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## NEW TEMPORARY LOCATION FOR ABSA'S EDMONTON OFFICE

ABSA decided to expand the Edmonton Office building (9410 – 20 Avenue) to accommodate staffing and program needs. After an evaluation of the work scope, and with consideration of safety and work disruption, ABSA decided to relocate Edmonton staff and services to a temporary location for the 10 month construction period. ABSA's temporary office is at 9119 - 82 (Whyte) Avenue (old Servus Credit Union building). The relocation is expected to be completed by the end of June. Please refer to ABSA's website at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca) for the official timing of the move.

NOTE: ABSA's mailing address will not change (remains 9410 – 20 Avenue, Edmonton, T6N 0A4) and telephone numbers will remain the same.

There will be limited visitor parking in the street level lot to the west of the temporary office building – entry off 82 Avenue. There is no visitor parking available on the second level parking lot off 91 Street.

Examinations and training seminars will be conducted at various hotels. Please carefully review your confirmation letter for the location. ❖

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## 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Previous issues of The Pressure News may contain information which is outdated or no longer valid.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.

## DR. LAU RETIREMENT RECOGNITION EVENT

Please join us as we recognize and celebrate the significant contribution of Dr. Ken Lau in his retirement as ABSA's Chief Inspector and the Administrator of pressure equipment for the Province of Alberta.

The retirement reception and program to honor and thank Dr. Lau will take place at the Jubilee Ballroom, Radisson Hotel, 4440 Gateway Blvd, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The reception will begin at 4:00 PM with a formal program starting at 4:30 PM.

If you are interested in attending, we would be very grateful if you would RSVP your intentions to Christine, [vaillancourt@absa.ca](mailto:vaillancourt@absa.ca), so that we can better plan the event.

We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, you can call Christine at (780) 433-0281 Ext. 3314.

Gordon Campbell  
General Manager

## NEW CHIEF INSPECTOR AND ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL POEHLMANN, P.L. (ENG.)



The Administrator and Chief Inspector roles are important in the delivery of pressure equipment safety programs in Alberta. Effective September 16th, 2014, Mr. Mike Poehlmann, ABSA's Technical Director will become ABSA's Chief inspector and the Administrator of pressure equipment for the Province of Alberta as appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs pursuant to section 14 of the *Safety Codes Act*.

Mr. Poehlmann is a First Class Power Engineer with 38 years experience operating, maintaining and inspecting pressure equipment. 23 years of this time have been involved with jurisdictional pressure equipment safety program delivery.

Mike began his career working with pressure equipment at the grassroots in 1976 as a welder's helper in the pipe trades union. He worked as a Chief Power Engineer, and as an inspector for two other Canadian jurisdictions before joining ABSA in 1996. He initially worked as a shop inspector, followed by other inspection and auditing assignments, before progressing into management roles with ABSA starting in 2001.

Mike's certifications include: Alberta 1st Class Power Engineer's Certificate, Professional Licensee (Engineering) – APEGGA Member, Registered Engineering Technologist – ASET Member, National Board Commission, "A" and "B" Endorsements, and Alberta Safety Codes Officer – Boilers Discipline.

In 2001, Mike became ABSA's Manager, Education and Certification, responsible for the management of ABSA's education and training programs, workforce certification programs and technical guidelines and standards.

In 2003, he moved to the position of Manager of Inspections with responsibilities including province-wide management of ABSA's quality system certification program, new construction inspection program and in-service equipment program.

Since January 2014, Mike has been ABSA's Technical Director. The purpose of this position is to provide leadership to ABSA's technical program delivery. All of ABSA's technical program managers - Design Survey Manager, the Manager of Inspections, the Education and Certification Manager and a group of senior technical specialists are accountable to the Technical Director.

Both ABSA and Municipal Affairs are pleased that Mike has accepted the new responsibilities of Chief Inspector and Administrator. ❖

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## AMENDMENT TO THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT SAFETY REGULATION (AR 49/2006)

The following amendments to the PESR were effective May 7, 2014.

Section 4(2) was amended to incorporate the VARIANCE (VA12-006) issued in Information Bulletin IB12-010. The design minimum temperature changed to minus 46 degrees Celsius from minus 29 C and water and glycol was added to the allowed fluids for that partial exemption.

Section 6 was amended to adopt current editions of the following codes and standards: CSA B51-14; CSA B52-13; CSA Z662-11; ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code - 2013; ASME Code for Pressure Piping B31.1-2012, B31.3-2012, B31.5-2013, B31.9-2011; NFPA 58, 2014 edition and NFPA 59, 2012 edition.

The 2013 edition of ASME Section VIII, Div. 2 was also declared in force but with conditions as established by the Administrator following the recommendation of a Safety Codes Council task group. This new code is in force but the conditions of use for Alberta installations remains largely as detailed in Information Bulletin IB11-011 (<http://www.absa.ca/IBIndex/IB11-011.pdf>). In accordance with the provisions of the amended regulation, a new Information Bulletin will be issued by the Administrator reaffirming the requirements.

The consolidated PESR with this latest amendment has been published as Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation, Alberta Regulation 49/2006, With amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 85/2014. ([http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=2006\\_049.cfm&leg\\_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779734825](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=2006_049.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779734825)). ❖

## FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME SOME STEAM SERVICE 'UV' STAMPED PRVs MAY BE SET WITH AIR

Industry has raised concerns that there is insufficient pressure relief valve (PRV) steam testing capacity at Alberta-authorized PRV servicing organizations. ABSA reconvened the original steering committee that participated in the development of the AB-524 document to review this concern and to make recommendations to the Administrator to resolve the concern. The Steering Committee is comprised of members representing owners, PRV servicing organizations and ABSA.

The PRD Steering Committee reviewed the situation created due to the delay in the installation of PRV steam testing facilities in Alberta and the question of "Why are owners of pressure equipment, who are not certified by ABSA to service and set their own PRVs, not permitted to apply a manufacturer-supplied steam to air correction factor to their UV stamped steam service PRVs?"

The committee reviewed the above topics and recommended that no revisions to the requirements of the AB-524 document should be made, but that temporary measures should be taken to deal with the shortage of PRV steam testing facilities in Alberta. The committee agreed to recommend to the Administrator that a 'Compliance Plan' be established in order to enable all owners of pressure equipment to get their steam service 'UV' stamped PRVs set on air by any certified PRV servicing shop, provided a manufacturer supplied steam to air correction factor is supplied by the owner to the service shop. The Administrator has accepted the Steering Committees recommendation, and has revised Information Bulletin IB13-002 to reflect the temporary compliance plan. The provisions of this plan will apply until March 31, 2015 by which time, an adequate number of steam testing facilities are expected to be operating in Alberta. Any owner (registered owner/user or otherwise) of pressure equipment may make use of this plan.

This 'Compliance Plan' does not apply to ASME Section I, 'V' stamped PRVs when used on power boilers or on steam service elsewhere.

The 'Compliance Plan' describes steps for the application of the plan and the use of AB-524a Steam Setting Compliance Plan Form. The plan is posted at ABSA's website and is available for immediate use by the owners. ❖

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## SAFETY ALERTS

**Alerts** are safety warnings issued to the public or a specific group of people involved with pressure equipment. Usually an incident or accident has happened. Lessons learned, from the incident or accident, are passed to the public through an Information Bulletin as an Alert.

The following were the alerts issued by the Administrator in the past year and posted at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca):

IB14-003 Air compressors recalled by MAT Industries due to electric shock hazard.

IB14-001 Home heating boilers recalled by manufacturers due to carbon monoxide hazard.

IB13-014 Worker injured by hot water while performing hydrostatic test;

IB13-012 Vessels with deficiencies manufactured by Wadsworth Industries and distributed by Mountain Equipment of New Mexico Inc.;

IB13-011 Salt bath heater explosion at a gas processing facility;

IB13-010 Identified models of Hansen pressure relief valves that may be susceptible to internal corrosion;

IB13-004 Identified models of Fisher safety relief valves, used on cargo transports, that may be susceptible to fatigue in the valve stem.

Alerts can be accessed at <http://www.absa.ca/IBIndex/Default.aspx>.

You can subscribe (<http://www.absa.ca/Subscription.aspx>) to receive notification of Alerts that are posted at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca). This is a free service with 4 categories of information to select. Alerts will be under the category *Information Bulletin*. ❖

## REDUCED SUPERVISION UNDER POWER ENGINEERS REGULATION

The Power Engineers Regulation (PER) AR 85/2003 was amended December 2013 introducing “reduced supervision” under Sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the regulation. The term “reduced supervision” reflects a reduced physical presence of competent personnel at the various plants. It does not suggest any reduction in the level of safety.

Under the provisions of the Safety Codes Act and the PER, through the issuance of IB14-005, the Administrator established ABSA document AB-528 “Requirements for Reduced Supervision of Power Plants, thermal Liquid Heating Systems and Heating Plants” as mandatory conditions that must be met for plant operation with reduced supervision. If the plant owner satisfies ALL of the requirements, there is no need to request approval.

For the power plants and thermal liquid heating systems, some of the requirements for reduced supervision are that the plant is remotely located, the plant operation has continuous monitoring and the owner has a valid Certificate of Authorization Permit that addresses requirements specified in AB-528. For heating plant operation, reduced supervision is only on Saturday, Sunday and holiday and the plant must also be under continuous monitoring.

Please review IB14-005 and AB-528 for details and, if required, contact ABSA's Education & Certification Department for further clarification. ❖

## IN-SERVICE INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION TASK GROUP

A task group comprising representatives from Alberta Owner-Users, Inspection companies and ABSA was established in 2013.

The key objectives of the Task Group are:

- To provide recommendations regarding the examination prerequisites (e.g., for boilers, pressure vessels, and piping)
- To provide recommendations regarding the program for administering certification and re-certification, including
  - ◇ what the examination should cover;
  - ◇ how the programs should be maintained in order to meet future challenges and industry needs; and
  - ◇ implementing a formal process for preparing and validating examination questions in collaboration with industry
- To provide recommendations to assist industry in ensuring the competency of ISI inspectors employed in the various industry sectors.

Recommendations from the Task Group are provided as input to the Administrator for consideration as adjustments to the In-service Inspector certification program. So far, the efforts from this Task Group have resulted in revision to the In-service Inspector Certification Requirements document (AB-526); the development of a new examination question bank employing a more rigorous validation process; and the development of the online re-certification examination.

Future work planned by the Task Group includes development of additional examination questions, competency criteria for various levels of in-service inspector, and addressing alternatives for certification of in-service pressure piping inspectors. ❖

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