



Wishing you a happy holiday season
and
a wonderful,
prosperous new year



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YEAR-END MESSAGE

ABSA is committed to safety. Once again, we are pleased to report that staff have had a very safe year. We are also very pleased to note the continuation of the trend of fewer pressure equipment industry reported accidents and unsafe conditions. More importantly, there were no major pressure equipment accidents involving fatalities or serious injuries in Alberta this year that were caused by the failure of the pressure boundary. This is largely due to the effort of the industry, with ABSA playing a role in the delivery of pressure equipment safety programs promoting pressure equipment safety in the province.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding support the management team has received again this year from the entire ABSA Board of Directors. They are to be recognized for their excellent stewardship and commitment to safety. We extend our thanks to Tony Robinson, General Manager, Production and Processing, Enerflex Ltd, representing Manufacturing; Bob Emmott, formerly Executive Vice President and Chief Engineer, TransAlta Corporation, representing industry; Dale Myggland, Owner of BRIAS Inc., the Minister of Municipal Affairs' appointee; Dr. Gordon Nixon, recently retired Vice President Academic of SAIT Polytechnic, representing labour and educational institutions; and Mark Demchuk, Vice President, New Resource Play Project, Cenovus Energy, representing industry.

It is my opinion that ABSA's Board and staff have once again demonstrated their capability in the area of pressure equipment safety and we are well positioned to meet the challenges that lie ahead in 2015.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the staff at ABSA, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the holiday season as you share it with family and friends.

Gordon Campbell
General Manager

FALSIFIED WELDER PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION CARDS

ABSA was contacted by a pressure equipment fabricator with information concerning a welder that was found to have falsified performance qualification (PQ) cards in his possession. An ABSA Safety Codes Officer immediately investigated and confirmed the welder was in possession of the falsified PQ cards. The welder's B Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency was subsequently suspended by the Administrator. The ABSA investigation determined that the welder had performed pipe welding using the falsified PQ cards. The owner of the piping, and the authority having jurisdiction for the piping were notified of the issue.

An Information Bulletin – Alert (IB14-011) was issued regarding this subject on 28 November 2014. ❖

ALERTS FOR YOUR SAFETY

Alerts are safety warnings issued to the public or a specific group of people involved with pressure equipment. Alerts are commonly issued after 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. Alerts may also be issued to support a manufacturer or third party in their efforts to inform users of a potential concern with a pressure retaining component.

Two alerts were issued by the Administrator in the past 3 months and posted at www.absa.ca:

IB14-011 Welder found with falsified performance qualification cards. Important for employers to exercise due diligence in verifying qualifications.

IB14-013 Potential for fuel gas scrubbers to be isolated from their overpressure protection.

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. This is a free service with 4 categories of information to select. Alerts will be under the category *Information Bulletin*. ❖

PRESSURE PIPING IN WELDING FACILITIES—REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Piping for conveyance of shielding gases (such as Argon, Helium, Carbon Dioxide, and Oxygen) from storage bottles/headers to welding booths may be found at some educational and commercial welding facilities in Alberta. Typically, this piping is of smaller bore (0.5" – 2", Nominal Pipe Size) and operates in the 50-200 psi pressure range. The piping may be of mechanically-assembled or welded construction.

This piping is pressure piping subject to the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR), and therefore would require the following:

- 1) design, design registration and construction in accordance with the PESR;
- 2) construction by a contractor holding the appropriate Certificate of Authorization Permit (CAP); and
- 3) installation of suitable overpressure protection.

Exemption: Section 4 of the PESR provides a partial exemption that may apply for Argon and Carbon Dioxide piping, but **cannot** be used for Oxygen or Helium piping. Pressure piping that meets all of the following conditions must be designed and constructed to the applicable ASME Code and accidents and unsafe conditions must be reported, but is exempt from all other requirements of the PESR:

- a) does not exceed DN 50 (NPS 2),
- b) has a maximum allowable working pressure not exceeding 1035 kPa (150 psi),
- c) has a design temperature between -46C and 186C (-51F and 367F), and
- d) contains water, air, nitrogen, argon, carbon dioxide, steam, hot water or water and glycol.

Contact your ABSA Safety Codes Officer for further information. ❖

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT ABSA

ABSA is currently recruiting to fill the following positions:

1. Design Survey Engineer (Edmonton)
2. Safety Codes Officer - Inspector (Calgary)

For more information please visit the career section of our website at <http://www.absa.ca/ABSA-Info/Career.aspx>.

EXTERNAL TRAINING

In 2014, over 1,000 industry members from across Alberta, Europe, Asia and the USA attended ASBA's informational seminars. ABSA continuously endeavors to improve the understanding of pressure equipment safety in Alberta and to inform the public of changes and updates to legislation and regulations.

ABSA will be presenting two seminars, Repair & Alteration seminar and Pressure Equipment Safety Legislation seminar, at the *2015 International Pressure Equipment Integrity Association (IPEIA) Pre-Conference Training Sessions* (February 16 & 17, 2015) in Banff, AB. We encourage industry members, who would like to attend one of these two seminars, to register early as seating is limited.

Our 2015 external training schedule lists the seminars that are being offered through-out the year and it is available for review on our website at: <http://www.absa.ca/ECprogram/Seminars/TrainingNews.aspx>. ❖

NEW EDITION OF AB-506, INSPECTION & SERVICING REQUIREMENTS

A new edition of AB-506, Inspection & Servicing Requirements for In-Service Pressure Equipment (Edition 2 Rev 0) was issued December 1, 2014 and is now posted on the ABSA website www.absa.ca.

The Administrator has issued information bulletin IB14-012 to establish that integrity assessment and pressure relief valve servicing under the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation must meet the requirements set forth in AB-506 Edition 2

The new edition incorporates improvements identified by industry and ABSA staff and also includes enhancements from current industry recognized engineering practices. Key changes to the document are summarized below:

- AB-506 was re-written to clarify information that may have been unclear to new inspectors and other persons who reviewed the document.
- The interval table and notes were updated to correct the anomalies and changes identified by industry associations, ABSA, and other interested parties.
- A new Appendix (B), "requirements for specific types of equipment", has been added. This defines the application of API alternative inspection rules for upstream equipment. The application of the alternative inspection rules was identified by major upstream owners as a key improvement initiative that should be considered. Accordingly, we held several meetings in Calgary with key affected owners. The revised AB-506 has been reviewed and accepted by these owners. Requirements for other types of equipment, such as commercial propane vessels and natural gas installations, will be included in Appendix B as they are developed.
- The information regarding the application of Risk Based Inspection (RBI) has been updated. Conditions for using RBI, to determine the servicing intervals for pressure relief valves, are established. The method for reporting the status of equipment covered under a RBI program has been changed to address the ongoing reporting issues identified by owners.

We value constructive comments on the AB-506, as well as on other ABSA documents. Should you have any comments, please send them to Antoniuk@absa.ca. ❖

ABSA FEE SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

ABSA is a self-sustaining not-for-profit organization. We recover our costs through revenues generated by fees charged to customers and we place a high importance on ensuring value for cost. Fees are necessary to ensure the operational effectiveness of ABSA and we are committed to giving you our best effort with regard to the effective delivery of pressure equipment safety programs in Alberta.

ABSA is not planning any fee increases for 2015. Our current fee schedule is posted on our website www.absa.ca under the heading ABSA INFORMATION. ❖

UPCOMING CHANGES TO FOURTH CLASS POWER ENGINEERS SYLLABUS

Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee (SOPEEC) and the Association of Chief Inspectors have accepted the recommendation from the Interprovincial Power Engineering Curriculum Committee (IPECC) to update the 4th Class Power Engineering syllabus. This syllabus has been reorganized based on the learning process and will become effective on November 1, 2017. A notice has been posted on ABSA's website to inform stakeholders that this change will require a new examination format. (IPECC represents industry and educators across Canada.)

Key points and dates to remember:

- The complete new syllabus is expected to be published by January 2015;
- There will be a three-year transition period beginning in 2017;
- Power engineering course providers are expected to start offering registration in courses based on the 2017 syllabus by May 2017;
- The new 4th class examinations will be offered commencing November 1, 2017;
- The current 4th class examinations will be offered until October 31, 2020;
- The current 4th class examinations will not be offered after October 31, 2020;
- Examination candidates who enroll in a 4th class power engineering course after November 1, 2017, will only be eligible to write the examinations under the new (2017) Syllabus.

Visit our website www.absa.ca for more information about power engineer examinations. ❖

COMPUTER-BASED EXAMINATIONS FOR POWER ENGINEERS

Over the past 12 months, power engineering examinations written in the province of Alberta have increased by 22%, totaling 10,932 examinations. With the increase in the number of examinations written, it has been difficult for ABSA to maintain a quick turnaround time for providing our clients with their examination results.

Starting in January 2015, ABSA will pilot a program that is designed for the candidate to write their multiple-choice examination paper electronically. The examinations will be conducted at examination facilities under the supervision of an ABSA Safety Codes Officer. Currently, there are multiple-choice examinations at the 5th to 3rd class power engineering level that are being structured in the electronic format. The examination will be designed the same as it is on paper, and the client can return to questions already answered and make changes before they have completed the examination. An electronic clock will monitor their time as they work away in answering the questions that are shown on the screen. Those who challenge their examination electronically will immediately know their results once they have completed the examination. The mark that is given will be unofficial until it has been reviewed and approved by an ABSA Examiner.

Soon, ABSA will be contacting a few individuals who have applied to write a multiple-choice examination paper to see if they are willing to take their examination on a computer. ❖

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