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Previous issues of The Pressure News may contain information which is outdated or no longer valid.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

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT ABSA

Gordon Campbell, ABSA's General Manager, announced his retirement earlier this year. Gordon stepped down from his position as General Manager effective April 30, 2016, and is staying on to assist ABSA with the leadership transition until he retires at the end of October 2016. Gordon joined ABSA as General Manager in August 1998. On behalf of ABSA, the Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge and thank Gordon for his many years of excellent leadership and service.

ABSA's Board of Directors appointed Mike Poehlmann to the General Manager position effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Mike's primary responsibility is to lead ABSA in achieving and exceeding its mandate. He will retain the role and responsibilities of Chief Inspector and Administrator.

Robin Antoniuk has been promoted to the new position of Assistant Chief Inspector with responsibilities for business operations. He will be directly supporting the General Manager by overseeing ABSA's corporate services departments (Information Technology, Finance, and Human Resources). Robin has been with ABSA for 17 years, and had been the Inspections Manager for the past three years.

Mike Prefumo has been promoted to the position of Inspections Manager. Mike has been with ABSA for 10 years and most recently held the position of Northern Region Field Inspector Supervisor.

Sidney Chan has been promoted to the position of Northern Region Field Inspections Supervisor. Sidney has worked for ABSA since 2000 in both Design Survey and Inspection positions.

Larry Bolt has been promoted to the new position of Quality Systems Certification Program (QSCP) Supervisor. Larry has worked with ABSA for over 20 years and has experience in QSCP, Design Survey, and Inspections. ❖

## REVISED SYLLABUS FOR WELDING EXAMINER AND WELDING EXAMINER IN TRAINING

The Safety Codes Council has revised the Reference Syllabus for Welding Examiner and Welding Examiner in Training Certificate of Competency Examination. The revised syllabus is published as ABSA document AB-94, Edition 2. The Administrator has established the effective dates through issuance of Information Bulletin IB16-009.

Examinations under the revised syllabus, AB-94, Edition 2, were available starting May 01, 2016.

A candidate who has passed an examination under the previous syllabus, AB-94, Edition 1, may continue to write examination papers under that syllabus until April 30, 2018. If the candidate does not achieve certification by April 30, 2018, none of the examination results can be transferred to certification under the revised syllabus.

The revised syllabus is available at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca) and more information is provided in the [Notice](#) on ABSA's website. ❖

## ANNUAL CODE UPDATE SEMINAR

ABSA is once again hosting the Annual Code Update Seminar. The seminar will be held in Edmonton on October 7 and in Calgary on October 14.

The Annual Code Update Seminar provides an overview of Code changes. It is intended for designers, quality control inspectors, owner's inspectors, and other users of the Codes. The topics of discussion will include:

- Overview of AB-500 documents (AB-511, AB-521, AB-528, AB-529);
- Overview of the recent ABSA organizational changes;
- Changes in the Design Registration process (AB-530 and AB-531);
- Explanation of revised and new Data Reports (ABSA forms); How to complete a Manufacturer's Data Report; Some of the issues encountered. Registration with the National Board;
- Overview of Pneumatic test requirements;
- Overview of new or revised ABSA Documents and Information Bulletins;
- Upcoming changes in Codes and Standards;
- ASME BPV Code – Errata and Special Notices;
- Open forum discussion.

Check our website [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca) for the final agenda of topics and to access the application form. ❖

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## CHIEF POWER ENGINEER CONFERENCE

The Alberta Chief Power Engineers Education Conference Committee is holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> conference at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre (Calgary Airport) on October 26, 2016.

Chief Power Engineers and Persons in Charge of a plant (e.g. power plant, heating plant or thermal liquid heating system) are invited to attend and can invite one other person to attend. Approved Power Engineering Training Providers (e.g. colleges, institutes who teach power engineering) are also invited to attend.

Topics for this year's conference include:

- Safety Overview
- ABSA Overview - What's New
- What's New with Water Treatment
- The 96 Hour Rule
- Testing Safety Valves
- Greenhouse Gases
- Assistant Shift Engineer
- Management of Change
- New Technology

Please visit [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca) for the registration form, and also for information for those who would like to become a conference sponsor.

ABSA will be presenting a pre-conference seminar, Regulatory Information for Power Engineers, on October 25. Information about the seminar can be found on the ABSA website. ❖

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## BOILER SAFETY HISTORY

The largest Western Canadian gathering of operating century-old steam traction engines, in decades, will be held in conjunction with the Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede on Sunday, July 31. They will attempt to set a world record with 125 threshing machines and over 600 farmers harvesting. Steam traction engines will power some of these threshing machines, just as they were used when settling Western Canada. These traction engine boilers were designed to the Canadian Interprovincial Regulations, a standard which was defined by the very first Chief Inspectors and boiler inspection authorities of Canada and used until ASME was adopted, so represent an important part of Canadian boiler safety history.

Visit [www.harvestinghope.ca](http://www.harvestinghope.ca) for more details. ❖

## TURNING KNOW-HOW INTO KNOWLEDGE

Whether you are new to pressure equipment, or want to expand on your skills and knowledge, ABSA offers training with over 10 courses in specific program areas related to pressure equipment. The knowledge you gain from attending our seminars can be quickly and directly applied to your workplace, delivering results that you can see. We harness the combined experience of our staff to create that genuine advantage for you.

Our seminars do more than help you conform to regulations; they also provide a strong foundation to help make workplaces safer, reduce risk, improve efficiencies and meet your goals.

### Discover the Benefits of ABSA Training

- *Demonstrate due diligence in complying with regulations*
- *Help keep People safe*
- *Help reduce organizational risk*
- *Develop skills and meet career goals*

### Testimonials

*"The Instructors were excellent. Extremely Knowledgeable"*

*"The group discussions throughout the seminar were great"*

*"Very well done, Great to have content experts talk about subject matter.  
Good hand outs and material. Thanks for the info."*

*"Very good seminar, material is very well organized & up to date, presenter was clear, knowledgeable."*

*"All instructors were available for discussion during breaks, before & after the seminar."*

*"This was just as beneficial as the seminar itself, Great job!"*

*"Instructors were friendly and made a good effort to answer all questions. I appreciate that the course stayed on or ahead of schedule."*

Each year 100's of professionals get results from ABSA training, find out how you can too.

For more information, or to book training for your organization, please contact ABSA at (780) 437-9100 or on line at <http://www.absa.ca/seminars/course-listing/> ❖

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## QUALITY PLAN FOR DESIGN SUBMISSIONS

The Quality Plan programs were developed by Alberta pressure vessel manufacturers, owner-users, and ABSA to improve the quality of design submissions and make the design registration process more efficient for industry and ABSA. The objective was to increase registration process efficiency by developing an alternative process that provides a better registration turn-around time than the rush initial review service 10 days or regular initial review service 15 days. With the help of volunteer companies, two pilot projects were initiated to provide data on the alternative design registration process.

The Quality Plan program is a voluntary program, intended for Alberta pressure vessel manufacturers and owner-users that establish a process, for documenting a review of the design documents and compliance with regulatory requirements, as part of a company's Quality Management System. This process is intended to enhance safety by ensuring that the design submission meets the owner's specifications, the construction code and the requirements of the applicable legislation. This process increases the efficiency of the design registration review process and submitters using this process will experience shorter registration turn-around time.

Information bulletin IB16-005 was issued on April 1, 2016 to establish the requirements that must be met by an Alberta pressure vessel manufacturer or owner-user that chooses to develop a Quality Plan process:

- (i) Quality Plan Requirements for an Alberta Certificate of Authorization Permit Holder Pressure Vessel Design Submission (ABSA document AB-530)
- (ii) Quality Plan Requirements for an Alberta Owner-User Pressure Piping Design Submission (ABSA document AB-531)

If you have questions or concerns, or require more information about how to develop the Quality Plan as part of your QMS, you may direct your questions to Vince Barut ([barut@absa.ca](mailto:barut@absa.ca)). ❖

## FINDING THE STATUS OF A CRN

ABSA has developed a directory on our website that will allow users to look up the status of a vessel or fitting Canadian Registration Number (CRN), Alberta Limited Design (ALD), or Special Registration (SR).

The directory tool will provide information on a valid registration. A search by CRN, ALD, or SR will show whether the registration is valid and the search result shows:

- Registration tracking number,
- Manufacturer,
- Registration number,
- The type of equipment registered,
- The registration type,
- Drawing number, and
- Fitting description and expiry (if applicable).

The directory tool can be found on our website in the 'Directories' menu, by selecting "Design Registration (CRN) Directory", or by navigating directly to [www.absa.ca/directories/design-registration-directory/](http://www.absa.ca/directories/design-registration-directory/) ❖

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## 3 COMMON FINDINGS OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT INTEGRITY SYSTEM (PEIM) AUDITS

In 2015, ABSA's auditors performed 86 PEIMS system audits on Owner-User companies operating in the province of Alberta. The results of these audits are generally favourable, and Alberta owner-users have an excellent record of safe operation. However, our auditors see patterns of repeat findings. The following are some of the most common findings from the past year's audits.

### **Finding 1: Lack of documented pressure equipment inspection plans and strategies.**

In 2015, 35% of accidents reported were attributed to unexpected in-service deterioration of pressure equipment; therefore, the importance of proactively determining integrity issues and preventative strategies cannot be stressed enough. It is vital that an effective inspection strategy be developed by knowledgeable personnel, be equipment specific, and take into account inspection and operating history.

### **Finding 2: Operating and maintenance procedures are incomplete, and/ or competency of operators based on these procedures has not been assessed.**

40% of accidents reported over the past two years were caused by system errors in maintenance or operations. Further inquiry indicated that the majority of these were caused by a lack of implementation of formal procedures by operations and maintenance staff.

Correspondingly, a common finding among upstream oil and gas PEIMS audits is a lack of complete, accurate or practical start-up, shut-down, maintenance and/or emergency procedures. Even in systems where these procedures are available, it is common that operators are not formally trained or assessed on these procedures.

### **Finding 3: The Management Of Change (MOC) process is not implemented consistently**

Historically, numerous accidents have occurred as a result of changes for which the impact on pressure safety was not recognized. Even seemingly simple and straightforward changes, if uncontrolled, can lead to increased risk or produce new hazards.

Still, our auditors frequently find that significant construction, operating and process changes have been made without implementation of the Owner-User's MOC process. ❖

## ERRATA AND SPECIAL NOTICES—ASME BPV CODE

In 2011, ASME declared that no addenda would be published in 2012 nor in future years and that a new edition of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code would be published every two years. Errata to the ASME BPV Code may be posted on the ASME website to provide corrections to incorrectly published items or to correct typographical or grammatical errors in a Code. Such Errata shall be used on the date posted. Errata and Special Notices related to the current Code are announced through the ASME website.

For the direct link to Errata, Special Notices and subscription to notifications refer to:

<http://cstools.asme.org/BPVErrataAndSpecialNotice.cfm>

All code users should check the ASME website frequently for Errata and Special Notices that affect them, to update the Code sections accordingly. ❖

## SUMMARY OF ACCIDENT REPORTS—LEARNING FROM THE PAST

ABSA is now providing a Summary of Accidents Reports on the ABSA website – [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca). This is a summary of pressure equipment accidents and incidents that have been reported to, and investigated by, ABSA. This information is provided to make people aware of the general nature of pressure equipment accidents and incidents. The intent is to heighten the awareness so that people work towards eliminating incidents and accidents. This Report will be updated regularly.

To access this Report on the ABSA website:

1. Go to Home Page
2. Top right corner, click “Looking For”
3. Select “Accident Reporting” from list
4. Select “Summary of Accidents Report” on left hand side of website selection list

*Home > Looking For > Accident Reporting > Summary of Accidents Report*

ABSA’s mandate is to administer the Safety Codes Act and regulations and to deliver safety programs, as they relate to pressure equipment. ABSA’s ultimate quality objective is to prevent injury to people, arising from the operation of pressure equipment.

Example :

Date Reported	Injuries	Fatalities	Description	Loss of Containment
2016-02-12	0	0	During operation of a fired treater, a crack developed in the firetube releasing process fluid. The fluid ignited causing a fire.	Yes
2016-02-11	0	0	Accumulation of condensate in an isolated section of steam piping froze and caused the pipe to rupture.	Yes

## HEATING PLANTS OFF-SEASON MAINTENANCE

Now that summer has arrived, heating plant owners need to think about inspection and maintenance in preparation for the next cold weather season. Heating plants are comprised of critical components that need to be inspected regularly. Heating boiler systems should be checked by a competent person or contractor. Some of the components of a heating boiler system are: pressure relief valve, low water fuel cut-off, pressure and temperature switches, burner and burner controls, fresh air intake into the boiler room, circulating pumps and boiler feedwater pumps to name a few. Manufacturer’s recommendations should be followed to ensure reliable and safe operation.

ABSA publishes an Inspection and Servicing Requirements document for In-Service Pressure Equipment (AB-506 available on the ABSA website: [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca)). Also, ABSA has a pamphlet called Safe Operation and Care of Heating Boilers that can be used as a reference. You may obtain a copy of this pamphlet by contacting your local ABSA office or Safety Codes Officer. Other reference documents are ASME Section VI and ASME CSD-1. ❖

## DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY ABSA

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

2016-04-29 – AB-94, Edition 2, Revision 0, *Reference Syllabus for Welding Examiner and Welding Examiner in Training*: Edition 2 was effective May 01, 2016. A candidate may continue under the Edition 1 syllabus until April 30, 2018. There is no transferability from Edition 1 to Edition 2. See more information [here](#).

2016-04-08 – AB-511, Edition 2, Revision 0, *Impact Testing Enigma: A Review of ASME Section VIII, Division 1, Subsection C, Part UCS, Impact Testing Requirements*: This document has been revised to include changes up to and including ASME Section VIII - 2015 Edition, and CSA B51 - 2014 Edition.

2016-04-01 – AB-531 *Quality Plan Requirements for AB-OU PP Design submissions*: This document defines specific features that must be addressed in a quality management system for an owner-user who chooses to implement a quality process to streamline the design registration process for pressure piping.

2016-04-01 – AB-530 *Quality Plan Requirements for PV Design submissions*: This document defines specific features that must be addressed in a quality management system for a manufacturer who chooses to implement a quality process to streamline the design registration process for pressure vessels.

2016-03-10 – AB-54b, Revised Fourth Class Reference Syllabus: This revised syllabus will be effective **November 1, 2017**. ❖

## NEW INFORMATION BULLETINS

The following are the latest Information Bulletins issued by the Administrator. You can view them at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca).

IB16-010 *Variance (VA16-002) to Section 20.1 of the Power Engineers Regulation* – Provides that a certification candidate may use successful completion of a 4<sup>th</sup> Class Examination in lieu of a 5<sup>th</sup> Class Examination to attain a 5<sup>th</sup> Class Certificate of Competency.

IB16-009 *Reference Syllabus for Welding Examiner and Welding Examiner in Training* (AB-94, Edition 2) – Establishes Edition 2 of the syllabus and the effective dates for the use of Edition 2 and of Edition 1.

IB16-008 *Reference Syllabi for Power Engineering Examinations* – Provides a list of all the syllabi for certifications under the Power Engineers Regulation.

IB16-007 *Heating/Cooling Coils in Non-Code Storage Tanks* – Provides guidance to manufacturers fabricating coils for installation in non-Code storage tanks designed and constructed to an API standard.

IB16-006 *Coils in Pressure Vessels* – Provides guidance to manufacturers who install coils in pressure vessels designed and constructed to ASME Section VIII, Division 1 or 2.

IB16-005 *Quality Plan for Design Submissions* – Establishes that ABSA documents AB-530 (Pressure Vessel Design) and AB-531 (Pressure Piping Design) define specific features that must be addressed if a manufacturer or owner-user chooses to implement a Quality Process for submitting designs of pressure vessels or pressure piping.

IB15-008 Rev. 2 *Use of ASME B31.1-2014 and B31.3-2014 in Alberta - PWHT Requirements* – Revision issued to reflect that the 2014 ASME B31 piping codes are now declared in force in the PESR. ❖

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