summary report from our website, navigate to <http://www.absa.ca>, and in the ‘Looking For...’ drop-down list in the top right-hand corner, select ‘Accident Reporting’. On the left-hand side of this page is a link to the ‘Summary of Accident Reports’. Alternatively, you can navigate directly to <http://www.absa.ca/accident-reporting/summary-of-accident-reports/>.

Information typically given for each incident includes the date it was reported, the number of injuries and fatalities, whether there was a loss of fluid containment, and a short description of the incident. No information is included to identify the parties involved with each incident.

ABSA’s mandate is to administer the Safety Codes Act and associated regulations, and to deliver safety programs as they relate to pressure equipment. ABSA’s ultimate quality objective is to prevent injury to people and damage to property arising from the operation of pressure equipment. Equipment owners are reminded that in accordance with section 59 of the Safety Codes Act, unsafe conditions and accidents are required to be reported to the Administrator in a timely fashion. Reporting is a legal obligation, and helps ABSA and its stakeholders to learn from past mistakes, decreasing the likelihood of a repeated accident, and increasing the achieved level of public safety. ❖



### CAUTION

Previous issues of The Pressure News may contain information which is outdated or no longer valid. Please be cautious when using information from old articles.

## AB-500 DOCUMENTS

ABSA publishes and maintains a series of technical documents pertaining to various aspects of the design, manufacture, and use of pressure equipment in Alberta – these are known as AB-500-series documents, and many manufacturers and equipment owners in the province are familiar with at least a few of them that pertain specifically to their line of work. Some readers may have questions as to how these documents are generated, and what authorization ABSA has to issue them.

These documents generally fall into one of two categories: “Requirements” and “Guidelines” documents. “Requirements” documents are used to clarify requirements established in the Safety Codes Act and Regulations. The regulations often specify that some aspect of design or operation must “be satisfactory to the Administrator” – in these cases, AB-500-series requirements documents serve to clarify what is understood to be satisfactory to the Administrator. An example of a requirements document is the AB-525 document, *Overpressure Protection Requirements for Pressure Vessels and Pressure Piping*, which clarifies the Administrator’s requirements for overpressure protection, and in particular for over-pressure protection by system design which is otherwise prohibited by the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation. Another example is AB-512, *Owner-User Pressure Equipment Integrity Management Requirements*, which specifies the Administrator’s requirements for certain types of quality management systems, whereas the regulation simply indicates that a quality management system must be established and maintained which is “acceptable to the Administrator.”

“Guideline” documents, conversely, do not present or clarify requirements, but provide discussion and outline good practices to assist stakeholders in meeting their legal obligations. These documents are not intended to be presented as official interpretations of legislation or of adopted codes, but are intended to provide additional information and to serve as an aide to learning. An example of a guideline document is AB-511, *Impact Testing Enigma*, which discusses the rules given by ASME Section VIII-1 Part UCS for impact testing. Another example is AB-516, *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation User Guide*, which provides a section-by-section breakdown and discussion of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation.

The creation of an AB-500-series document is typically initiated when a specific need is recognized by ABSA technical staff, or when such a need is voiced by industry. Creation of the document involves establishing a development team which includes the Administrator, ABSA’s Technical Advisory Group, and ABSA technical managers and subject-matter experts. External stakeholders are often included, such as government and industry group representatives. Raw input is gathered and validated by the development team, and decisions are made as to what material will be included in the publication, with the goal of creating a document that comprehensively addresses the subject matter, yet remains relevant and practical. The document is reviewed extensively by ABSA technical staff and by external stakeholders, and comments are invited before publication. Publication is announced by the Administrator by means of an Information Bulletin, and the document is published electronically on our website. After publication, the document is scheduled to be reviewed and reaffirmed annually for the first three years, and every five years thereafter. Expected reaffirmation dates are typically indicated in the documents.

It is ABSA’s goal to maintain and to continuously improve these documents as they are reaffirmed and as changes are made to regulations and adopted codes and standards. Feedback is always welcome – these publications typically have contact information included in the ‘Foreword’ section, inviting feedback relating to their content. Feedback relating to documents that do not specifically provide contact information can be directed to any ABSA representative and will be redirected appropriately.



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## WHAT’S NEW IN DESIGN SURVEY

Submitters of pressure equipment designs to ABSA’s Design Survey department are generally pleased to have found that during the 2015 / 2016 fiscal year, the backlog of overdue design submissions has been virtually eliminated, and an initial response is provided in less than 15 days for the vast majority of submissions. Several exciting new programs are contributing to achieve the increased level of service.

New audit-based design registration programs for pressure vessel and pressure piping submissions were introduced in 2016. These programs provide an alternative design submission process, allowing Alberta-based submitters and plant owners to designate competent individuals within their own organizations who will provide a detailed additional review of designs before they are submitted to Design Survey. An assigned Design Surveyor will then issue the registration based on the designated individual’s review, with audits performed on a random basis to ensure that an agreed-upon standard of quality is being maintained. This program provides a benefit both to ABSA and to submitters – submitters are able to obtain registrations more quickly, while ABSA’s Design Survey staff members are able to spend less time reviewing submissions from submitters who have established and maintained a higher standard of quality in their design submissions. There are so far 13 organizations that are involved in these programs. ABSA will be providing free information sessions to parties that are interested in participating; details of the information sessions are expected to be announced in the next few months. ❖

## ONLINE POWER ENGINEER CERTIFICATION TRANSFER EXAM

As required by the Power Engineers Regulation, out-of-province power engineers applying to transfer their certification into Alberta will now be required to complete an online examination covering the Safety Codes Act, associated regulations, and several ABSA publications. The examination consists of 50 multiple-choice questions that were written and reviewed by a team of senior industry and ABSA representatives. Candidates will be provided with instructions to access an online system and complete the examination through a web interface.

For more information on the process involved in transferring a power engineering certification from another province, please refer to the instructions provided on the AB-130 Application Form, which can be found on our website at [http://www.absa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/AB-130\\_Application\\_for\\_Power\\_Eng\\_Cert.pdf](http://www.absa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/AB-130_Application_for_Power_Eng_Cert.pdf). For specific information pertaining to the rules and content of the online transfer examination, please refer to <http://www.absa.ca/certifications/power-engineers/power-engineer-certification-transfer-examination/> and the AB-269 Reference Syllabus referred to therein. ❖

## DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY ABSA

The following documents issued by ABSA are available at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca).

2016-08-17 - IB16-013, *Alert: Preventing High Temperature Hydrogen Attack*, is a publication discussing concerns that a common methodology used for predicting high temperature hydrogen attack does not provide reliable results.

2016-10-24 - AB-532, *Design Registration Requirements for Application-Specific Pneumatic Test Procedures, Edition 1, Revision 0*, was issued to introduce and clarify registration requirements for application-specific pneumatic test procedures, which are outside the scope of a pneumatic test procedure registered as a part of a quality management system.

2016-10-25 - IB16-016, *Interpretation: Movement of Tanks Not Designed for Transportation or Delivery of Propane*, is an information bulletin discussing the misuse of pressure equipment in the transportation of compressed fluids.

2016-11-08 - AB-533, *Power Engineering Course Acceptance Criteria, Edition 1, Revision 0*, was issued to clarify the minimum requirements of power engineering training courses in order for them to be considered satisfactory to meet educational experience requirements for power engineering applicants in Alberta.

2016-11-25 - IB16-018, *Notification: Concerns About Carbon Steels with Low Toughness Properties*, is a document issued to discuss problems encountered with inadequate toughness of low carbon steels, at temperatures at which they are often exempt from impact testing.

2016-12-15 - IB16-020, *Interpretation: Power Engineers Regulation Equivalent Certificates*, was issued to clarify the acceptability of power engineering certificates issued by other jurisdictions.

2017-01-09 - AB-515, *Quality Management System Requirements for Integrity Assessment Organizations, Edition 2, Revision 0*, was issued with editorial corrections, general revisions, and expanded guidance for implementation.

2017-01-27 - AB-523, *Procedure Guideline for the Replacement of Mechanically Assembled Piping Components, Edition 1, Revision 3*, was issued with general revisions throughout.

Other documents have been updated with editorial changes only. ❖

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