

ACCIDENT REPORTING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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Section 59 of the Safety Codes Act states: "If there is an unsafe condition, accident or fire that involves a thing, process or activity to which this Act applies, the owner or person designated in the regulations shall, if required by the regulations, forthwith report it to an Administrator, or to the accredited municipality or accredited regional services commission if the thing, process or activity is under the administration of the accredited municipality or accredited regional services commission."

Detailed provisions for the reporting of an accident involving pressure equipment are in Section 35 of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (AR 49/2006) under the Safety Codes Act as follows:

- (1) *The owner of pressure equipment must forthwith report to the Administrator under section 59 of the Act any unsafe condition, accident or fire that occurs with respect to that pressure equipment.*
- (2) *If an accident involving pressure equipment occurs and the accident results in damage to property or an injury to or death of a person, the owner or person in charge must send a full report in writing to the Administrator as soon as possible after the accident and must specify in the report*
 - (a) *the exact place of the accident,*
 - (b) *the name of any person killed or injured as a result of the accident,*
 - (c) *a description of any damage to the property,*
 - (d) *the cause and particulars of the accident, as far as may be ascertained, and*
 - (e) *any other information that may be required by the Administrator.*
- (3) *If an accident or fire referred to in subsection (1) has occurred, no person shall remove or interfere with any thing in, on or about the place where the accident or fire occurred without the permission of a safety codes officer unless it is necessary to do so to prevent further injury or property damage.*

Accident reporting concerns a number of people with varied involvement with pressure equipment. All parties involved, including other regulatory bodies, must communicate and work collectively to ensure accident reporting is completed as stated in the Act and Regulations. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent similar accidents in the future.

Accidents that require reporting include accidents that involve pressure equipment (boilers, pressure vessels, pressure piping systems, fittings or thermal liquid heating systems) that result in damage to property or injury to, or death of, a person. Other accidents not caused by pressure equipment but having some impact on pressure equipment must also be reported. Always contact an ABSA Safety Codes Officer if unsure whether or not an accident should be reported.

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To report an accident and to inquire as to how this should be done, please call an ABSA office or an ABSA Safety Codes Officer. After hours, particularly for accidents involving deaths or of other serious nature, call the Edmonton switchboard at (780) 437-9100. A message will provide after-hour's phone numbers for contact. For non-critical accidents, you may wish to notify ABSA the next business day.

The ABSA website at www.absa.ca provides valuable information regarding accident reporting including reporting forms, guidelines and contacts as well as other useful information regarding pressure equipment and ABSA programs. ❖

CSA B51-09 CODE EDITION AND ERRATUM

A new edition of the CSA B51, *Boiler, Pressure Vessel, and Pressure Piping Code* has just been released. In the new publication, CSA B51-09, the definition of "Design pressure" erroneously appears under Clause 3 in Part 1 of the Code as "1.25 times the working pressure. Note: The maximum pressure is usually achieved during the fast filling of the cylinder." This definition of design pressure belongs in B51-09, Part 2 "High-pressure cylinders for the on-board storage of natural gas and hydrogen as fuels for automotive vehicles". An Erratum is being published shortly by CSA.

Readers should also remember that under Section 2(2) of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation, "the provisions of CSA B51 prevail over the other codes or standards" when adopted as part of the regulation. ❖

USE OF PRE-2007 EDITION OF ASME SECTION VIII DIVISION 2 CODE

Code Case 2575 allows the construction of pressure vessels to a pre-2007 edition of the ASME Section VIII Division 2 Code (*viz.* the 2004 Edition with Addenda through 2006) but this Code Case will effectively expire on June 30, 2009.

Because of the many significant differences between the 2007 edition of the Code and the earlier editions, a pressure vessel built to a pre-2007 edition of the ASME Section VIII Division 2 Code will more than likely not meet all the requirements of the 2007 edition for certification and vice versa.

With the expiry of the Code Case 2575, for construction of pressure vessels to ASME Section VIII Division 2 which are ordered after June 30, 2009, there are some significant implications. These include the fact that in accordance with ASME, the ASME Code Symbol stamp (U2) can not be applied to pressure vessels contracted for after the expiry of the Code Case. However, since the 2007 edition of Section VIII Division 2 has not been adopted in the *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation*, it will be necessary for a Division 2 vessel, ordered after June 30, 2009 for use in Alberta, to comply fully with the provisions of Information Bulletin [IB09-003](#).

Further details are provided in Information Bulletin IB09-004. For companies which may wish to use the pre-2007 edition of the ASME Section VIII, Division 2 for design and construction of new pressure vessels after July, 2009, enquiry as to the use of the Code and expiry of the Code Case can be sent directly to ASME. ❖

NATIONAL BOARD—78TH GENERAL MEETING

The 78th annual Meeting of the National Board will be held in La Jolla, California in conjunction with the ASME International Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Committee meetings. The theme of this year's conference is "Safety - Consistency Through Communication" and the conference will be held on May 11-15, 2009.

For further information, please visit the "infoLink!" Page on the National Board Web site www.nationalboard.org, or contact the National Board directly at:

Tel (614) 888-8320 or
Fax (614) 888-0750

SCRAPPED VESSELS

Notification is required from pressure vessel owners under Section 36 of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR) on any change to the status of vessels which require a certificate of inspection permit under PESR Section 33. As part of the in-service pressure equipment safety program, ABSA maintains records on the status and location of vessels. On occasion, incorrect information is provided with respect to the status of vessels that are no longer required for service or vessels that are no longer suitable for their intended service.

Please be aware of the following definition when reporting the status of any pressure vessel:

Vessel destroyed: Vessel is removed from pressure service and disposed as scrap material.

Vessel Scrapped: A vessel that is deemed not suitable for pressure service and there is no intent to place it back into pressure service.

Surplus Vessel: A vessel that is in such a condition that it could be returned to pressure service if required.

If ABSA gets notified that a vessel is “destroyed” or “scrapped”, the vessel will not be allowed back into pressure service. It is of utmost importance that whoever sends the notification to the ABSA’s Records Department is very clear as to the intent of the message.

The notification form AB10 has recently been modified to provide better clarification for the benefit of the industry to include additional information on a scrapped vessel. As all current ABSA forms are available on the ABSA website, www.absa.ca, please ensure that the latest forms are used in order that we may process your requests/applications accurately and quickly. ❖

UNFINISHED PROJECTS A HEADS UP ON DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

In the current economic climate, we understand that some projects are being put on hold. As a result, construction of some pressure equipment for these projects is being halted before completion. Other equipment is completed but the equipment is put into storage.

Irrespective of what stage of construction these boilers, pressure vessels or pressure piping systems are in, it is critical that the work-in-progress be fully documented to its current condition and that all records be properly certified and traceable. As well, the equipment, completed or not, must be “laid-up” properly to ensure that there will be no environmental or storage damage. Otherwise, without proper documentation that includes traceable and certified records, and if the “as-new” condition can not be established at a later date, equipment so affected will essentially be junk and the projects can not be picked up where they left off!

Just recently, there was a case involving a pressure vessel without the proper documentation and proof of Authorized Inspector sign-offs from when construction was completed a few years ago. This led to considerable expense and time delays resulting in the vessel’s being scrapped at the end since traceable records were not available and additional testing to prove full Code compliance would have been too costly both in time and in money. ❖

POWER ENGINEERS REGULATION REVIEW

The Alberta Ministry of Municipal Affairs (AMA) has established a committee to review and recommend changes to the Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003). AMA has posted a request for input for stakeholders by April 30, 2009. The committee has been reviewing the Regulation and has also met to hear input from several stakeholder groups. The committee will be reviewing the stakeholder input prior to making their recommendations.

ABSA has posted a link to AMA’s notice and request for input under Current at www.absa.ca. The request for feedback from AMA’s notice states: “We would request your feedback by **April 30, 2009** to safety.services@gov.ab.ca. For your reply, please refer to the section in the current regulation, identify the issue or benefit and propose any ideas or solutions you have.” ❖

LABOUR MOBILITY AGREEMENTS

The Trade, Investment and labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between Alberta and British Columbia and the mobility provisions of the national Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) are in effect on April 1, 2009. These agreements establish that any worker certified for an occupation by the regulatory authority in one Canadian jurisdiction shall be recognized as qualified to practice that occupation by another Canadian jurisdiction.

In the pressure equipment discipline, these agreements apply to power engineers and pressure welders. Alberta is in the process of amending the Pressure Welders Regulation to allow the Administrator to recognize pressure welders from other Canadian jurisdictions. ABSA is working to ensure that the policies for recognition of pressure welders and power engineers comply with the labour mobility agreements.

A candidate wanting to obtain certification in Alberta would apply to ABSA and provide evidence of valid certification from their home province or territory as well as the prescribed fee. An equivalent Alberta certification may be provided after verification of the credentials. Further information on the process is available at www.absa.ca. ❖

FACTS ABOUT SMALL BOILER OPERATION

The following real life questions and answers will provide quick guidelines to facility owners, contractors, engineers, plumbers, operators and boiler rental companies with respect to the requirements of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR) and Power Engineers Regulation (PER) relative to smaller boilers and heating plants. Please contact your area Safety Codes Officer (SCO) if further information is required.

Q1 I have installed five Cast Iron Sectional (CIS) hot water boilers in my new facility. The boilers are not steam producers. Would the boilers require initial inspection and registration prior to start-up?

A1 Yes, contact your area SCO for initial inspection and information on what is required for registration. A certificate of inspection permit will be issued for each boiler inspected. Note: A boiler that has a volume not exceeding 42.5 litres (1.5 ft³) is exempt from initial inspection (See Section 33(2)(a) of PESR)

Q2 The facility mentioned in Q1 is a heating plant with a total heating surface of 163 square meters (1760 square feet). What level of Power Engineer Certificate is required to operate the facility?

A2 A minimum of a 5th Class Power Engineer or Building Operator "B" (See Section 4(2) and Table 4 of PER). Table 4 of PER provides for heating plants from 750 KW to 3000 KW to be operated under the general supervision of a 5th Class Power Engineer or a Building Operator "B" certificate holder. Note, Section 29(1) (a) of the PER provides the conversion of 1 square meter of boiler heating surface = 10 KW.

Q3 What level of supervision is required for the above Facility? (Q2)

A3 General Supervision rules with a minimum of two checks per day, no less than 7 hours apart. (See Section 4 (3)(b)(c) of PER). There is provision to suspend the General Supervision for up to 96 hours when the facility is unoccupied (See Section 4(4) of PER).

Q4 The pressure relief valves (PRV) on the boilers in the heating plant are being replaced every two years. Do we still need to do the manual test of the PRV monthly?

A4 Yes, in order to ensure the operational integrity of the PRV (Also see Note A of Table 1 on PRV servicing interval in ABSA Document AB-506, "Inspection and Servicing Requirements for Pressure Equipment")

Q5 What is the minimum level of certification required to operate a dry cleaner boiler?

A5 A Special Boiler Operator (SBO) Certificate of Competency (See Section 2(5) of PER.

Q6 I am taking over a dry cleaning business within a week and I do not hold a SBO certification. What are my options for operating the boiler in compliance with legislation?

A6 The boiler must be operated by the holder of a Special Boiler Operator Certificate of Competency. You can contact ABSA and make a request for temporary certification. An ABSA safety codes officer may visit your facility and administer an oral examination to determine if you have the knowledge to safely operate the boiler. If you satisfy the officer about your knowledge of safe boiler operation, you may be granted a

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temporary SBO certificate for up to six months. This temporary certificate will allow you to operate the boiler and provide time to prepare to challenge the written examination which you must pass to receive a standard SBO certificate.

Q7 *How do I obtain a standard SBO certificate?*

A7 You will receive a standard SBO certificate after passing the written SBO examination following application to ABSA's Education and Certification Department. Your application should be submitted a minimum of 21 days prior to the examination date.

Q8 What is the passing mark for a SBO certification examination?

A8 65%. The SBO exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. ❖

NEW - SCHEDULING EXAMINATIONS ONLINE

ABSA has added to the internet access to allow power engineers candidates to schedule their examinations on line.

In order to be able to schedule through the internet access, you must have submitted an application with the required documentation and been approved to write the examination papers. You must select both your preferred date and location for the examination papers that you are requesting to write. When your request has been reviewed against the available seating and you have been scheduled for the sitting, you will receive an email advising that your examination has been scheduled. You will be able to print the examination notice from your file – you will not receive a copy in the mail.

ABSA has developed an internet website that allows power engineers and in-service inspectors to access their information that is securely stored with ABSA. This includes being able to view exam results as soon as they are posted, view examinations scheduled, renew power engineering certificates and, now, scheduling examinations. **Note** that if a candidate has activated his/her file access, ABSA will no longer be mailing an examination result letter or a examination schedule notification letter. The candidate is able to view this information in their file and print the letter.

Information regarding obtaining internet access is available at www.absa.ca/PowerEngineer.aspx. ❖

FUTURE OF ABSA'S EXTERNAL TRAINING

ABSA believes that there would be a benefit to pressure equipment safety in Alberta as well as to our stakeholders in our providing more training opportunities. ABSA is planning to have a full time person to manage the external training effort and ensure that we meet the needs.

We are also planning to establish an advisory committee to help with defining and focusing ABSA's training effort, and will be looking for industry representatives. Please watch www.absa.ca for further information. ❖

SPECIAL BOILER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

The Special Boiler Operator (SBO) Syllabus has been revised and posted at www.absa.ca. The syllabus reflects the appropriate skills and knowledge required to operate small power plants (boilers) up to a capacity of 250 kilowatts (typically found at dry cleaners). The examination question bank is being reviewed to ensure that the questions are in line with the syllabus. Candidates for SBO certification should use the syllabus to understand the expectations for the examination. A minimum of a Special Boiler Operator Certificate of Competency is required in order to operate a power plant with a capacity not exceeding 250 kW. ❖

SUSPENDING GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A HEATING PLANT

Section 4(4) of the Power Engineers Regulation provides for suspension of General Supervision of a heating plant by the owner for a period not exceeding 96 consecutive hours if

- (a) the period is only on weekends or statutory holidays,
- (b) the heating plant is in good working order, and
- (c) the buildings served by the heating plant are unoccupied.

There is some confusion about the meaning of "unoccupied" when determining General Supervision requirements for a Heating Plant.

Information Bulletin No. IB05-007 is an interpretation that applies to Sections 4(3)(b) and 4(4) of the Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003) stating that:

- (1) *A building served by a heating plant is considered occupied if a person is present in the building for more than one (1) hour. General Supervision may therefore be suspended for any weekend day or statutory holiday if the building is not occupied for more than one hour on that day.*
- (2) *When a building served by the heating plant is occupied for more than one hour on weekends and Holidays, but not more than seven hours per day, General Supervision may be modified to a minimum of one check per day provided that:*
 - *the check is done not more than one hour before the occupancy period commences, and*
 - *the occupied period does not exceed seven (7) hours from the time the check is performed.*
- (3) *When a building served by the heating plant is occupied for more than seven hours per day on a weekend or holiday, General Supervision must consist of two checks per day at least 7 hours apart.*

A heating plant requires the General Supervision of a certified power engineer if the capacity of the plant exceeds 750 kW and its volume is greater than 0.085 m³. Section 29 of the Power Engineer' Regulation AR 85/2003 provides information on calculating boiler rating (capacity).

If more than one heating boiler is in the plant, the heating boiler capacities should be added together to calculate heating plant capacity. Do not add heating boiler capacity with power boiler capacity.

Heating boilers that are in close proximity, where the failure of one boiler could affect the other, are considered to be one plant when calculating capacity for supervision requirements.

The occupancy of a building can change on a daily basis. The Power Engineer in charge and the Owner need to determine when the building will be occupied and must not suspend General Supervision requirements unless it is appropriate to do so. Security and janitorial staff as well as any other building maintenance activities outside of normal hours must be considered when assessing whether a building is occupied or unoccupied.

The Power Engineers Regulation AR 85/2003 and Information Bulletin No. IB05-007 can be accessed at www.absa.ca. ❖

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