

# ABSA THE PRESSURE NEWS

Alberta Boilers Safety Association

Volume 1, Issue 1, January 1996



John Verwey, CEO

on the challenge of a Delegated Administrative Organization (DAO).

## INTRODUCING - ABSA

In our first issue of ABSA's Pressure News, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the changes that have taken place since the Alberta Boilers Safety Association took

and record keeping for all previous equipment, as well as the 70,000 plus registered vessels operating in the Province of Alberta today, require a substantial data base. ABSA with the assistance of the Department of Labour is establishing a new data base called "SCOPE" in a Windows environment. Considerable effort and time has been expended by a large number of our employees in developing this new system.

ABSA has been established as a non-profit association under the Government Organization Act and will fund itself through fees it collects for services it provides. The function of ABSA is to administer and deliver the pressure equipment safety programs as defined in the Delegation Agreement. Establishing and changing regulations as well as fee schedules will remain the responsibility of the Alberta Government.

Most of our offices will be relocated to new facilities and we plan to move our Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer offices during the month of February, 1996. This move will see Edmonton office move to the south side and Calgary to a northeast location. These offices will be more proximate to our customers' facilities and will provide easier access for all clients.

Our staff are primarily employees who worked for the Alberta Boiler & Pressure Vessel Safety (ABPVS). Some employees were eligible for early retirement and elected not to join ABSA. We have been able to recruit and fill these vacancies with highly skilled and professional people from industry.

As we finish the physical changes of our transition we have started to look inwards to programs and services we provide. ABSA will provide the same programs and services previously offered by ABPVS; however, the delivery will be different. We have started our review by examining the 1993 task force reports and have developed a Mission and Vision Statement which reflects how ABSA intends to carry out its business in the future.

During the last 12 months, we have been transforming and have set in place those things which are needed to run an association with 65 employees. Allan McCallister joined ABSA last April as Chief Financial Officer after a dedicated career with the United Way. New computer systems have been set up to take care of our invoicing and payments for payroll and all expenses. New benefit programs have been negotiated with financial institutions, and our policy and procedure manuals as well as bylaws have been produced.

Under the previous administration of the ABPVS, delivery of the programs and services were constrained due to

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Registration records for boilers and pressure vessels go back a long time



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\*\* These offices will be relocated in early February 1996.

### ABSA's VISION

To provide leadership in pressure equipment safety through professionalism and our commitment to excellence in service in cooperation with our stakeholders.

This Newsletter is a publication of Alberta Boilers Safety Association (ABSA). ABSA grants readers permission to make photocopies of this Newsletter for non-profit distribution to employees and business associates.

### **ABSA's MISSION**

**As the regulatory organization, delegated by the Province of Alberta, ABSA provides highly effective and efficient pressure equipment safety services in a consistent and timely manner at a reasonable cost, recognizing the interest of Albertans, the needs of our customers and the contributions of our employees.**

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overall budget restraints and cut-backs. In DAO these constraints have been removed. ABSA staff is committed to longer working hours, overtime if needed and justified, improving their skill through training and a willingness to look at ways of reducing costs and improving efficiency without sacrificing effectiveness and overall program delivery.

As you can see, a lot of changes have happened and many more will be coming in the next few years. I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to be part of these changes and to be working with a highly dedicated and committed staff. Four senior managers have joined us from ABPVS: Bruce McWhirter, Design Survey Manager, Ed Yaremichuk, Southern Regional Manager and Bernie Hurst, Northern Regional Manager and Dr. Ken Lau who is our Chief Inspector. Ken has taken on additional duties as Administrator appointed by the Minister of Labour and provides us with the delegated authority to carry out all of the jurisdictional duties under the Safety Codes Act.

We will keep you informed of the changes in our bi-monthly newsletter as they develop. I would encourage you to contact me with any comments you may have. As we start our first full year as a separate industry supported organization we look forward to working with you to help meet your needs and protect the interests and safety of all Albertans.

John Verwey, CEO

## **ABSA HOSTS CHINESE DELEGATION**

### **Visitors from China**

Hon. J. Zhu, Executive Vice Minister of Ministry of Labour (MOL), People's Republic of China conducted an official two-day visit to Alberta at the beginning of last December. Hon. Zhu was accompanied by Mr. H. Wang, Executive Director of the Centre of Boilers and Pressure Vessels Research and Inspection (CBPVI) and Mr. Y. Bo, Minister, Labour Department, Shanxi Province, as well as other senior officials from MOL and CBPVI.

Because of the significant amount of trade in pressure equipment, an inspection agreement was signed November 11, 1993 by Hon. Zhu on behalf of China and Premier Klein, who was visiting China at that time. The agreement provides for reciprocal acceptance of inspection by CBPVI and ABSA allowing both jurisdictions to reduce duplication of inspection services, improve the quality of pressure equipment, avoid misunderstandings of inspection requirements and enhance technology exchange and economic ties between China and Alberta.

Hon. Zhu met with the Lieutenant Governor, the House Speaker and Hon. S. Day, Minister of Labour, during the official visit. ABSA, in partnership with Alberta Labour, hosted the delegation for one day. A

meeting with representatives of the boiler and pressure vessel industry or associations involved in manufacturing, import/export and instrumentation was arranged on December 5, 1995.

### **News on China's Import Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Quality Licensing System**

During the industry meeting, Mr. Wang clarified Chinese import/export technical and administrative requirements. In particular, it was pointed out that on September 6, 1995, the "Ministry of Labour and State Administration of Import and Export Commodity Inspection of China jointly promulgated a notification" in which manufacturers or their representative agencies must obtain a "safety quality licensing certificate" to export to China. We were advised that "CBPVI is responsible for performing the specific review and assessment work" of the approval process and subsequent audits. We are in discussion with CBPVI to review whether ABSA's manufacturers' authorization certification and audits may be accepted in place of CBPVI's review, assessment and audits. For further information on China's new licensing system, please contact ABSA Edmonton office.



Exchange of gifts between Mr. A. Fletcher, Chair of ABSA Board of Directors and Mr. Wang, with Hon. Zhu, Vice-Minister of Ministry of Labour, PR China, looking on.

## SCO EXAMINATIONS

On behalf of the Safety Codes Council, ABSA is pleased to announce that starting February 1996, it will start conducting Safety Codes Officer (SCO) Levels III and II examinations. Information Bulletin #9 issued by the Safety Codes Council provides for further information of the Certification Requirements for Safety Codes Officers.

### 1996 Examination Schedule For SCO Levels III & II

#### Calgary and Edmonton

February 19 & 20

May 7 & 8

September 4 & 5

December 4 & 5

#### Grande Prairie

May 7 & 8

September 4 & 5

December 4 & 5

#### Medicine Hat

May 7 & 8

September 4 & 5

#### Lethbridge

December 4 & 5

For general information regarding safety codes officers, please call Safety Codes Council at (403)427-8523.

For information regarding the examination schedule and applications, please call ABSA, Examination Section at (403)427-6859.

## POWER ENGINEERING

### Multiple Choice Examination Questions

In line with recommendations and resolutions of the Alberta Power Engineering Curriculum Committee (APECC), the Interprovincial Power Engineering Curriculum Committee (IPECC), the Standardization of Power Engineers Examination Committee (SOPEEC), all fourth class power engineer examination papers now consist of multiple choice questions only. Also, since November, 1995, for the third class power engineer examinations, three of the four examination papers now comprise multiple choice questions only. The remaining third class power engineer examination paper will continue to be made up of subjective (essay) type questions.

### Ontario joining SOPEEC

Ontario has formally applied and been accepted as a Standardization of Power Engineers' Examination Committee (SOPEEC) jurisdiction. It is hoped that Quebec will follow suite making the system truly national with reciprocal acceptance throughout Canada. It is expected that the integration of Ontario into the interprovincial system will be completed by early 1997. In the meantime, candidates wishing to challenge the SOPEEC 4th class examination will be able to do so in Ontario early next spring.

## REPORTING OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL OWNERSHIP CHANGES

Recently we mailed out an inventory listing to all owners of boilers and pressure vessels. This list comprises of the boilers and pressure vessels that we currently show as being subject to annual fees, either **in service or out of service** and still belonging to you. If there are any discrepancies, this will provide you with the opportunity to update our records prior to the 1996 annual fee billing which will occur on April 1st, 1996.

The information we require, in accordance with Section 5(4) of the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Regulation, is as follows:

(a) *the names and addresses of all parties to the transaction,*

(b) *the effective date of the transaction,*

(c) *the proposed new location of the boiler or pressure vessel, if any, and*

(d) *the Alberta identification number assigned by a Safety Codes Officer in respect of the boiler or pressure vessel.*

This will enable us to ensure that the Annual Vessel Registration invoices will be as accurate as possible. Should you require further information, please contact Records Section at Telephone 427-6859/Fax 422-2914.

## NEWS ON CODES

CSA standards Z193-M90 "Oil Pipeline Systems", Z184-M92 "Gas Pipeline Systems" and Z187-M87 "Offshore Pipelines" had been superseded by CSA Z662 "Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems" standard published late 1994. CSA B51-95 "Boiler, Pressure Vessel, and Pressure Piping Code" and CSA B52-95 "Mechanical Refrigeration Code" were both published January 1995. The 1995 ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (B&PVC) was released July 1, 1995 and is mandatory for ASME code stamped equipment as of January 1, 1996. CSA B51-91, CSA B52-92, CSA Z184-92 and ASME B&PVC are codes and standards adopted under Section 5(1) of the "Design, Construction and Installation of Boilers and Pressure Vessels Regulations". The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Technical Council has given approval for the adoption of the new code and code editions pertinent to pressure equipment safety activities under the Safety Codes Act.

The new edition of the National Board Inspection Code (ANSI/NB-23) was published on July 31, 1995. This Code establishes rules for inspection and repairs to boilers and pressure vessels and provides guidance to jurisdictions, equipment owners/users and organizations involved in inspection, repair and alteration of pressure equipment. While ANSI/NB-23 has not been adopted directly but through reference, it is a requirement that all organizations in Alberta involved in the repair of boilers or pressure vessels, service inspection, and those with an Owner User Inspection Program shall have a current copy of this Code.

Readers are reminded that in the case of codes and standards, should there be a different or lesser requirement from or a direct or implied conflict with jurisdictional requirements, the jurisdictional requirements shall govern (see Introduction of NBIC, Preface of CSA Codes and Standards and Forward of ASME B&PVC).

**ACCREDITED CORPORATION  
(and Owner User Program)**

Safety Codes Council Information Bulletins (IB) No. 2 and No. 4 identify information that must be contained in the Quality Management Plans (QMPs) of organizations applying for Accredited Corporation status under the Safety Codes Act. IB #2 defines general requirements that apply to all disciplines and IB #4 contains discipline-specific requirements.

For Pressure Equipment, the Safety Codes Council's Policy, as established in IB #4, is that an organization must have a valid Owner User Program Certificate of Authorization issued by ABSA, before it can be considered for Accreditation. This was mandated by the Boiler Technical Council who recognized that, unlike other disciplines, legislation developed in conjunction with and fully supported by industry was already in place under Owner User Program requirements.

The decision as to whether or not to apply for accreditation as a Corporation, of course, rests with the owner but is not required under current legislation, since acceptance of client inspections is provided for under Section 32(2) of the Design, Construction and Installation of Boilers & Pressure Vessels Regulations.

Technical requirements, scope, and responsibilities, are essentially the same for owners who are accredited as Accredited Corporations and those

who operate only under an ABSA Owner User Certificate of Authorization.

Accredited Corporation	Owner User Program
<p>Application to Safety Codes Council</p> <p>Legislation - Safety Codes Act</p> <p>QMP - must meet IB #2 &amp; #4. Must have Owner User Program. No need to include technical details in the QMP.</p> <p>Must have Safety Codes Officer(s). May be contracted to Accredited Agency who must work under Corporation's QMP.</p> <p>Audit by ABSA on behalf of Safety Codes Council when owner user program is assessed.</p> <p>Certificate issued by Council. No expiry, but subject to renewal of Owner User Program</p> <p>Authorization limited to that in Owner User and as defined in Scope section of QMP.</p>	<p>Application to ABSA</p> <p>Legislation - Regulations under Safety Codes Act</p> <p>Manual must meet ABSA Guidelines (these were developed in conjunction with industry).</p> <p>Must have Chief Inspector and Inspector who meets qualifications &amp; experience in ABSA Sample Manual. Contract Chief Inspector and Inspectors may be used, but Senior Management must appoint a staff person with sufficient authority and responsibility for the Owner User Program.</p> <p>Audit of Program by ABSA - Mandatory prior to issuance of Certificate (Audit every 3 years and with annual audits).</p> <p>Certificate issued by ABSA. Expires after three (3) years.</p> <p>Authorization limited to inservice inspection and repairs as defined in Owner User Manual.</p>

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