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Previous issues of The Pressure News may contain information which is outdated or no longer valid.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

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NEAR MISS - NO SAFETY VALVE

An ABSA Safety Codes Officer found a high pressure steam firetube boiler in operation without any safety valves. The safety valves had been removed and the openings were capped off. The Safety Codes Officer instructed that the boiler be shut down and then chained and locked the gas valve in the closed position. ABSA is reviewing this incident for further action including possible prosecution of the company and the operator involved.

It is of utmost importance to ensure that pressure equipment is protected against overpressure and that the overpressure protection is in good working order. The potential consequences of operating without overpressure protection could be disastrous. ❖



Photo courtesy of The National Board

DR. LAU HONOURED WITH THE NATIONAL BOARD SAFETY MEDAL AWARD

Dr. K. T. (Ken) Lau was presented with the prestigious National Board Safety Medal Award by Executive Director David Douin at the annual general meeting of the National Board on May 11th, 2009. Ken is the 21st recipient of the Safety Medal in the 90-year history of the National Board.

The award is *"in recognition of an outstanding contribution in the field of boiler and pressure vessel safety by developing and promoting codes and standards for the safe construction, installation and repair of boilers and pressure vessels, and having done so with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism"*.

Dr. Lau is ABSA's Chief Inspector and the Province of Alberta's Administrator of pressure equipment safety. He is no stranger to prestigious awards of recognition. In 2004 he received a Canadian Standards Association Award of Merit and in 2005 was named a Fellow of the ASME.

Please join me in thanking Ken for his contribution and congratulating him on this well-deserved award. ❖

BRUCE McWHIRTER PRESENTED WITH THE CSA AWARD OF MERIT

On June 14th, 2009, Julia Hill, Chair of the Board, Canadian Standards Association, presented Bruce McWhirter with a 2009 Award of Merit at an awards ceremony in conjunction with the 2009 CSA Annual Conference in Gatineau, Québec.

The award is *“in recognition of 20 years of support, technical expertise and outstanding leadership in standards for the pressure vessel and boiler industry.”*

With over 40 years of experience in the pressure vessel and boiler industry, Bruce McWhirter's contribution to standards development has been both vast and invaluable. He has been involved in many CSA standards for pressure equipment, most particularly the B51 standard for Boilers, Pressure Vessels and Pressure Piping Systems, where he has chaired several subcommittees and been instrumental in effecting many positive changes.

Bruce is currently Resident Engineer at ABSA where his knowledge and experience are highly valued by both the organization and industry.

Please join me in congratulating Bruce for this well-deserved award. ❖



Photo courtesy of CSA.

DEADLINE FOR WRITING THE OLD SECOND CLASS POWER ENGINEERING EXAMINATION IS APPROACHING

The revised Second Class Power Engineering Examination Syllabus was implemented on January 1, 2005. To assist with the implementation, both the “Old” and “Revised” Second Class examinations were concurrently available for a period of 5 years. After **December 31, 2009**, the “Old” Second Class Syllabus will be removed. Examination candidates, who fail to earn their certificate, must start all over with the revised Second Class Syllabus.

In March 2008, based on information available on our database, over five hundred letters were sent out to candidates who had passed at least one paper under the Old 2nd Class syllabus specifically noting the deadline and detailing the consequence of not meeting the deadline.

A recent review of our database indicated that slightly less than 500 candidates have passed at least one paper under the Old syllabus. At this time, with seven examination sittings available before the year-end deadline, candidates who need to pass three or fewer papers may be able to meet the deadline and obtain the certification. This accounts for about 33% of the 500 candidates. The majority of the candidates may not be able to meet the deadline and will have to start all over again under the Revised syllabus.

“Old” Second Class examination candidates are urged to review their circumstances carefully with respect to their ability to complete that certification by December 31, 2009. ❖

ANNUAL CODE UPDATE SEMINAR

The Annual Update Seminar provides an overview of the effects of the Code changes on Designers, Quality Control Inspectors, and other users of the Codes.

This is a one-day seminar and this year's scheduled dates are October 13th in Nisku and October 15th in Calgary.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Formaniuk at 780-437-9100 Ext 3325 or visit www.absa.ca.

AB-518 PRESSURE PIPING CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

The Administrator for pressure equipment safety has issued the *Pressure Piping Construction Requirements* document (AB-518) to specify pressure piping construction requirements under the Safety Codes Act. This document reaffirms and updates existing policy and practice for pressure piping construction and provides information to assist owners in developing a practical and effective quality management system (QMS). A copy of the AB-518 document may be downloaded from ABSA's website at www.absa.ca (search for "AB-518"). The requirements are intended to foster enhanced effectiveness of the manufacturer's QMS by proposing a structured system and including provisions such as training and self assessment.

Compliance with the AB-518 will be mandatory January 1, 2010. Pressure piping QMS certification audits to verify compliance to the AB-518 document will be phased in as described below:

Organizations currently holding a certificate of authorization permit for pressure piping construction:

Organizations whose certificate expires on or after January 1, 2010, are required to update their QMS manual to conform to the AB-518 requirements, and submit a copy of their revised manual and Application Form AB-29 along with a completed AB-518b Manual Review Checklist to ABSA prior to the expiry of their certificate.

Organizations, whose certificate expires prior to January 1, 2010, are required to submit a completed AB-518b Manual Review Checklist along with the Application Form AB-29 prior to the next expiry date of their certificate (an expiry date that falls after January 1, 2010). It is not mandatory for these companies to revise their QMS to conform to the new requirements prior to January 1, 2010. However, these organizations are encouraged to review the AB-518 and take the opportunity to revise their QMS now. Conformance to AB-518 will be mandatory at the next certification.

Organizations applying for the first time for a certificate of authorization permit for pressure piping construction:

Organizations applying for first time certification on or after January 1, 2010, will be required to develop and submit a QMS manual that conforms to the AB-518 requirements and submit a completed AB-518b Manual Review Checklist along with their application.

Organizations applying for first time certification before January 1, 2010, are encouraged to follow the AB-518 requirements now.

Owners of pressure equipment who have registered their pressure equipment integrity management (PEIM) system with ABSA are asked to review their PEIM system documentation and ensure that any requirements which are in addition to the AB-512 O/U Integrity Management Requirements document, are addressed. These Owners are not required to complete an AB-518b Manual Review Checklist. Compliance to the AB-518 document will need to be validated at the time of the next PEIM QMS renewal audit.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Satwant Rakhra at 780-433-0281, ext. 3366, or at rakhra@absa.ca or your area Safety Codes Officer. ❖

AB-506 INSPECTION AND SERVICING REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-SERVICE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT

AB- 506 Rev 6 was issued on 2009-05-29 and is posted on the ABSA website (www.absa.ca).

This document was first issued in 2000, and has been extensively revised to include key requirements of the *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation* (PESR) and to reflect current business practices. Provision is made for owner-users who have the appropriate organizational structure, in-house resources, and processes, to manage programs using practices such as risk-based engineering assessment to establish inspection strategies for their equipment. The revised AB-506 also incorporates applicable information that was previously covered in the AB-514 *In-service Inspection Requirements* document and provides additional information to assist owners in ensuring the safe operation of their pressure equipment. AB-514 has been withdrawn.

The American Petroleum Institute (API) standards and recommended practices and the National Board Inspection Code (NBIC) are recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices for in-service pressure equipment inspection. Relevant information from these documents and other reference publications has therefore been considered in preparing AB-506. The NB and API publications are not adopted directly in regulation. The application of these standards is established through their reference in AB-506 and other policy documents that are issued by the Administrator.

This document was developed in close cooperation with owners and other stakeholders and their input has been invaluable. A second part of this article giving details of the supporting documents and industrial organizations contributed to program development will be published in the September 2009 issue of The Pressure News. ❖

LABOUR MOBILITY AGREEMENTS IMPLICATIONS FOR POWER ENGINEER AND PRESSURE WELDER CERTIFICATIONS

The Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) and the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) 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 if the other jurisdiction has a similar certification requirement.

Prior to April 1, 2009, Alberta has recognized power engineering certificates at par if they were based on passing the standardized (SOPEEC - see www.sopec.org) examinations. All other certificates were recognized at a lower level. Under the mobility agreements, Alberta will be recognizing the power engineering certificates based on the same scope of practice specified by the jurisdiction issuing the original certificate and not on equivalent examinations.

Irrespective of TILMA and AIT and the power engineering certificates, employers are reminded that, under Alberta legislation, the owner (employer) is held responsible to ensure that the person operating pressure equipment is competent.

Alberta has amended the Pressure Welders Regulation to allow the Administrator to recognize pressure welders from other Canadian jurisdictions and to introduce a new temporary pressure welders certificate. If a pressure welder certification is equivalent to an Alberta Grade B Pressure Welder certification as defined in the reciprocal welder recognition agreements, the welder can apply for a permanent Grade B Certificate without test. Other pressure welders can apply, without test, for a temporary certificate valid for two years and will be required to test for a Grade B certificate before the expiry of the temporary certificate. Note that the temporary certificate will be limited to the performance qualification and the expiry date of the valid certificate from their home jurisdiction.

A candidate wanting to obtain certification in Alberta must apply to ABSA and provide evidence of valid certification from their home province or territory and pay 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. ❖

NATIONAL 4TH CLASS POWER ENGINEERING STUDENT AWARD

During the annual meeting of the Interprovincial Power Engineering Curriculum Committee (IPECC) in May of this year, an Alberta student was recognized for achieving second place in the national 4th Class power engineering student award from PanGlobal Training Systems Ltd. The top 4th Class Power Engineering student award went to Mr. Michael Small, from the Corner Brook Campus of the College of the North Atlantic in Newfoundland. The IPECC meeting was held in Montreal in conjunction with the Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee (SOPEEC) meeting.

Mr. Ross Prins, from NAIT Fairview Campus, achieved second place with a combined average of 4th Class program marks and SOPEEC 4th Class examination marks over 90% for the school year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

This was the third time in the last four years that an Alberta student obtained an award. In 2008, the top student award went to Mr. Dave Whittemore from NAIT Fairview Campus. In 2006, the top student award went to Ms Sholeh Kazemi, from Keyano College in Fort McMurray. It is good to see that Alberta power engineering students continue to achieve excellence. ❖

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