



Season's Greetings

Our very best wishes for
a happy holiday
and
a prosperous New Year

MESSAGE FROM CEO

In this issue I would like to bring you up to date on the activities at ABSA during our 1996-97 operating year. This has been our most active period since the formation of ABSA, as we have seen an increase of 87% in in-service inspections, 16% in shop inspections, 220% in owner user reports and a 20% increase in vessel design submissions and a 27% increase in vessel design approvals. This success can be attributed to the performance of all our staff. Our staff complement is now 40 field and shop inspectors, 10 design survey technical staff, 24 administrative staff, 3 examiners and 7 managers.

ABSA's workload will continue to increase as the Alberta economy improves in the construction as well as oil and gas sectors. To meet the future challenge for increased services we have a number of initiatives underway which will ensure our business processes are effective and efficient.

ABSA will continue to be involved in opportunities to meet our customers' needs. Customer seminars have helped our clients in understanding ABSA's role and administering the applicable regulations.

You will recall that ABSA has coordinated the publication of "Pressure Under Control", a book which outlines the history of boiler and pressure vessel safety in Alberta over the last 100 years. This book is now available from ABSA's Edmonton office at a cost of \$35.00 for a soft cover edition, and \$50.00 for a hard cover edition. Discounts are available for quantities 10 or more.

I would like to wish our customers, staff, and their families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1998.

Frank Kapuscinski
CEO

ALERT

We have been advised that some organizations have produced documents which could be misinterpreted as Grade "B" or Grade "C" Pressure Welders' Certificates of Competency. Under the Safety Codes Act, the Pressure Welders' Regulations and the terms of the delegation of safety services to ABSA, all Certificates of Competency for Grades "A", "B" and "C" pressure welders are issued by ABSA only. There is no other organization authorized to do so. All organizations holding a Certificate of Authorization to perform any activities in the field of pressure equipment must ensure that pressure welding is undertaken by pressure welders with the appropriate Certificate of Competency and Performance Qualification Card issued in accordance with their registered Quality Control System. Should you find any individual or organization other than ABSA issuing a pressure welder's Certificate of Competency, please report all pertinent information to our nearest office immediately.



Mr. Xueren Li and Dr. K. T. Lau at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in Beijing, China.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WITH CBPVI, CHINA

In late August, Dr. K. T. Lau, Chief Inspector and Administrator, visited the Centre of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Research and Inspection (CBPVI), Ministry of Labour, Peoples' Republic of China.

The visit was held in conjunction with a three-day Seminar on ASME, CSA and NBIC requirements provided for thirty-plus Chinese inspection engineers. During the visit, meetings were held with officials of CBPVI and the Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health and Boiler and Pressure Vessel Administration (OBA) of the Ministry of Labour, PRC and other organizations. Dr. Lau was also received by Hon. Jianjun Wang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Labour, PRC. Ms. Wang was knowledgeable about the development of ABSA as the Delegated Administrative Organization and was very much interested in hearing about ABSA's successful operation.

One important result of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation. The memorandum addresses the delegation of pressure equipment safety program delivery to ABSA, replacing Alberta Labour Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety in the Inspection Agreement signed in 1993 between Alberta and China. In addition, areas for further cooperation between the two pressure equipment safety jurisdictional

organizations are highlighted. These include an agreement to promote information and documentation exchange in areas related to pressure equipment technology and standards, and related inspection regulations, policies and procedures. As well, Alberta Labour and ABSA's proposal for potential future involvement in the Safety Quality Licensing System initiated by the Chinese Government (reported in the Pressure News Volume 2 Issue 4) was formally noted.

We understand that a memorandum of understanding of a similar nature has been signed recently between the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) of Ontario and CBPVI.



NEW SERVICE for Fitting Design Registration

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) of Ontario, and the Alberta Boilers Safety Association (ABSA) have signed an agreement forming a partnership which will launch a "one-stop" national fitting design registration service to be fully operational November 17, 1997. Discussions are currently in progress with ACI Central member jurisdictions to expand this service.

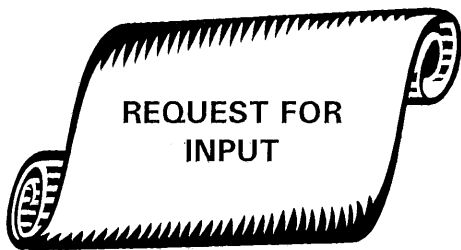
Under this initiative, both TSSA and ABSA will provide a one-stop service for Canadian and international applicants requesting fitting design registration in more than one Canadian jurisdiction. This new service is aimed at providing all applicants with a more cost-effective and efficient approach to design review and registration. This initiative responds to industry requests and needs, and is designed to be compatible with individual jurisdictional requirements.

Applicants will pay one basic fee for design review and associated administrative services and will receive a hard copy and/or CD-ROM version of their registered submission as required. Detailed instructions will be available to applicants shortly.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. C. Turylo
TSSA
Tel:416-325-1943/Fax:416-326-1662

Mr. B. McWhirter
ABSA
Tel:403-437-9100/Fax:403-437-7787



Excess Flow Stop Valve on Storage Tanks

An excess flow stop valve is not a mandatory requirement on propane (LPG), natural gas liquids (NGL) and anhydrous ammonia (NH₃) storage tanks from which pressurized cargo transports are loaded. However, a number of owners do have excess flow valves installed in these storage tanks in lines connected to hoses. The installation of these valves could be an asset in cases when the hoses connecting a storage tank to a cargo transport are severed.

For the pressurized cargo transport vessels which load or unload from these storage tanks, MC331 and TC331 specifications for cargo vessels, have a requirement whereby each internal self-closing stop valve and excess flow valve must automatically close if any of its attachments is sheared off or if any attached hoses or piping are separated.

It is believed that where flexible hoses are used for loading or unloading storage tanks, an excess flow valve may help to avert a potentially hazardous situation. On one occasion some years back in northeastern Alberta, an LPG pressurized cargo vessel drove away while the hose was still attached to the storage tank. Fortunately, both the storage tank and the cargo tank excess flow valves functioned as expected and damage was restricted to the sheared hose.

A proposal is being reviewed by the Alberta Boiler and Pressure Vessel Technical Council to make it mandatory to install an excess flow stop valve in storage vessels in line with hose connections. Your input to this proposal will be welcome. Please direct your comments to the Alberta Boiler and Pressure Vessel Technical Council, Safety Codes Council, 6th Floor, 10808 99 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0G5 (Fax 403-424-5134/1-888-424-5134).

GENERAL SUPERVISION OF POWER PLANTS

"General Supervision" of power plants is provided for in the Safety Codes Act, Engineers' Regulations, Section 2(2). Power plants rated between 20kW and 250kW inclusive and power plants operating above 103kPa but not above 140 kPa, require general supervision.

A summary of the requirements for "General Supervision" are as follows:

- A Power plants rated between 20kW and 250kW are required to be operated under general supervision by the holder of a Special Boiler Operator's Certificate of Competency as minimum certification. Other certifications also acceptable include the Fireman's, Fourth Class, Third Class, Second Class, and First Class Engineer's Certificate of Competency.
- B Power Plants operating above 103kPa but not more than 140 kPa, require general supervision by the holder of a certificate of competency, the classification of which qualifies the holder to have general supervision of the power plant. The classification would then be determined by the kW rating of the plant, and the Safety Codes Act, Engineers' Regulation Section 5 would apply.

"General Supervision" of power plants described in A and B above may be further described as follows:

- ◆ The person in charge (normally the Operator) must remain on site while the boiler(s) is(are) in operation. This does not mean that the Operator must remain in the boiler room. He/she may be involved with duties and functions other than those associated with the operation of the boiler(s). However, he/she must be on the property. If the Operator leaves the property, the boiler(s) must be in a shutdown condition.

- ◆ Operational checks/equipment rounds should be conducted every two hours while the boiler(s) is(are) in operation provided the necessary safety alarms and shutdown devices are in place and it can be supported by documented evidence that they have been checked/tested regularly to show reliability of operation. The equipment checks should be consistent with the manufacturers' recommendations, as recommended by ASME Section VII, and as required by the owner or person in charge.

- ◆ It is required per Section 33 of the Engineers' Regulations under the Safety Codes Act, that a Log Book be maintained to record all matters relating to the operation of the power plant, including a record of the testing and servicing of safety valves and other safety devices and controls.



SECOND ANNUAL PRESSURE EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Energy & Natural Resources Department of SAIT, with support from ABSA, is coordinating the Second Annual Pressure Equipment Industry Conference scheduled for February 19 & 20, 1998. The conference will be held at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta.

The format of the Conference will be similar to that of last year with two programs running simultaneously to meet the needs of the participants.

For more information, please call Larry Sever, Energy & Natural Resources Department of SAIT at telephone (403)284-8290 or fax at (403)282-8091.

Employment Opportunities

Visit the ABSA Internet e-mail address for current ABSA job opportunities.

1998 EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The following examination schedules are provided for reference only and may change without notice. Please confirm the date with the respective area when applying to write an examination.

Power Engineers

Edmonton

Jan 19-22	Jul 20-23
Feb 23-26	Aug 17-20
Mar 16-19	Sep 21-24
Apr 20-23	Oct 19-22
May 25-28	Nov 16-19
Jun 15-18	Dec 14-17

Calgary

Jan 7	May 6	Sept 9
Feb 4	Jun 3	Oct 7
Mar 4	Jul 8	Nov 4
Apr 8	Aug 5	Dec 9

Red Deer

Jan 8	May 7	Sept 10
Feb 5	Jun 4	Oct 8
Mar 5	Jul 9	Nov 5
Apr 9	Aug 6	Dec 10

St. Paul

Jan 6	May 5	Sept 1
Mar 3	Jul 7	Nov 3

Grande Prairie

Feb 5	Jun 4	Oct 8
Apr 9	Aug 6	Dec 10

Fort McMurray

Jan 13	May 12	Sept 8
Mar 3	Jul 7	Nov 17

Medicine Hat

Jan 8	May 7	Sept 10
Mar 5	Jul 9	Nov 5

Lethbridge

Feb 6	Jun 4	Oct 8
Apr 9	Aug 6	Dec 10

Safety Codes Officers

Calgary and Edmonton

Feb 4	Sept 3
May 6	Dec 3

Grande Prairie

May 6	Dec 3	Sept 3
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Medicine Hat

May 6	Sept 3
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Lethbridge

Dec 3

For information regarding the power engineers' and SCO applications, please call ABSA, Examination Section at (403) 433-0281 Ext. 309 or 321

National Board Commission

Edmonton

Mar 4 & 5	Sept 2 & 3
Jun 3 & 4	Dec 2 & 3

API 510 and API 570

Edmonton

Jun 5	Dec 4
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For information regarding the National Board Commission and API examinations, please call ABSA at (403) 433-0281 Ext. 314.

ABSA's Holidays - 1998

New Year's Day	Thursday, Jan 1
Family Day	Monday, Feb 16
Good Friday	Friday, April 10
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18
Canada Day	Wed, July 1
Civic Holiday	Monday, Aug 3
Labour Day	Monday, Sept 7
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, Oct 12
Remembrance Day	Wed, Nov 11
Christmas Day	Friday, Dec 25
Boxing Day	Monday, Dec 28

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.

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