

ABSA THE PRESSURE NEWS

Alberta Boilers Safety Association

Volume 1, Issue 2, March 1996

Message from - ABSA's CEO

In our last issue of ABSA's newsletter I discussed some of the changes that had taken place in the last 12 months. In this issue I am pleased to inform you of the moves of our Edmonton head office and the Calgary and Red Deer offices. Our staff have worked hard on these relocations and other related items and we will soon be grounded in our new facilities which will then allow us to start the process of reviewing our programs. We apologise for any delays in service that may have occurred during these moves.

In this issue, we are featuring our managers and provide you with their profiles, backgrounds and areas of responsibility. I would encourage you to contact any of these persons for help or assistance. Also in this publication you will find some information on our internet communication line. This service has been coordinated by Alan Kenyon and Allan McCallister, two ABSA employees who are keenly interested in this area. You will also find articles on Power Engineer annual registration, welding testing and initial inspections on new equipment.

I hope you will find this issue of interest and I would encourage you to write to us with your suggestions for future articles or topics. Finally, I would like to invite you to our Edmonton Head office open house planned for May 8th, so that you may have an opportunity to not only view our premises but more importantly, meet some of us face to face.

John Verwey, CEO

This issue is being mailed with the approximately 7000 invoices for annual equipment registration. If this is the first time you have seen this newsletter and you would like to continue receiving a copy in the future, we would ask that you photocopy the last page of this issue and return it to us with your information, so that we can put you on our permanent mailing list.

Office Re-locations

Effective February 26th, ABSA moved its Edmonton facilities to a new location. Also, on March 19th both the Red Deer and Calgary offices will open up the doors on their new locations. Our staff of 45 employees in Edmonton have been consolidated into one location on the south side which is more proximate to our customers and will allow you to visit us more easily. The Calgary group of about 14 employees are now located in the North East part of the city closer to better highway and airport connections. Red Deer is still downtown and only blocks away from its previous location but with easier access. Please check our new addresses and phone numbers which are listed on the right side of this same page. There may be further changes forthcoming for some of our regional office locations.

You are invited

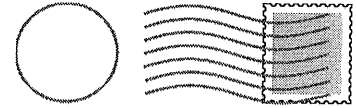
OPEN HOUSE

ABSA Head Office
May 8th, 1996
3:00pm to 5:00pm

ABSA's Holidays - 1996

Good Friday	Friday, April 5
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20
Canada Day	Monday, July 1
Civic Holiday	Monday, Aug 5
Labour Day	Monday, Sept 2
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, Oct 14
Remembrance Day	Monday, Nov 11
Christmas Day	Wednesday, Dec 25
Boxing Day	Thursday, Dec 26

ABSA will observe the above statutory holidays. However, should inspection services be required on a holiday, arrangements can be made to accommodate your request by contacting the respective Regional Manager. Please note that in situations such as these, the Special Inspection Fee rate will apply.



ABSA OFFICES

Edmonton - Head Office
#200, 4208 - 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5Z9
Tel (403) 437-9100
Fax (403) 437-7787

Calgary
Tower 3, #590 1212-31 Avenue N.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2E 7S8
Tel (403) 291-7070
Fax (403) 291-4545

Grande Prairie
3rd Floor, 10320 - 99 Street
Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 6J4
Tel (403) 538-5243
Fax (403) 538-5462

Lethbridge
3rd Floor, 200 - 5 Avenue South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4C7
Tel (403) 381-5423
Fax (403) 382-4426

Medicine Hat
Main Fl., 346 - 3rd Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 0G7
Tel (403) 529-3520
Fax (403) 529-3623

Red Deer (Effective April 1, 1996)
#402, 4406 Gaetz Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta T4N 3Z6
Tel (403) 341-6677
Fax (403) 341-3377

St. Paul
Room 407, 5025 - 49 Avenue
St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A4
Tel (403) 645-6350
Fax (403) 645-6352

Internet address
gopher://freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/h/i/
absa/homepage

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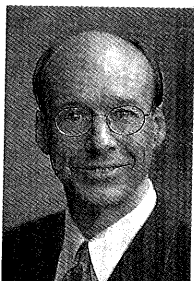


**Ken K. T. Lau
Ph.D., P.Eng
Chief Inspector and
Administrator**

Ken Lau who was previously employed by Alberta Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety (ABPVS) for about 17 years, joins ABSA in a dual capacity as Chief Inspector and Administrator. Ken was appointed to the position of Administrator by the Minister of Labour and the appointment gave him (and ABSA) the authority that he had previously when ABPVS provided the programs and services that ABSA currently delivers. As the Administrator, Ken also reports and provides technical support to the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Technical Council of the Safety Codes Council.

Ken was educated in Hong Kong and continued his studies at Manchester University where he obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering through research work in the field of pressure vessel design and stress analysis. Prior to working with ABPVS, he taught at universities, consulted in pressure equipment projects, and worked with petrochemical and fabrication industries.

In addition to having the technical responsibilities of ABSA's programs, Ken is responsible for Power Engineers' certification and Safety Codes Officer examination programs. He participates as a member of the National Board, other jurisdictional organizations, and several ASME and CSA technical committees and subcommittees and does so on behalf on ABSA and the Province of Alberta. Currently, he is Chair of the Canadian Association of Chief Inspectors.



**Allan McCallister,
CMA
Chief Financial
Officer**

Allan, who joined ABSA only 10 months ago has the responsibility of ABSA's financial activity and record keeping. As our

official records administrator, he is responsible for our records which are government property. Allan has been involved in our new data base software program development which will keep track of all of the activity regarding registration, manufacturers information, inspections and other important information on over 100,000 vessels. Allan joined us from United Way where he was controller for over 10 years and has a good understanding of how non-profit associations operate. Allan who lives in Edmonton, is a serious and committed long distance runner and hopes to compete in this year's Boston marathon. He likes to travel and read books. ABSA's financial control and record keeping falls within one of the many responsibilities Allan has as our Chief Financial Officer.



**Bruce McWhirter,
P.Eng.
Manager,
Design Survey and
Engineering**

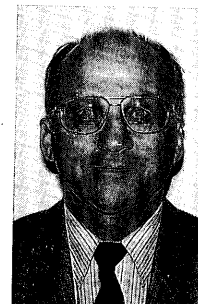
Bruce joined ABSA following 10 years with ABPVS. He is responsible for three support staff and six engineers who review and register designs, welding procedures and repair and alteration procedures for pressure equipment installed in Alberta.

Bruce received his engineering degree from the University of Toronto and immediately went to work in the heat exchanger manufacturing business. He came to ABPVS after a number of years as Chief Engineer with a major pressure vessel fabricator, followed by additional experience in failure analysis and pressure vessel and heat exchanger engineering consulting, both with an international EPC company and on his own. Bruce is also one of very few engineers in Alberta to have had experience in the design and manufacture of manned submersibles. He brings with him a thorough knowledge of the ASME and CSA codes and represents Alberta on a number of CSA committees and subcommittees. In addition, he is the Alternate Administrator for the Boilers Discipline under the Safety Codes Act.



**Ed Yaremichuk
Southern Regional
Manager**

Our regional managers are responsible for ABSA's inspection and auditing programs. Our inspection programs include inspection of pressure equipment being fabricated in the shops in Alberta, the initial inspection of new equipment being imported into the province and later the periodic in-service inspection of equipment to ensure its integrity and its continued safe use. Audits apply to companies who have received certification or accreditation to perform certain activities as prescribed under the Safety Codes Act. As Southern Regional Manager, Ed Yaremichuk is responsible for ABSA's safety programs and has employees in Calgary, Red Deer, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge who also assist in ABSA's testing and examining of the workforce such as power engineers, welders and Safety Codes Officers. Ed worked for ABPVS for 20 years and prior to that worked for 10 years for an upstream petroleum producer as supervisor of field operations. Ed resides in Calgary with his family and has a keen interest in woodworking and golfing, when he finds the time.



**Bernie Hurst
Northern Regional
Manager**

Bernie joined ABSA from ABPVS, after 22 years of service with the Alberta Government. Prior to coming to Canada from England, he worked for a large chemical company as pressure equipment inspector and as a 1st class combined marine engineer on many sea-going vessels. Bernie, is responsible for ABSA's inspection and audit services in the northern regions and supervises 15 employees in Edmonton, Grande Prairie and St. Paul. These locations all participate in the workforce testing program for Power Engineers, welders and Safety Codes Officers. Bernie lives in Sherwood Park and likes biking and hiking. He coaches soccer for youth and senior soccer teams. Bernie's past experience and dedication have been invaluable in developing ABSA's Owner/User certification program which will become key to our industry's in-service inspection programs.

Hazard Alert

During routine inspections, our inspectors have observed the use of square and rectangular tanks of approximate 0.0425m^3 (1.5ft^3) to 0.113m^3 (4ft^3) in size for the use of dispensing liquids under air pressure from the back of truck bodies. The tanks are not equipped with safety relief devices. These tanks, which are not designed or constructed to any Code or Standard, were found to show severe signs of stress and could easily injure an employee if over-pressured. Our recommendation is that this type of equipment be converted to non-pressure application through the use of a mechanical pump, either through a small air-driven pump or reciprocating air-piston and have the liquid gravity fed from the tank.

ASME, CSA and NB Codes: Hard Copies or CD-ROM?

With the advance of electronic equipment, we are seeing more codes and standards available in CD-ROM format. CD-ROM versions of the codes allow for convenient transportation and speedy search of information in some situations.

Readers are reminded that the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) requires fabricators or contractors holding or applying for ASME code stamp authorization to fabricate ASME Code items such as pressure vessels, boilers, boiler external piping, etc. must have at least one hard copy of the applicable Code Section(s) plus all the applicable supporting Sections such as Section II, Parts A, B, C and D, Section V and Section IX. If a fabricator or contractor wishes to have additional copies of ASME Code Sections, they have the option of purchasing more hard copies or leasing CD ROM versions of the codes. In the case of the National Board Inspection Code (NBIC) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) codes, with every purchase of an electronic version of a code, an "official" hard copy will be issued free of charge. CSA maintains that the hard copies are the "official" versions of the codes but not the electronic copies. However, the CD-ROM versions of the ASME codes are leased and do not come with the corresponding hardcopies.

ABSA follows the interpretation of the standards-writing organizations in this matter. Accordingly, all Alberta certificate of authorization holders in

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Power Engineering Annual Registration Requirement

The power engineers' annual registration system was re-introduced by Alberta Labour July 1, 1994 to provide for a more accurate accounting of practising power engineers in the province. The system also allows for better communication and thus better program services to the power engineers and pressure equipment industry. In addition, the re-introduction of the annual registration system helps the upkeep of power engineer examination and certification programs. The annual registration requirement is applicable to all levels of power engineer certificates of competency, including Building Operators A and B, Firemen and Special Oil Well Operators.

Historically, an annual registration system was in place in Alberta for all power engineers. Over ten years ago, due to constraints in manpower and other resources and without the advantage of today's advanced computer technology, the old annual registration system was suspended and was only re-introduced in 1994. A similar requirement for registration is in place in practically all Canadian provinces and territories. With the transfer of all pressure equipment program delivery from Alberta Labour to ABSA, power engineer registration is now administered by ABSA.

Section 7.1(1) of the Engineers' Regulations provides that "if the holder of a certificate of competency fails to pay the annual fee on or before the date specified by the Administrator (Chief Inspector), the holder no longer holds a valid certificate of competency" and Section 7.2 states that "A person who is the holder of a certificate of competency in respect of which the annual fee or any arrears remain unpaid shall not act pursuant to that certificate". (i.e. operation of the equipment specific to that class of certificate is not permitted.)

If an individual holding a certificate of competency failed to register and pay the appropriate registration fee, he/she can not operate in accordance with the Regulations. In addition, it should be noted that if a certificate of competency has not been renewed under the registration system for a period exceeding 36 months, the holder of the certificate may be required to undertake and pass a written examination of the same class as the holder's certificate. Please call (403)433-0281 Ext. 320 or Ext. 321 to verify your registration status.

Initial Inspection Of Imported Pressure Vessels & Boilers

Under the jurisdiction of the Safety Codes Act and the supporting Regulations, boilers or pressure vessels imported into the Province of Alberta, are subject to ABSA initial inspections and the appropriate initial inspection fees.

Part 1, Section 5 and Section 9(1) of the Safety Codes Act specify that "The owner of any thing, process or activity to which this Act applies shall ensure that it meets the requirements of this Act" and "A person who is a vendor in the ordinary course of business, other than as an employee or an agent, shall not advertise, display or offer for sale, for lease or for other disposal, or sell, lease or otherwise dispose of, anything to which this Act applies unless that thing complies with this Act"

Also, Part 3, Section 39 (3) states that "If the regulations require that any thing be approved before it is installed or operated, no person shall install or operate that thing unless a safety codes officer issues a permit for it."

Under Part 4, Section 25 of the Design, Construction & Installation of Boilers & Pressure Vessels Regulations "Where a person brings a boiler or pressure vessel into Alberta and it is inspected by an inspector, the person bringing the boiler or pressure vessels into Alberta shall pay a fee to be known as an initial inspection fee in accordance with Schedule D of the Fee Regulation."

For boilers and pressure vessels subject to initial inspection, **individuals importing the equipment for their own use or for sale, lease or other purposes** are responsible to advise ABSA for the necessary initial inspections as well as for the payment of the corresponding initial inspection fees.

In administration, invoicing for the initial inspection fee to "the person bringing the boiler or pressure vessel into Alberta" shall be the organization referenced in the "Manufactured for" section of the Manufacturers Data Report. Should this section identify "for stock", then the distributor bringing the boiler or pressure vessel into Alberta shall be invoiced.

It must be noted, that in accordance with the Safety Codes Act, the boiler or pressure vessel cannot be placed into service, unless a Certificate of Inspection has been issued by an ABSA Safety Codes Officer.

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the construction/repair of boilers, pressure vessels, pressure pipings and fittings, pressure welder retesting, owner/user inspection, etc., must have at least one official copy of appropriate codes and standards as detailed in the quality control manuals of these organizations.

ABSA and the Internet

On January 6, 1996, ABSA officially became an information provider on the Edmonton FreeNet. The Edmonton FreeNet is a cooperative, community based electronic network which will link people in the Edmonton area with each other and with community groups and agencies. Anyone with a personal computer equipped with a modem, communications software and a telephone line can connect with the FreeNet computer to gain access to ABSA's information.

The ABSA information is located in the Edmonton Net Pages under the following groups,

Associations and Organizations
< + > Engineering and Scientific

The FreeNet URL (Universal Resource Location) or Internet address is:

gopher://freenet.edmonton.absa/home page

ABSA also has a listing on the Calgary FreeNet located in the Alberta menu under Professional, Trades and Associations group. This link is provided by the HTML/Internet Resource Committee in Calgary.

The information available is presented as menu on the homepage with links to other files, and contains the following:

- * About ABSA - provides the history, mandate, vision and mission statements
- * Locations - provides a listing of all office locations and telephone numbers
- * Newsletter - Listing ABSA's The Pressure News issues

Future developments for the site are Services and Technical Topics. An unmoderated forum is also being considered whereby interested parties can leave messages or comments about specific topics and issues on-line. ABSA will endeavour to reply to appropriate comments and questions. In the meantime we would suggest that questions be directed to the office or department through the normal channels, ie. regular mail or by phone. If you have any comments or

suggestions please contact ABSA's coordinators at our Edmonton office; Alan Kenyon or Allan McCallister at (403) 437-9100.

Material Test Reports

There seems to be some confusion in the industry as to when material test reports (MTRs) are required.

Paragraph UG-93 of Section VIII, Division 1 of the ASME Code requires that:

(1) For plates, the vessel Manufacturer shall obtain the material test report or certificate of compliance as provided for in the material specification and the Inspector shall examine the Material Test Report or certificate of compliance and shall determine that it represents the material and meets the requirements of the material specification.

(2) For all other product forms, the material shall be accepted as complying with the material specification if the material specification provides for the marking of each piece with the specification designation, including the grade, type, and class if applicable, and each is so marked in accordance with the requirements of UG-94.

(3) If the material specification does not provide for the marking of each piece as indicated in (a)(2) above, (requirements follow in the Code)

Since heads are provided generally as materials, the MTR requirement for plates also applies to heads. Some material specifications also require the material manufacturer to provide MTRs, e.g. any forging covered by the General Requirements of SA-788. The only area where ABSA asks Manufacturers to exceed the requirements of the Code or the material specifications is for pressure vessel shells made from pipe. In these situations, we ask that the Manufacturer obtain MTRs for the shell and head materials. Many manufacturers have built a requirement for MTRs for almost every part of a pressure vessel into their registered quality control program manuals. In those cases, requiring the MTRs may

have been driven by customer requirements in the past, the manufacturers' own experience or some other reason, but it is NOT a requirement of ABSA. If the accepted quality control program is written in this way, the ABSA Inspector may be obliged to enforce compliance with that QC program. The obtaining or providing of MTRs costs money, storing them costs money and endlessly photocopying them costs money. On top of that, many off-the-shelf items cannot be provided with MTRs so one would either have to pay to have tests run after the fact or wait for a special order to be produced.

REMEMBER: IF THE PART IS NOT A PLATE, A HEAD, OR A PIPE SHELL OR THE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION DOES NOT REQUIRE MTRs, THERE IS NO STANDING* ABSA REQUIREMENT FOR MATERIAL TO BE SUPPLIED WITH MTRs.

**Exceptional circumstances do, however, require exceptional practices.*

Welder Testing - Safety

The Alberta Boilers Safety Association is committed to providing a safe working environment not only for its employees but also for other workers and the general public for which we are responsible. To that end ABSA will in future expect a minimum standard of safety and conduct from all individuals who are tested for their welding skills by ABSA personnel. We have had three accidents last year in a relative short period of time and because of our commitment to safety we have adopted several safety practices and procedures which all testing candidates will have to follow. Our applications now show a list of rules which must be followed by all candidates and pertain to such items as appropriate clothing to orientation for fire extinguisher and fire blanket locations. We would hope that all candidates and their employers will cooperate with us to help provide a safer work environment.

If this is your 1st issue of "The Pressure News" and would like to receive future copies, please fill out the information below and fax us a copy at (403)437-7787.

Name of Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Send to attention of: _____