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



We are pleased to report that ABSA staff had a very safe year. There were no lost time incidents in the past year.

Alberta pressure equipment owners and operators also continued to have an excellent record of safe operation of pressure equipment. There were no major pressure equipment accidents involving fatalities or serious injuries in Alberta this year. This is largely due to the effort of the industry.

We are satisfied that our long term business plan contains the correct tools and strategies to address the challenges of the current business environment, to deliver the pressure equipment safety program in Alberta in a manner that meets the requirements of our delegation, and maintains ABSA's solid reputation as a leader in pressure equipment safety.

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. Thank you Tony Robinson, Bob Emmott, Dale Myggland, Dr. Gordon Nixon, and Mark Demchuk.

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 2016.

April 1st, 2015 was the 20th anniversary of the delegation of the delivery of the pressure equipment safety program to ABSA. We are very proud of our relationship with Government and the industry over the last 20 years and look forward to it continuing in the same positive, supportive and cooperative manner.

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 ❖

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Previous issues of The Pressure News may contain information which is outdated or no longer valid.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

NEW— USER GUIDE FOR THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT EXEMPTION ORDER

ABSA document AB-529 is the Pressure Equipment Exemption Order User Guide (PEEO User Guide). The PEEO User Guide is intended to assist in understanding the use of the exemptions allowed by the PEEO.

The Pressure Equipment Exemption Order (AR 56/2006 with amendments up to and including AR 158/2014) was issued by the Minister of Municipal Affairs to provide users with exemptions from the requirements of the Safety Codes Act and/or pressure equipment regulations where potential hazards were deemed low or where the equipment is under other legislation. It is important to consider that even exempted equipment has the potential to injure or kill or cause property damage. Even if pressure equipment is exempted, it is necessary to apply appropriate standards for design, construction, operation and maintenance to ensure that pressure equipment is not the cause of an accident.

The PEEO User Guide is available at www.absa.ca. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvement, please advise ABSA. ❖

UPDATE ON DESIGN SURVEY IMPROVEMENTS

In the last 12 months, the total submissions received were 9,480 while the number of completions was 11,007. The average initial response time is 11.5 days compared to the average time of 29.7 days a year ago. A year ago, Design Survey had a backlog of over 2,000 designs and procedures. The submission backlog has been eliminated. This was accomplished by increasing the number of Safety Codes Officers surveying designs and also providing a checklist so that submitters could ensure that the required information is included in the initial submission.

Design Survey has been working with owner-users on development of an audit-based review of piping design submissions. A requirements document has been drafted and is in final review. This document should be issued by the end of 2015. An owner-user, who wishes to have their piping design submissions subjected to an audit-based review, must update their quality management system and must satisfy the established requirements.

Design Survey has also been working with manufacturers to develop a design registration program based on audit principles instead of a detailed examination of each design. This program would be applicable to registration of pressure vessel and boiler designs. The intent is to introduce quality assurance at the source of the designs submissions. A requirements document has been drafted and is in final review. This document should be issued by the end of 2015. A manufacturer, who wishes to have their design submissions subjected to an audit-based review, must update their quality management system and must satisfy the established requirements. ❖

FIND THE STATUS OF A SUBMISSION TO ABSA DESIGN SURVEY

ABSA has developed a directory on our website that will allow users to look up the status of a submission to Design Survey. The directory will provide information on active submissions and on submissions that have been closed within the previous 10 days. A search by tracking number will show whether an active submission is queued for review or is on hold or the review has been completed. The identity of the submitter and the results of the review are not made publicly available on the web. The tool can be found on our website in the 'Directories' menu, by selecting 'Design Submission Status Directory', or by navigating directly to <http://www.absa.ca/directories/design-registration-submission-directory/>. ❖

BOB ROSEBERG IS RETIRING

Please join us as we recognize and celebrate the contribution of Bob Roseberg in his retirement as ABSA's Welding Specialist. The retirement reception will take place at the ABSA Edmonton office located at 9410 20th Avenue NW on Thursday February 4, 2016. The reception will begin at 3pm.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP your intentions to Amanda at Klyne@absa.ca. ❖

FUEL GAS PRESSURE PIPING IN PLANTS

Alberta Municipal Affairs, Safety Services has issued an updated [STANDATA, G-03-11-ABSA \[Rev1\]](#), Fuel Gas Pressure Piping in Plants, to clarify the roles of the authorities having jurisdiction. There is a difference in requirements for plants that operate with an Integrity Management System Certificate of Authorization Permit (Owner-User) under PESR Section 11(3) versus plants that are not managed under a Certificate of Authorization Permit.

Gas piping used for fuel purposes is regulated under the *Gas Code Regulation* and is exempt from the *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation*. Gas Safety administers the *Gas Code Regulation* and ABSA administers the *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation* (PESR). In plants, gas piping may supply both process and fuel burning purposes. The portion of the gas piping that conveys fuel gas to fuel burning appliances is regulated by the *Gas Code Regulation*.

The STANDATA establishes that, for Owner-User plants, fuel gas piping for pressure exceeding 15 psi (103 kPa) shall be designed and constructed as pressure piping in accordance with the PESR. Design registration, construction, modification, and repair or alteration must be in compliance with the PESR.

The STANDATA establishes that, for non Owner-User plants, all of the gas piping that conveys fuel gas to fuel burning appliances must be constructed in accordance with the *Gas Code Regulation*.

Refer to STANDATA G-03-11-ABSA [Rev1] for specific details. ❖

ENGINEERED PRESSURE ENCLOSURES

As reported in the June issue, ABSA is working with industry to develop an Engineered Pressure Enclosures (EPE) requirements document that will provide a consistent approach in applying this type of temporary enclosure. An EPE is intended to safely stop leaks in pressure equipment until a permanent repair to the pressure equipment can be scheduled. A draft document was developed considering the input from industry members. Industry comments on the draft document are being reviewed. The plan is to issue this document before the end of 2015 calendar year. ❖

CHIEF POWER ENGINEERS CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESSFUL

The Education & Certification department facilitated the presentation of the first Alberta Chief Power Engineers Education Conference. The conference received an overwhelming response from industry and was attended by 232 industry members. The conference was well received and many industry members would like to see the conference become an annual event. Thank you to the industry organizing committee, the presenters, and the sponsors for a very successful conference. ❖

20TH ANNUAL PRESSURE EQUIPMENT CONFERENCE

The National Pressure Equipment Conference was started some 20 years ago primarily with organization and effort from ABSA & SAIT. Approximately 15 years ago, industry formed the International Pressure Equipment Integrity Association (IPEIA) and took over the management of the annual conference.

IPEIA and the conference continue to be dedicated to improving safety for industry people, the public and the environment through proper management of the integrity of pressure equipment.

All IPEIA committee members are involved strictly on a voluntary basis and put a great deal of time and effort into organizing and managing a conference of which we can all be proud. They do this to promote safety, to involve young people in our industry and to share the knowledge garnered over many years of service.

This coming February marks a milestone for the only annual conference of its kind in North America. This will be the 20th year presenting the conference which runs February 24 – 26, 2016, at the Banff Centre and includes 30 presentations, on topics relating to pressure equipment integrity, by speakers from Canada, the USA and abroad who are specialists in their field. Information on codes, standards, inspection technologies, software, case studies and similar topics will be presented. Presentations are saved on video and archived for later access by IPEIA members. An exhibition, where 80 exhibitors will showcase their integrity related products and services, also runs during the conference.

Delegate registration for the 2016 conference has already opened. More information is available at www.ipeia.com. ❖

NEW INFORMATION BULLETINS

The following are the new Information Bulletins issued by the Administrator. You can view them at www.absa.ca.

- IB15-014 Information Bulletin issued as STANDATA by Alberta Municipal Affairs governing Gas and Pressure Equipment Safety disciplines on 1) Liquefied Petroleum Gas Storage Installations in Residential and Commercial Applications, 2) Fuel Gas Pressure Piping in Plants, and 3) Propane Storage Tanks Designed for 200 psig;
- IB15-013 Fuel Gas Pressure Piping in Plants;
- IB15-012 Servicing of Pressure Relief Valves on Propane Storage Tanks;
- IB15-008 Rev.1 Use of ASME B31.1-2014 and B31.3-2014 in Alberta – PWHT requirements;
- IB15-011 (VA15-011) Variance to the Power Engineers Regulation regarding the kW capacity limit for the holder of a Special Steam-Powered Traction Engine Operator's Certificate of Competency;
- IB15-010 (VA15-010) Variance to Subsection 14.1 of the Pressure Welders Regulation regarding qualifications to take a Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination. ❖

ABSA FEE SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

ABSA is not planning any changes to the fee schedule for 2016. Our current fee schedule is posted on our website www.absa.ca under the heading "Fee Schedule".

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 CALGARY OFFICE TO RELOCATE IN 2016

The Calgary office is moving from the current location to a new location. The name of the new location is Deerfoot Atria and it is located at 6715 – 8th Street NE, about 5 km north of our current location.

The plan is to be in the new space effective March 1, 2016.

The move should take place in February 2016.

The new location allows for growth in the Calgary office as well as provides space that will facilitate design reviews, exam writing and seminar delivery from the Calgary office.

We will keep you posted. ❖

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