



Boiler and Pressure Vessel Permit Information

A certificate of inspection permit is a permit that allows a boiler or pressure vessel to be placed into service. The owner, installer, contractor or vendors must obtain a certificate of inspection permit before placing a boiler or pressure vessel in service, unless it is exempt from this requirement by the legislation.

This document is prepared to provide **boiler** and **pressure vessel** owners, installers, contractors, and vendors with information on permit requirements, applications and other related issues for installing boilers and pressure vessels in non-industrial settings in Alberta.

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Alberta Legislation Requirements for Certificate of Inspection Permit

The Alberta Safety Codes Act (hereafter referred to as “the Act”) and the associated pressure equipment regulations promote public safety by providing requirements for the safe design, construction, installation, operation and maintenance of boilers and pressure vessels in Alberta.

The [Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation](#) (AR 49/2006) requires a certificate of inspection permit, to be obtained before a boiler or pressure vessel can be placed into service unless it is exempt from this requirement by the legislation. A certificate of inspection permit will include the following information:

- assigned Alberta identification number;
- inspection date;
- maximum allowable working pressure;
- minimum and maximum design metal temperature;
- any other conditions of use or operation; and
- any other information required by the administrator.

The conditions of use or operation shown on the certificate of inspection permit must be complied with.

Exemptions from the Requirements of a Certificate of Inspection Permit

Some boilers and pressure vessels are exempt from requiring a certificate of inspection permit. The [Pressure Equipment Exemption Order](#) (AR 56/2006) provides exemption from the Act and exemptions from the Regulation. The Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation has some additional exemptions from the Regulation.

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Applying for a Certificate of Inspection Permit

To obtain a certificate of inspection permit, the owner, installer, contractor or vendor must contact ABSA to arrange for an inspection by a Safety Codes Officer.

An ABSA Safety Codes Officer will issue a certificate of inspection permit, after an inspection, if the installation meets the requirements of the Act.

Key installation requirements:

- the design of each boiler and pressure vessel shall have been registered in Alberta;
- a **Manufacturer's Data Report** shall be available for each boiler and pressure vessel and a copy must be provided to ABSA;
- all necessary pressure relief valves and controls shall have been installed;
- the piping installation shall meet the requirements of the Act;
- the piping contractor has a valid Certificate of Authorization Permit from ABSA to install that piping (a Certificate of Authorization Permit is not required for piping installed for a heating boiler);
- the boiler or pressure vessel shall conform to its Manufacturer's Data Report; and
- there shall be no evident damage or deficiency.

Be safe. Don't put life and property at risk!

ABSA, the pressure equipment safety authority

Information about ABSA [office locations, and phone numbers](#) is posted on the ABSA website. Phone your nearest ABSA office and ask to speak to an Safety Codes Officer for boiler and pressure vessel permit information.

Installation Requirements

Heating Boiler Requirements

Installation requirements for heating boilers are addressed in the following codes:

- [Canadian Standard Association](#) (CSA) B51 and
- [American Society of Mechanical Engineers](#) (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Sections IV and VI.

Heating plant piping is exempt from Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation but the fuel piping is subject to the to Gas Code.

An expansion tank or cushion tank is required for hot water/glycol boilers. These tanks are pressure vessels.

Power Boiler Installation

Installation requirements for power boilers are addressed in Canadian Standard Association (CSA) B51 and in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Sections I and VII.

Installation requirements for power piping are addressed in American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Power Piping Code B31.1.

High pressure steam boilers fitted with a blow-off line that discharges into a sewer system must have a blowoff vessel that meets Canadian Standards Association (CSA) B51.

Definitions of Terms

Pressure vessel means a vessel used for containing, storing, distributing, processing or otherwise handling an expansible fluid under pressure. Typical pressure vessels in a commercial installations are compressor air tanks, expansion or cushion tanks, blowdown tanks for power boilers, hot water tanks and water heaters.

An **expansible fluid** means any vapour or gaseous substances or any liquid under pressure and at such a temperature so that the liquid changes to a gas or vapour when the pressure is reduced to atmospheric pressure or when the temperature is increased to ambient temperature.

Boiler means a vessel in which steam or other vapour can be generated under pressure or in which a liquid can be put under pressure by the direct application of a heat source. There are two general types of boiler: heating boiler and power boiler.

Heating boiler means a boiler designed to generate steam or to heat portable water for circulation through a building heating system. The service restrictions are steam boiler pressure not exceeding 103 kPa (15 psi) and temperature not

exceeding 121 °C (250 °F); and water boiler pressure not exceeding 1 100kPa (160 psi) and temperature not exceeding 121 °C (250 °F) at or near the boiler outlet.

Power boiler means a boiler in which steam other vapour is generated at a pressure of more than 103 kPa (15 psi) and includes the boilers in which temperature or pressure exceeds the limits for heating boilers.

A Manufacturer's Data Report is a document prepared by the manufacturer to certify that the boiler or pressure vessel was manufactured according to the Code and the registered design. It is a legal document equivalent to a birth certificate for the boiler or pressure vessel.